

## Tanz & Medien Workshop - Pipo Tafel

By Chelsea van den Berg

As a dancer we aren't only expected to dance, but expected to create. To create a world that an audience can delve in to, a world where we can let our inner child reign in all its glory. In this world we command our audience to experience our journey we create through emotion and movement. What makes our art form so special is that it only exists in the present. What happens on that stage will only



happen once in that moment, or until it is at least performed again in which it would no longer be the same as before. The instantaneous relay between performer and audience is created in a theatre or a studio, but what if we could capture this brief moment and preserve it? This is where film and videography come to play. Using film we can capture a moment and preserve it for future viewing, but we can also create a different dimension to the world we

want to represent which is demonstrated within our movement. The possibilities of correlation between dance and film are endless and this is was a main focal point Pipo Tafel brought to our attention during the week-long workshop.

The workshop wasn't based around only learning schoolbook techniques but it was rather a learn-as-you-go approach. With camera in hand we were encouraged to capture what caught our eye and see what we could create. Of course, we were given some basic information regarding camera angles and depth of field, but it was through viewing Tafel's work and through our colleagues that we discovered how to manoeuvre a camera to capture the world we wanted to create. Because filming dance isn't just limited to bland audition videos, but you can capture the essence of the movement by incorporating a new perspective that sitting frontal cannot achieve. The camera can work as a separate set of eyes to see the dance from different angles and perspectives in which you wouldn't particularly view the dance. Thus, encouraging a different response within the viewer. Of course, the instant relation between audience to dancer is absent, however filming dance enables a more universal response. It is no longer preserved for the audience of a theatre - look how fast dance videos spread through social media, without film the accessibility to dance wouldn't be as easy as it is today.

The task during the workshop was to form small groups and just experiment, and we were like kids in a candy shop! Playing with 'new toys' and experimenting all the ways we could film what we wanted to capture was a fun experience, and the outcomes from the groups were equally as enjoyable. As a viewer it was interesting

to see how one simple task could be interpreted in so many different ways. Groups created films from audition videos, filming small choreographies to unique behind the scenes footage. All videos created managed to capture the essence of who we each are, and it was surprising to see all the creations. Overall, any creation process has its frustrations however as a collective I can say that the workshop was enjoyable as we learnt that the possibilities for filming dance are endless and what better way to discover new ways of representing dance than experimenting?



### **Feedback from the Tanz & Medien Workshop**

Below is some short feedback from some of the participants of the workshop:



*Margarita*

“The workshop was very inspiring for me. I got really inspired by the class and all theory jobs. I could amplify my perspectives of different points of view and angles. Also I learnt how to use a camera and that was very useful.”

*Fatima*

“From my experience I think it was very inspiring and to see Pipo’s work as it helped us a lot to know the focus of the program and to see the direction in which we could film dance. At the beginning we felt very lost because we were unsure of what to do but halfway through the workshop it became more clear as we got to film more. But it would have been beneficial to



have learnt how to edit a video, as we learnt how to film but not how to edit to have a finished product. I felt we had a lot of time and we could have done much more. But it was very inspiring and cool, as we got to learn how to use lighting and work together to film in groups.”



*Gaia*

“So the positive is that I could spend some time for one of my hobbies and I could learn how to use in a different way the camera and some technical things that I didn’t know before. Also I found it really interesting to share ideas with my colleagues and to have the opportunity to do our own projects. The negative is that I couldn’t apply the theory that we did with the practical aspect so it was not so

useful for me.”

*Daphne*

“What I learned was how to deal with a camera and the focus points. It was a fun experience”

*Calvin*

“During the week I worked on a film about weird situations in school and I also took some videos. It was interesting for me to play with unusual perspectives of the camera. It was also nice to have time to experiment on our own.”



*Swane*

“Spending a week on the Dance and Media Project was a very interesting experience. Since as dancers we are used to be moving and in action basically all day, it might seem quite strenuous at first to work on a not 100% dance project for four hours a day. Luckily though, the further we got in the week, we were increasingly able to go off and work on own projects and ideas in smaller groups. Being able to develop and pursue own creative ideas together with my classmates was fun and challenged me to find a way of artistic expression not only through dance, but

through the lens of a camera. An experience I did not and wouldn't have had without this Workshop!"

*Kelly*

"I learned how to deal with a camera, knowing that we would not be able to edit our film, so I've learned how to shot and edit at the same time, so that when all the shots are taken, it's already the final video. And I learned to work with my colleagues to deal with not easy situation like bad light, how to use different angles of filming to avoid the bad light."

*Nadja*



"The last week was a possibility for all of us to work on our own ideas and projects. I had lots of fun with my colleges and by getting in touch with a camera I could explore different ways of moving and how different ways of filming influence the choreography and its perception. This time I learned more by doing and watching my colleges then by the theory sections of the workshop. It was a useful experience especially for our future."

*Brooke*

"Things I learnt from the workshop:

- functions of a camera and how to use them to your own advantage
- using natural light and choosing the right "shade" of it in your pictures and videos
- interesting ways of editing simple filming (Pipos videos) to make interesting dance films
- learning by doing on the big camera from tony
- I liked getting feedback from Pipo at the end of the workshop."

*Sascha*

"I really enjoyed to do this workshop. I found out how much I can learn within my group. Just by trying out stuff. Normally you sit in a classroom and listen to a teacher but in this workshop we just tried out and I think this is the best way to learn something. I'm really happy we were able to this."



