

ARTIST STATEMENT: EXPLORING THE
ARTISTIC GENRE OF
DANCE FILM

by

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Thank you!

ARTIST STATEMENT

Dance film – also known as dance for the camera - is an artistic genre that is choreographic and cinematic. It integrates the fields of dance and film. In the spring of 2012, I chose to study dance film for my junior honors research because I was interested in the way I could work through dance film to expand and challenge the notions of live concert dance choreography. I watched and analyzed multiple dance films to see what choreographic or cinematic choices the directors made and research why they made them. Between my junior and senior year, I attended Dance for the Camera 2012 in Victoria, Canada where I learned the basics of crafting a dance film. This year, I created three distinctly different dance films, *WERK*, *Red*, and *chapters from a lost affair*, all of which I choreographed, directed, filmed and edited. These films explore concepts such as creating movement specifically for the camera, editing through a mathematical perspective, and working with the tools of improvisation as well as prepared material.

When I came into this project, I thought the art of filmmaking was completely different from the art of choreography. However, I find that – in spite of some clear distinctions between the two artistic disciplines - not only do several crafting techniques overlap, but there are also similar ways of cognitively analyzing material throughout the creative process. I find I can link filmmaking and choreography. Studying and producing dance film has given me a unique choreographic perspective that will always influence the way I regard and interact with the artistic field of dance. I look forward to seeing how dance film influences the connection between the arts and technology.

BIOGRAPHY

Jana Hilja Schneider (Chicago, IL) will graduate with a BFA in Modern Dance as a John V. Roach Honors Laureate. Since attending TCU, Jana has studied with faculty members and has performed in *DanceTCU* works choreographed by Christian von Howard, Kanji Segawa, and Susan Douglas Roberts. During school breaks, Jana attended workshops hosted by Molly Shanahan, Thodos Dance Chicago, and Gus Giordano Dance Chicago where she accepted a full tuition scholarship. In the spring of 2012, she received the TCU Honors Scholar Award to fund summer studies in dance film, and in the fall of 2012 Jana's choreographic work, *Checkmate*, was chosen to represent TCU's School for Classical & Contemporary Dance for adjudication at the South Central Conference of the American College Dance Festival Association. Most recently, SCCD faculty honored her as the Senior Scholar. Jana looks forward to a career in choreography and dance film.