

Dad

a film by Gabrielle Lansner

A woman travels between her conscious and unconscious self to capture her innocent and uncomplicated childhood relationship with her father. She slips into a dream world where she grapples with loving memories of her past and her conflicted adult psyche. This psychological narrative is told through simple dance sequences, gestures, and Super 8 footage from the 1960's. The imagery and camerawork embody the frenetic and unresolved emotional journey.



Gabrielle Lansner has had a successful international career as a choreographer, director, and actor. She is currently Artistic Director of gabrielle lansner & company, a critically acclaimed dance theater group based in New York City. She has recently shifted focus to filmmaking as a new way to create her work. Lansner is interested in capturing the depth of emotion that can inhabit a performer's body and face and how a story can be told through that physicality.

CONTACT

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Director of Photography/Editor
Kevin Freeman

Performer Paula McGonagle

Music Philip Hamilton

Producer

gabrielle lansner & company, inc.

Format HD Video & Super 8

Running time 7:20



"Lansner has a gift for creating vivid dramatic landscapes out of an almost seamless merging of text and movement."

-Jennifer Dunning, The New York Times

Gabrielle Lansner—Director, Choreographer, Filmmaker **Biography**



For over 30 years, Gabrielle Lansner has traveled between the worlds of dance, theater and film. Her creative work has crossed interdisciplinary boundaries, moving from pure dance works to dance/theater pieces to musical theater and film.

In 1997, she formed **gabrielle lansner & company** and has created eight original full-length works for the company that have performed to critical acclaim: "*Lansner has a gift for creating vivid dramatic landscapes out of an almost seamless*

merging of text and movement." - The New York Times

The company's varied explorations include delving into the lives of Holocaust victims in the literary works of Bertolt Brecht and Cynthia Ozick, exploring adolescent yearning in Carson McCullers' "The Member of the Wedding", examining the nature of forgiveness in a work inspired by the South African Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and celebrating the life of pop icon Tina Turner in their original musical RIVER DEEP. TURNING HEADS, *frocks in flight*, a site-specific dance performed at Battery Park City was produced by Sitelines 2009/LMCC as part of the River to River Festival.

The work has been produced in NYC at The Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Playwrights Horizons, The Duke on 42nd Street, Walkerspace, HERE, New York Theater Workshop, The Joyce Soho, The Ohio Theater, The 92nd Street Y, Movement Research at the Judson Church and has toured to Toronto, Massachusetts and Connecticut. In New York City the company has also been invited to perform at The American Living Room Festival, Culturemart and the Dancenow Festival.

The company has received grants from The Harkness Foundation for Dance (2000, 2002, 2004), The Puffin Foundation (1999, 2004), Altria (2006) and the Alvin and Louise Myerberg Family Foundation (2004, 2005, 2006).

Lansner has recently shifted focus to filmmaking as a new way to create her work. She is interested in capturing the psychological moments that inhabit the performer and how narrative can be expressed through physicality. Her first short film "Dad" has been screened at NewFilmmakers Film Festival 2010 at the Anthology Film Archives/NY, the Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Newport Beach Film Festival and won the Award of Merit for Experimental Film from the Accolade Competition in La Jolla, CA. She is currently developing a new film project inspired by Strindberg's play "The Stronger".

Other creative projects include choreographing the musical play "Shangri-La" for Queens Theater in the Park, for which she received an Innovative Theatre Award nomination for best choreography, "Cyrano de Bergerac" for Lehman College, Paul Scott Goodman's musical "Him and Her" for the 2002 New York International Fringe Festival, Nancy Magarill's musical "The Boy with the Glasses" at New York Theater Workshop, and for the television show "Law & Order, Criminal Intent."

Director's Statement—Gabrielle Lansner

"Dad" is my first short film. I am a theater director and choreographer and I wanted to explore a new way to create my work. As a filmmaker I am interested in capturing the depth of emotion that can inhabit a performer's body and face and how a story can be told through that physicality. Using the camera seems like such an obvious choice for what I do since I can completely direct the viewer's eye to what it is I want them to see. Creating this film from start to finish was like making a collage. I had themes, images, and movement sequences to work with, and it was not until I began thinking about how I wanted to edit the film that the flow of the movie came together.



Kevin Freeman—Cinematographer/DP, Editor Biography



Kevin Freeman is a director, producer, director of photography, and editor based in California. He has worked extensively in the worlds of television, music, dance, independent film, and documentary. His collaborators include ABC News Good Morning America, Nightline, NBC, Dr. Phil, E! Entertainment, Baryshnikov Arts Center, MTV, AOL Music Sessions, among many others. Kevin has directed short movies, music videos, cooking shows, commercials, and dance films. He has toured the world with Mikhail Baryshnikov and his camerawork and editing can be seen frequently on ABC News. Kevin Freeman produces his own projects with his company Freemaniac Productions Inc. He currently works for CBS Paramount Television as a segment producer.

Philip Hamilton—Composer Biography



Philip Hamilton is a leading contemporary composer of music for dance. The recipient of the 2004 New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for his Body of Work in dance, Hamilton creates music that has been hailed as "...sensitively, calibrated, juicily explosive music," by the New York Times. He has worked with many of the leading choreographers of our time, including Ron Brown, Rennie Harris, Dwight Rhoden, David Dorfman, Robert Battle, and Ann Reinking and for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. www.philiphamilton.com