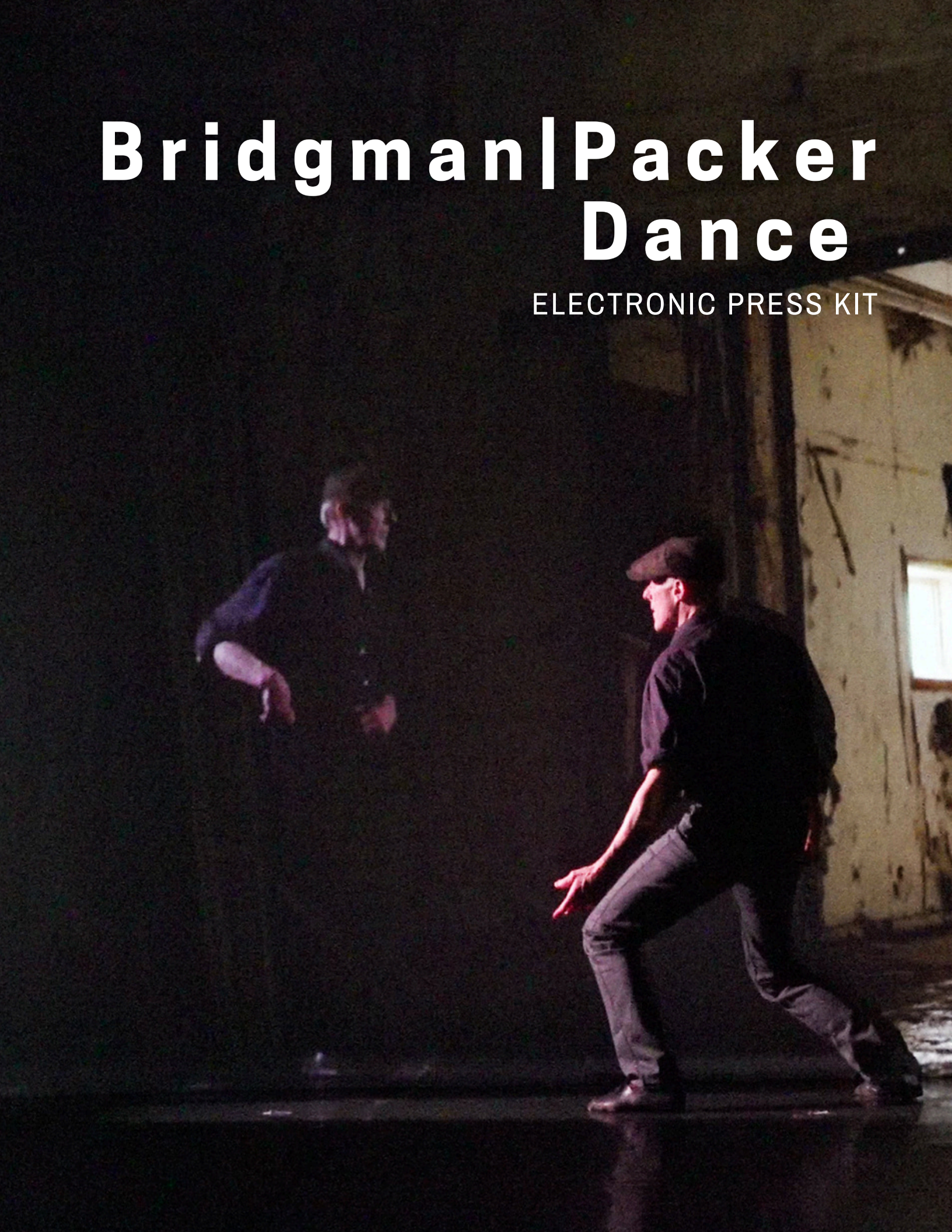


Bridgman | Packer Dance

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT





ART BRIDGMAN & MYRNA PACKER

Artistic Directors of Bridgman|Packer Dance, are collaborators in performance and choreography, with their current work focusing on the integration of live performance and video technology. Their innovative work developing "Video Partnering" has been acclaimed for its highly visual and visceral alchemy of the live and the virtual. They are recipients of a 2017 New York Dance and Performance Award (The Bessies) for Outstanding Production for *Voyeur* at The Sheen Center.

The 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship awarded to Bridgman and Packer was the first in the history of the Guggenheim Foundation to be given to two individuals for their collaborative work. Bridgman and Packer are recipients of twelve grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (2007-2021) and grants from New England Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council for the Arts, National Dance Project, USArtists International, Performing Americas Project, and La Red. They have received three Choreography Fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts (including 2022), four National Performance Network Creation Fund Awards, and choreographic commissions from Dance Theater Workshop (now New York Live Arts), Portland Ovarations, Danspace Project, and the 92nd Street Y New Works in Dance Fund.

Based in New York City, they have been presented by City Center Fall for Dance Festival, Lincoln Center, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, The 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival, The Sheen Center, Danspace Project, Performance Space 122, Dance New Amsterdam, and Central Park's Summerstage. They have toured throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Central America, performing in festivals, art centers, and universities. These include Spoleto Festival USA, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Munich International Dance Festival, The Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston, The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (St. Paul), Festival Internacional de Artes Escenicas (Panama), Aronoff Center for the Arts (Cincinnati), Bates Dance Festival, Kintetsu Theater (Osaka, Japan), Festival Internacional Chihuahua, Encuentro en la Cultura (Mexico), Tancforum (Budapest), and the Beirut Spring Festival.

Bridgman and Packer have been guest artists at over one hundred universities including New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, The Juilliard School, California Institute of the Arts, Ohio State University, Arizona State University, and the University of Utah. Bridgman and Packer are recipients of a DTW Digital Fellowship. They have been highlighted in *Dance Magazine's* issue on "Great Partnerships". Their work in live performance and video technology is featured in the book *Gegenwelten, Zwischen Differenz und Reflexion (Against Worlds, Between Difference and Reflection)* by Jurgen Schlader and Franziska Weber, published in Munich in 2009. Bridgman|Packer Dance's NYC Season at The Sheen Center was chosen as "Best Of 2016" in both *The Village Voice* and *Huffington Post*, and their performance at Dallas City Performance Hall was chosen as first of the top ten shows of 2017 by theatrejones.com.

REPERTORY



Ghost Factory (2021)

Ghost Factory is the latest in Bridgman|Packer Dance's body of acclaimed and genre-breaking work that features their "Video Partnering"—the integration of live performance and video technology. Inspired by the residents and vast deserted factories of Johnson City, an upstate New York town, *Ghost Factory* is a compelling work that reveals remnants of a past era through a contemporary lens. Live performance merges with haunting video imagery of abandoned factory buildings, evoking the humanity these spaces once held. The creative team also includes filmmaker Peter Bobrow, lighting designer Frank DenDanto III, costume designer Anna-Alisa Belous, and composer/sound designer Ansel Bobrow. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

RUNNING TIME: 55 minutes, no intermission. May be presented with accompanying repertory.

TOURING PARTY

Performers: 2 dancers

Administrative/Tech: 1 technician

***Places with Hidden Stories* Audio/Visual Installation**

In conjunction with the stage performance, there is an accompanying audio/visual installation, that further brings alive the stories of residents in Johnson City as well as those from each host community. The installation and the stage work reveal how architecture can hold a town's human stories hidden within its walls. See Community Engagement Activities and Virtual Offerings for accompanying activities.

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

The creation of Ghost Factory was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a National Dance Project Finalist Grant Award, and commissioning support from the American Dance Asylum. Bridgman|Packer Dance is a 2020 NDP Finalist Grant Award recipient. Support was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to address sustainability needs during COVID-19 and in support of Ghost Factory.

REPERTORY



***Under The Skin* (2005/2014)**

In *Under The Skin*, the duet form explodes into a magically populated stage as Bridgman and Packer interchange with their ever-multiplying virtual selves. The performers' bodies and costumes become projection screens, morphing and redefining identities while revealing psychological depths. The original score of layered saxophones was created by composer/saxophonist Ken Field.

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

Under The Skin is a co-commissioning project by Contemporary Dance Theater of Cincinnati in partnership with The Dance Place of Washington, D.C. and the National Performance Network Creation Fund. The NPN Creation Fund is sponsored by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Altria, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Creation of *Under The Skin* was supported by funds from the 92nd Street Y New Works in Dance Fund.

***Table Bed Mirror* (2014/2017)**

Table Bed Mirror navigates through an illogical and fantastical night of dreams. While galloping through constantly shifting realities, the work references the neuroscience of the dream process and contrasts dreams' most ridiculously commonplace details with the expansive and outrageous. Live performance, video, text, and sound score create an absurdist collage that intends to confound the sense of reality and flip assumptions upside down.

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

Parts of Table Bed Mirror were developed during a Catalpa Artist Residency 2018, Desert Hot Springs, CA.

REPERTORY



TRUCK (2014/2017) outdoor, site-specific

TRUCK by Bridgman|Packer Dance is designed to be performed inside a 17-foot box truck, bringing performance to non-traditional public spaces. With audiences looking into the back of the truck from the outside, live performance and film projections alter the space into a micro-world of visions. *TRUCK* can be performed outdoors after dark in parking lots, parks, university campuses, and plazas or at any hour at indoor parking garages or large indoor spaces.

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Parts of TRUCK were created through a Fellowship with Experimental Film Virginia 2014. Premiere of TRUCK: August, 2014, Harbor for the Arts Festival, Cape Charles, VA.

Voyeur (2012/2016)

Voyeur takes the paintings of Edward Hopper as a point of departure. This work bears witness to fragmented moments of private lives. It incorporates a multi-surfaced set made of hinged panels at various angles. Through the use of video projections, the set transforms, evoking imagery of both spatial and psychological enclosures as the performers are seen through the windows and doorway. Stream-of-consciousness sequences evoke the light, time and place of Hopper's work.

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

Voyeur is co-commissioned by Portland Ovarions (Portland, ME) and the Edward Hopper House Art Center (Nyack, NY). The creation of Voyeur is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Premiere: October, 2012 Portland Ovarions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



***Video Playground* (Interactive Video Installation)**

This engaging interactive installation invites participants of all ages to experience the magic of Bridgman|Packer Dance up close and personal. *Video Playground* allows participants to play with scale, juxtaposition of shadow and video imagery and explore the duality and morphing of self and image. This live interactive installation can be projected in public spaces, bringing to life the architecture in a community and new meaning to familiar places.

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Artist Talk with Audience Interaction

Bridgman and Packer explain their choreographic process and its integration with video technology. Including slides and video excerpts, they describe the history and development of their unique concepts of Video Partnering and demonstrate their use of green screen technology, video editing, and live camera stage set-up. Audience participation in a short demonstration of live camera work can also be included.

Partnering Workshop/Master Class

The Partnering Workshop transmits Bridgman|Packer's approach to contemporary dance partnering for beginners through advanced performers. The class is non-gender specific, emphasizes the release and ease as well as the strength of partnering, and builds to develop exhilarating and risk-taking partnering in duet, trio and group forms.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Movement and Storytelling Presentation with Bridgman|Packer Dance

Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, Artistic Directors of Bridgman|Packer Dance, in conjunction with performances of *Ghost Factory*, will lead a presentation on performance and storytelling. They will show video clips from their stage work *Ghost Factory* and speak about their creative choreographic process of making *Ghost Factory*, which is inspired by the vast deserted factories and the residents of Johnson City, NY, the former home of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company. Integral to *Ghost Factory*, are the stories from people in Johnson City and the concept that architecture holds human stories hidden within its walls. Illustrating their practice as choreographers, Art and Myrna will lead some simple movement and storytelling exercises, illuminating the idea that everyone has a story to tell connected with their name, a building or location, or family history. The presentation culminates in the creation of a spontaneous performance with movement inspired by the oral histories shared by attendees.

No previous dance or story-telling experience necessary. Come, observe and participate as much as you like. This presentation is appropriate for the general public, seniors, or inter-generational groups.

Dance and Video Workshop/Masterclass

Emphasizing the relationship between live performance and the incorporation of video projection, this demonstration and workshop gives participants a hands-on experience with their Bridgman|Packer's signature choreographic process. The students learn how to operate Bridgman|Packer's various video technologies and are then invited to experiment by shooting their movement from several camera angles and then simultaneously projecting the imagery during their live on stage performance creating surprising juxtapositions and new compositional elements to explore. This fun and innovative workshop is appropriate for all ages and levels of experience.

Creative Movement for Children

This class offers a fun, energetic approach to movement exploration. The session emphasizes rhythm, musicality, awareness of space, and imagery that leads to individuality of expression and movement invention.

Live Performance and Video Technology Workshop (3-5 days or longer)

Designed for high school, college or professional levels, this workshop examines the relationship of video and live performance from a choreographic point of view. Participants explore how video technology can become an integral part of the performance and the creative process; how it can offer a vital layering element in composition; and how it can add depth to the realization of the artistic intent. Participants will work on short performance projects. Basic knowledge of video editing software is helpful but not required. Participants with or without technological experience are welcome.

Other Master Class and Workshop Offerings: Composition/Improvisation; Body Awareness (based on Alexander Technique, Laban-Bartenieff Movement Fundamentals, and other somatic techniques); Movement for Actors, Movement for Athletes

Post-performance discussions available upon request.

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

Virtual Offerings can be offered as in-person offerings, tailored to a presenter/venue's needs. For more information please direct inquiries to Sandy Garcia, Director of Booking at sandyg@pentacle.org.

PRESENTATIONS

BEHIND-THE-SCENES: MAKING OF *GHOST FACTORY*

A look behind the creative process of Bridgman Packer's newest creation *Ghost Factory*, which was inspired by the residents and vast deserted factories of Johnson City, a small upstate New York town. In this virtual presentation, Co-Artistic directors Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, pioneers in the integration of dance with video technology, offer audiences a look into their creative process, which includes multiple site visits, storytelling sessions, and filming the once majestic buildings of this post-industrial town. This event may be hosted ahead of *Ghost Factory* coming to a community in order to bring local audiences into the themes of the work, draw interest, and deepen community engagement opportunities in preparation for the live performance. Option to include moderator. Alternatively a moderator may be provided by Presenter.

ARTIST TALK

This in-depth presentation provides insight into Bridgman|Packer's choreographic process and its integration with video technology, with images and video excerpts, they describe the history and development of their unique concepts of Video Partnering and their use of green screen technology, video editing and live camera stage set up. There will also be focus on their work creating stand-alone dance films including screenings of two short dance films: *Look Out*, and *Embrace in the Time of COVID- 19*.

WORKSHOPS

CREATING SHORT DANCE FILMS/ PARTNERING WITH THE CAMERA

Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer offer a 2-hour workshop where participants can experiment with creating short dance films with their cell phone cameras. Bridgman and Packer will focus on camera angles, lighting, framing, movement invention, and relationship with music and sound. This workshop will emphasize process rather than product and will include several hands-on experiments that explore partnering with the camera. Workshop will be held on Zoom. It is best if participants have both a computer and a cell phone, but adjustments can be made if that is not possible.

CREATIVE FILM WORKSHOP SERIES

Incorporating video (with cell phone or camera) with movement and text (prose poetry, spoken word), students will create short video projects. This workshop requires multiple sessions, ideally a minimum of 4 sessions in order to realize a film project from each participant. This series can also include an Artist Talk presented in a virtual lecture demonstration format prior to starting the workshop that will introduce the participants to Bridgman|Packer's artistic process.

COMMUNITY STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS

In anticipation of *Ghost Factory* live performance, Bridgman and Packer offer an online, virtual community storytelling workshop. Participants may be families, intergenerational or from schools, community clubs or organizations that will gather and be guided through the workshop by focusing on dialogue while sharing stories of individual, family and community histories as well as visual images from their communities. Through playful and insightful intergenerational exchange, young and elders experience how their stories may differ or overlap.

PLACES WITH HIDDEN STORIES, LOCAL STORYTELLING PROJECT

Working with local community liaisons, Bridgman and Packer will engage in storytelling workshops and/or interviews with local community members by phone or zoom, collecting stories about connections, memories, and experiences of their town and neighborhoods. Focusing on how local buildings might hold people's stories, their input will be part of the *Places with Hidden Stories* audio/visual installation in the lobby of each venue where *Ghost Factory* is performed.

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS



DANCE FILMS

***LOOK OUT* (2018)**

Look Out, a driving and precarious choreographic voyage through rooftops, a parking lot, and a construction site filmed entirely by drone camera, captures unexpected angles, distances, and perspectives. Shot on location during LUMBERYARD Under Construction Summer Festival 2018 (Catskill, NY), it features Bridgman|Packer choreography and performance, cinematography by Gavin Preuss, and industrial-percussion by Jeff Cook. *Look Out* has been selected for Screendance Miami and received Best Cinematography at the Experimental Dance & Music Film Festival and Best Drone Film at the Beyond Earth Festival.

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

Presenters may commission a version of *Look Out* to be filmed on the presenter's campus or designated area. Filming is all shot on site with a drone camera.

***EMBRACE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19* (2020)**

This film was inspired by those who lived alone during the pandemic and for those for whom touch and embrace were absent. In light of this, it explores the concept of virtual embrace and its relationship with the physical. "Embracing", moving, and merging with each other's film images, Bridgman and Packer delve into the relationship of intimacy and distance while exploring the uncertain, ephemeral, impermanent nature of existence. With choreography, performance, and filmmaking by Bridgman and Packer and music by composer/violist Martha Mooke, it has received Best Choreography Award at the Best Global Shorts Film Festival, Judge's Special Mention at Redwood Shorts and Scripts, and Best Dance Film at the Experimental Dance & Music Film Festival.

[CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

PRESS QUOTES

"the most thrilling dance work this reviewer has seen in recent memory...flat-out exhilarating"

- *The Boston Globe*

"dynamic, stunning, provocative...each piece teetering between moment and memory, body and illusion"

- *Anchorage Daily News*

"In an age overrun with virtual dancing, the team of Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer stands out...by turns, witty, sexy, and surreal." - *The New Yorker*

"An ingenious trompe l'oeil fusion of physical and video-image bodies...merged and then disappeared with magical and fascinating suddenness." - *The New York Times*

"gorgeous, and deeply moving." - Jeremy Gerard, *Huffington Post*

"Each aesthetic shift, unobtrusively accompanied by different optical illusions and soundscapes... becomes a new question, a new story, and an increasingly more absorbing moment in time...We are compelled to pay attention." - Nicole Duffy Robertson, *Eye On Dance*

"Their finest illusions raise haunting questions about perception and reality, about shifting perspectives of time and space, and about human relations." - Deborah Jowitt, *DanceBeat*

"The two dancers were never eclipsed by the set and projections, their emotional states always in flux and always crystal clear. The effect was often breathtakingly and movingly beautiful."

-Joel Benjamin, *Theaterscene.net*

"Let's have more of this in the dance world, please." - Juan Michael Porter, *Broadwayworld.com*

"The boundary between reality and imagination is brilliantly blurred...Welcome to the future of dance." - *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis

"The two breathtaking shows took over our senses...swinging between reality and imagination, it has changed the way we conceive dancing." - *An-nahar*, Beirut, Lebanon (English Translation)

CONTACT

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