

MARFA SOUNDING ANNA HALPRIN

MAY 26 – 28, 2017

Presented by Marfa Live Arts and Fieldwork Marfa



Friday, May 26, 2017
Crowley Theater
7-9.30pm

ANNA HALPRIN on FILM

In the 1960s, on a redwood dance deck built within a grove of trees in Marin County, California, the artist and choreographer Anna Halprin led a community of dancers, musicians, and sculptors through a collective process that sought new systems for generating creativity. Rejecting the narrative styles and performance conventions of high Modernism, Halprin brought her dancers into the city street and natural landscape. Works developed in direct response to environmental and architectural space also addressed the social upheavals and racial tensions of that era. She sought to unravel these entrenched power dynamics by foregrounding the simplicity of task-based actions alongside the performer's real experiences and emotional history. As Halprin explains in an interview with her former student Yvonne Rainer, such work introduced a radical idea of dance as the "rhythmic phenomena of the human being reacting to the environment."

PROGRAM

Introduced by dancer Nina Martin and curator Jennifer Burris Staton, who will also give an overview of the weekend's program, film screenings showcase Halprin's philosophy of movement and offer a rare opportunity to view archival footage of her choreography from the 1950s to the present. Although she has advised the development of this weekend program, Anna Halprin is unfortunately unable to make the trip to Marfa.

Previously screened at the Centre Pompidou in Paris and Anthology Film Archives in New York, Jacqueline Caux's *Anna Halprin – Out of Boundaries*, 53 minutes (2004) brings together documentary video and photographs of the following works:

Princess Spring Time (1957), *The Bed* (1957), *Merce Cunningham on Anna Halprin dance deck* (1950s), *Hangar* (1957), *Procession* (1964), *Parades and Changes* (1965–2000), *The Bust* (1969), *Dancing My Cancer* (1975), *Intensive Care* (2000), and *Be With* (2001)

Andy Abrahams Wilson's film *Embracing Earth*, 1995 (23 minutes) shows dancers under Halprin's artistic direction moving in dialogue with the shapes, rhythms, and textures of the California and landscape. A meditation on nature, this dance film explores how bodies and environment merge through movement.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

With a background in psychoanalysis, **Jacqueline Caux** is a filmmaker and a writer whose work focuses on the experimental music, dance, and art communities of the 1960s and 70s. She has realized several documentaries and short experimental films selected in many festivals in France and abroad. As a writer she had published books of interviews and is a contributor the French art magazine *art press*. Caux has also organized new music festivals and realized "horspiels" for the French radio France Culture.

Founder of Open Eye Pictures, **Andy Abrahams Wilson** also serves as the company's Executive Director and Senior Producer. He is a multi-award winning, Oscar shortlisted and Emmy nominated maker of creative non-fiction films. Wilson's approach emphasizes the moving image as a way to bridge disparate parts, peoples and ideas. While his work takes on controversial themes, he uses the filmmaking process as an opportunity to encourage empathy and identification. Andy's previous films have garnered numerous awards, including a national Emmy nomination, and been shown on HBO, PBS, CBC, the Showtime Networks, and in theaters and film festivals worldwide. A recipient of a Pew Charitable Trust Fellowship in Dance/Media, he is the two-time Grand Prize recipient at the Dance on Camera Film Festival. Andy is a former budget director of the film distribution cooperative New Day Films and member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He has been recognized by the Northern California Marin Arts Council as Outstanding Artist, and by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences with honors for Outstanding Documentary Achievement. In addition to making films, Wilson serves on the board of directors of the Jewish Film Institute and teaches a yearly workshop on "Intimacy & Exposure: The Alchemy of Photography" at the Esalen Institute.

Curator: Jennifer Burris Staton

Producer: JD DiFabbio, Marfa Live Arts / **Associate Producer:** Cate Cole Schrim, Marfa Live Arts

Lights and Sound: Gory Smelley and Chris Hillen, Marfa Recording Company

Program Support Team: Christine Olejniczak, Ian Lewis, Angel Hernandez, Rae Ann Hample, Valerie Breuvert, and Ida Soulard, Fieldwork Marfa

Documentation: Photography by Jessica Lutz

THANKS

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MARFA LIVE ARTS

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