

**THE DANCER FILMS** is a collection of very short films based on Jules Feiffer's beloved cartoon character, the modern DANCER - with live dancer: A DANCE TO SPRING, A DANCE TO ART, A DANCE TO SUMMER, A DANCE TO THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE, A DANCE TO THE NEW YEAR, A DANCE TO THE END OF SUMMER; and NINE MINUTES, a string of six dances.

A two-week residency at Baryshnikov Arts Center provided an opportunity to translate Feiffer's cartoons from the page to the soundstage, alchemizing drawing into dance and narrative. The films were created onstage and in iconic locations throughout New York City.

The DANCER is an icon of optimism and earnestness. She dances to celebrate a cycle of milestones – seasonal, emotional and political. Generations nostalgic for her will be delighted to see the DANCER re-employed, and a new generation will be inspired by the bracing, topical and rapturous world of Feiffer.

Directed by Judy Dennis

Based on Cartoons by Jules Feiffer

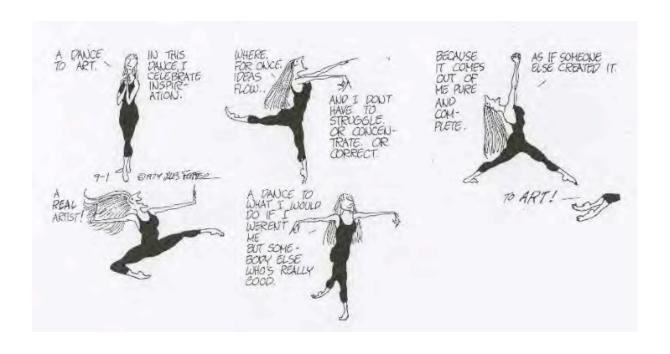
Produced by Ellen Dennis and Judy Dennis

With Andrea Weber

Choreography by Susan Marshall & by Larry Keigwin

Music by Jane Ira Bloom





THE DANCER FILMS may be exhibited throughout your city and town, in atriums, parks, across campus - wherever people wander. In theaters and theater lobbies. In museums. At dance festivals, arts festivals, film festivals. And on TV. As six individual films or in one rapturous string of dances.

A DANCE TO SPRING (2 min :03 sec)

A DANCE TO ART (2 min:02 sec)

A DANCE TO SUMMER (1 min:45 sec)

A DANCE TO THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE (2 min :46 sec)

A DANCE TO THE NEW YEAR (1 min: 40 sec)

A DANCE TO THE END OF SUMMER (2 min :34 sec) NINE MINUTES: a string of 6 dances (9 min :11 sec)

Format: High Definition Video

With Dolby Digital 5.1 or Stereo Sound





**CONTACT:** ELLEN DENNIS, Producer (718) 875-6104 ellen.rudi.dennis@gmail.com

## THE COLLABORATORS



Director JUDY DENNIS

Producers ELLEN DENNIS AND JUDY DENNIS

Writer JULES FEIFFER
Dancer ANDREA WEBER
Voice JENNIFER DUNDAS
Choreographer LARRY KEIGWIN
Choreographer SUSAN MARSHALL
Composer JANE IRA BLOOM
Director of Photography DYANNA TAYLOR

Production Designer NEIL PATEL

**JUDY DENNIS** (*Director/Producer*) *PATRIOTIC*, Judy's first short film as a director and screenwriter, screened at film festivals worldwide - most prestigiously, as part of New Directors/ New Films at New York's Museum of Modern Art. "Luminous", wrote Stephen Holden in The New York Times. The MoMA Department of Film and Media subsequently acquired *PATRIOTIC* for its permanent collection. For television, she directed "Sonata Da OZ," an episode in the final season of HBO's groundbreaking series OZ. Judy enjoyed three decades as a casting director in the mainstream of American theater and film. Film directors with whom she worked ranged from Terrence Malick to Brian DePalma, Julie Taymor, Andrzej Wajda and Ang Lee. Casting locales ranged from Twyla Tharp's New York City walk-up to mountain villages in Thailand. Judy was Alan J. Pakula's assistant on SOPHIE'S CHOICE, and dialogue director on two films by Michael Cimino. She shared a special Emmy Award casting SEPARATE BUT EQUAL. Classical and contemporary theater repertories cast by Ms. Dennis include hundreds of plays for theaters such as New York Shakespeare Festival, Classic Stage Company, Mark Taper Forum, Williamstown Theater Festival. In addition to a half dozen full-ensemble musicals, she assembled casts for the Bessie and Obie Award winning THE MYSTERIES AND WHAT'S SO FUNNY? and for PUNCH AND JUDY GET DIVORCED, a creation for Mikhail Baryshnikov expanded for the stage and broadcast on PBS Alive TV. She consulted on *HEAT* for National Public Radio and served as a consultant on MEMORY AND HOPE: a Permanent Installation at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage. Judy is a member of the Directors Guild of America and a graduate of Bennington College. She teaches as an Adjunct Professor at NYU's Undergraduate School of Film and Television. Judy has adapted Nobel Laureate Doris Lessing's story OUT OF THE FOUNTAIN to direct for film. She was privileged to travel to Uganda as a mentor with Maisha, a filmmakers' laboratory created by Mira Nair to provide professional training to emerging filmmakers from East Africa and South Asia.

**ELLEN DENNIS** (*Producer*) Ellen Dennis served six seasons as the Producer of New York City Center's Fall for Dance festival. She was Producer of Orange County Performing Arts Center's Fall for Dance in California. Ellen has produced and managed works internationally for artists including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Diamanda Galas, Philip Glass, Andre Gregory, Steve Reich, Wally Shawn, Twyla Tharp and Robert Wilson; and for American Ballet Theater, National Public Radio (**Peabody Award** winning *HEAT*) and the Wiener Festwochen (The Vienna Festival). She was Executive Producer of the New York production of Peter Brook's TIERNO BOKAR. She has been a consultant to the Australia Arts Council, Columbia University, the Guggenheim Museum and the Viennale (Vienna Film Festival). In early years, Ellen was Assistant to the Executive Producer for dance-on-screen works including the WNET/BBC production of Twyla Tharp's THE CATHERINE WHEEL and Emmy Award winning BARYSHNIKOV BY THARP. At the Brooklyn Academy of Music through the 80's, she was Company Manager for productions including THE MAHABHARATA and EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH. Ellen co-produced PATRIOTIC, a film directed by Judy Dennis. In Austria, Ellen created an arts program for unaccompanied minors at the Traiskirchen Refugee Camp, inspiring Vienna's Impulstanz Festival and the Wiener Festwochen to inaugurate performing arts programs for asylum-seeking minors. Ellen is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence

JULES FEIFFER (Writer) Cartoonist, playwright, screenwriter, children's book author & illustrator, Jules has turned contemporary urban anxiety into witty, revealing commentary for over fifty years. From Village Voice editorial cartoons to his plays and screenplays including LITTLE MURDERS and CARNAL KNOWLEDGE. Feiffer's satirical outlook has defined us politically, sexually and socially. First cartoonist commissioned by The New York Times to create comic strips for their Op-Ed page, his books for children include A ROOM WITH A ZOO and THE MAN IN THE CEILING. THE ODIOUS OGRE, his latest collaboration with Norton Juster since THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH, is at the top of bestselling children's book charts this fall. Honors include: Pulitzer Prize and George Polk Award for his cartoons; Obie Award; Academy Award for animation of his cartoon satire MUNRO; Lifetime Achievement Awards from Writers Guild of America and National Cartoonist Society; major retrospectives at the New York Historical Society, the Library of Congress and The School of Visual Arts. His current "hit" memoir, BACKING INTO FORWARD, relates how persistent failure inspired him to reinvent himself as an artist over and over.

**ANDREA WEBER** (*Dancer*) Principal dancer, Merce Cunningham Dance Company.





"To see Andrea ... is to be momentarily transfixed on a higher plane of experience." Claudia La Rocco, The New York Times

Andrea is a Company Member of Merce Cunningham Dance Company and graduate of The Julliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkaryy. Andrea has danced and taught for Canadian-based Coleman Lemieux & Campagnie, participating in the Manitoba Project in August 2007 and in the Gros Mourne Project in July 2006. In November 2006, Weber danced an excerpt from Jessica Lang's *SPLENDID ISOLATION 2* for Kanji Segawa's Dance Project in New York. She has assisted and staged Lila York's works on ballet companies throughout the United States and in Denmark. Weber was a collaborator in Anne Carson's *POSSESSIVE USED AS DRINK (ME)*. In 2008, Weber performed *STACKS*, a collaboration between Carson, Jonah Bokaer and Peter Cole. She has also worked with Charlotte Griffin, Sue Bernhard and Ellen Cornfield. Weber joined MCDC in January 2004 and is currently a faculty member of the Merce Cunningham Studio.

**JENNIFER DUNDAS** (Voice of Dancer) Actress, Broadway: ARCADIA, THE LITTLE FOXES, AH WILDERNESS!, GROWNUPS by Jules Feiffer. New York Shakespeare Festival: AS YOU LIKE IT, A WINTER'S TALE. Manhattan Theater Company: IRON, FURTHER THAN THE FURTHEST THING. New York Theater Workshop: SHOPPING AND FUCKING. Manhattan Class Company: GOOD AS NEW (Obie Award). Downtown companies: The Civilians and 13P. Regional: THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Boston Common), THE CHERRY ORCHARD (Mark Taper Forum), APHRODISIAC (Long Wharf), THE GLASS MENAGERIE (Kennedy Center), ARMS AND THE MAN (Williamstown), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Ahmanson), OUR TOWN (New Jersey Shakespeare Festival), THE SEAGULL (Trinity Rep). Other theatres: Yale Rep, Seattle Rep, Bay Street Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep. Film: OVER THE MOUNTAINS, PUCCINI FOR BEGINNER S(2006 Sundance Festival), CHANGING LANES, SWIMMING, THE FIRST WIVES CLUB, LORENZO'S OIL, LEGAL EAGLES, MRS. SOFFEL, HEAVEN HELP US, THE HOTEL NEW HAMPSHIRE. TV includes: QUEENS SUPREME, THE EDUCATION OF MAX BICKFORD, JUDGING AMY, COSBY, LAW AND ORDER: SVU, LAW AND ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT, THREE SOVEREIGNS FOR SARAH, ANASTASIA and LITTLE GLORIA...HAPPY AT LAST. Jennie received her B.A. from Brown University.

LARRY KEIGWIN (Choreographer) Choreographer and Artistic director of KEIGWIN + COMPANY, K+C has performed at theaters and dance festivals throughout NYC and across the country, including The Joyce Theater, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, New York City Center, American Dance Festival, the Vail International Dance Festival, and more. Recent commissions have included Works and Process at the Guggenheim, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, The Julliard School, The New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, and The Martha Graham Dance Company. Larry was artist in residence for the 2010 season of the Vail International Dance Festival. Mr. Keigwin's other choreographic credits include work with the band Fischerspooner, comedian Murray Hill, and as an Associate Choreographer for both the Radio City Rockettes and the Off-Broadway musical THE WILD PARTY. As a dancer, Mr. Keigwin has danced at the Metropolitan Opera in Doug Varone's LE SACRE DU PRINTMEPS" and Julie Taymor's THE MAGIC FLUTE in addition to work with John Jasperse, Doug Elkins, Zvi Gontheiner, David Rousseve, and Mark Dendy. Larry received a Bessie Award in 1998 for his performance in Dendy's DREAM ANALYSIS. He appeared in the Broadway show DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES, and in Julie

Taymor's Oscar nominated film *ACROSS THE UNIVERSE*. In addition to his work for K+C, Mr. Keigwin created Keigwin Kabaret, a fusion of dance, vaudeville, and burlesque acts presented by the Public Theater at Joe's Pub and by Symphony Space.

SUSAN MARSHALL (Choreographer) Artistic Director and Choreographer, has created over thirty dance works in collaboration with the dancers of Susan Marshall & Company, including CLOUDLESS, ONE AND ONLY YOU, THE MOST DANGEROUS ROOM IN THE HOUSE, SPECATATORS AT AN EVENT, FILEDS OF VIEW, ARMS, INTERIOR WITH SEVEN FIGURES, and KISS. Marshall has also created dances for the Lyon Opera Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Boston Ballet and Montreal Danse. Her recent Frame Dances was commissioned by Peak Performances@Montclair with additional commissioning and residency support by The Music Theater Group. Susan's signature aerial duet, KISS, is in the current repertory of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Marshall provided the stage direction for BOOK OF LONGING, Philip Glass' s work based on the poetry of Leonard Cohen, which toured internationally. Marshall has directed a movie musical for RIPFest and choreographed dances in operas staged for the Los Angeles Music Center and the New York City Opera. A 2000 recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, Marshall has received a Dance Magazine Award, Guggenheim Fellowship, Brandeis University Creative Arts Citation, American Choreographer Award and two NYSCA Fellowships. She is the recipient of three New York Dance and Performance Awards (BESSIES) for Outstanding Choreographic Achievement, the first, in 1985, following the company's premiere concert at Dance Theater Workshop, the second, in 1997, for her collaboration with Philip Glass on LES ENFANTS TERRIBLE, and the third, in 2006 for CLOUDLESS. Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts has appointed Susan Marshall its first Director of Dance.

JANE IRA BLOOM (Composer) Guggenheim Fellow in Music Composition, Jane has been steadfastly developing her unique voice on the soprano saxophone for over 30 years. A pioneer in the use of live electronics and movement in jazz, she possesses "one of the most gorgeous tones and hauntingly lyrical ballad conceptions of any soprano saxophonist'- Pulse. Jane's continuing commitment to pushing the envelope in music has led to collaborations with such jazz artists as Kenny Wheeler, Charlie Haden, Ed Blackwell, Rufus Reid, Matt Wilson, Bob Brookmeyer, Julian Priester, Jerry Granelli, Matt Wilson, Jay Clayton, Bobby Previte and Fred Hersch. She spearheads a collaborative world music group, Atlantic/Pacific Waves, featuring virtuosi Min Xioa-Fen, Jin Hi Ki and Mark Dresser. Diverse venues include: Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, NY's Museum of Modern Art, The Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Smithsonian's Einstein Planetarium, and the Montreal, JVC, and San Francisco Jazz Festivals. A strong visual thinker and a cinematic stylist, Bloom's affinity for other art forms brought her into contact with innovative artists including actors Vanessa Redgrave and Joanne Woodward, painter Dan Namingha, and legendary dancer/ choreographer Carmen de Lavallade. She has composed for the American Composers Orchestra, the St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble; Pilobolus, Paradigm and Philadanco dance companies. Film work includes John Sayles's SILVER CITY and SHADOW OF A DOUBT for NBC-T, in addition to Judy Dennis's short PATRIOTIC. Jane has collaborated with classical composers premiering new works for soprano saxophone, including "Sinfonia" by Augusta Read Thomas. She founded Outline Music, her own record label and publishing company, and later recorded for ENJA, CBS, and Arabesque Records and the innovative

Artistshare label. Winner of the 2007 Mary Lou Williams Women In Jazz Award for lifetime service to jazz, the 2001, 2003 and 2006 Jazz Journalists Award for Soprano Sax of the Year, Downbeat International Critics Poll for soprano saxophone, Charlie Parker Fellowship for Jazz Innovation and the International Women in Jazz Masters Award. Jane is the first musician ever commissioned by the NASA Art Program. An asteroid was named in her honor by the International Astronomical Union (asteroid 6083janeirabloom). Also named for Jane, The Bloom Festival, Brooklyn's newest festival of Jazz, was inaugurated in June 2009. Ms. Bloom teaches on the faculty of the New School for Jazz & Contemporary Music and holds degrees from Yale University and Yale School of Music.

DYANNA TAYLOR (*Director of Photography*) Granddaughter of esteemed photographer Dorothea Lange, cinematographer Ms. Taylor is known for the beauty and composition of every frame of film. Recent work includes *BLESSED IS THE MATCH: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF HANNAH SENESH* and HBO's 2009 special *THE ALZHEIMER PROJECT*. Dyanna was a 2002 **Peabody Award** winner for PBS's *WINTER DREAMS*, a biography of the writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, and a 1998 recipient of a NY Women in Film and Television **Muse Award** for Outstanding Vision and Achievement in Cinematography. She worked with HBO on *WITHOUT PITY*, for which she won a **Primetime Emmy**, and on HBO's **Academy Award** winning *COMMON THREADS: STORIES FROM THE QUILT*. PBS work includes: *ART 21: ARTISTS IN THE 21 ST CENTURY: SWINGIN'WITH THE DUKE* (Great Performances); and *SAM SHEPHERD: STALKING HIMSELF* (American Masters). Dyanna's first TV network assignment was as co-director and cinematographer for ABC's documentary on the first American women's climbing expedition Annapurna I in the Himalayas. With the Katahdin Foundation, she is currently developing and directing *GRAB A HUNK OF LIGHTNING*, a ninety-minute documentary exploring the life and art of Dorothea Lange.

**NEIL PATEL** (*Production Designer*) New York based scenic designer Neil Patel works in theater, opera, dance and film. He has designed OLEANNA, SIDESHOW, [title of show], 'NIGHT MOTHER and RING OF FIRE for Broadway. Off-Broadway his credits include productions at prominent theatres such as Second Stage, Manhattan Theater Club, Roundabout Theatre Company, BAM, New York Theater Workshop, Vineyard Theater and Playwrights Horizon, having designed productions of [title of show], LIVING OUT, HERE LIES JENNY, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, THE LONG CHRISTMAS RIDE HOME, QUILLS s and THE GREY ZONE. His regional work has been seen at the Guthrie Theater, Mark Taper Forum, McCarter Theater, Arena Stage, Center Stage, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare among many others. His work with Anne Bogart and the SITI Company has been seen throughout the world, including the Holland Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Exit Festival in Paris and BAM. Opera credits New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Vancouver Opera, Opera de Montreal, Florida Grand Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Tokyo Nikikai Opera Theater and the Minnesota Opera. Tokyo: CANDIDE. BENT, TORCH SONG TRILOGY and TAKE FLIGHT at Parco Theater. London credits include UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL, SIDEMAN (West End), A QUESTION OF MERCY (Bush Theater) and HENRY IV (RSC). Television and Film credits include the production design for HBO's IN TREATMENT. Dance work includes SHADOWLAND for Pilobolus. Awards include the **Helen Hayes Award**, the 2000 **EDDY Award**, numerous **Drama Desk** nominations and the 1996 and 2001 **Obie Awards** for sustained excellence in set design.

We are happy to acknowledge generous support from



THE PRODUCERS CIRCLE
JODY and JOHN ARNHOLD
JEANNE DONOVAN FISHER
MELINA AND BRITTON FISHER
SYVLIA GOLDEN
MITCHELL LICHTENSTEIN
LISA PHILP
SHERRY SCHWARTZ
PATSY TARR
LAURIE M. TISCH
and from

THE BENNACK-POLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
EDWARD JOHN NOBLE FOUNDATION
THE JEROME ROBBINS FOUNDATION
THE HOPKINS CENTER for the ARTS, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
ARTS WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
FRANK BROSENS/RENEE BROSENS FOUNDATION
SAMUEL and MARY ANN DENNIS
HARVEY LICHTENSTEIN
DARRELL and OVIND LORENTZEN
JEAN STEIN and JKW FOUNDATION
WALLACH FOUNDATION
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT/TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
and many friends

Performing Artservices kindly supports **THE DANCER FILMS** as its fiscal sponsor.

Cartoons by Jules Feiffer Andrea Weber photos by Stephanie Berger