

2026-2027

satellit

DANSFILM  
FESTIVALLEN

VOICES OF  
ISTANBUL



**Welcome!**

We hope you will enjoy the program of short Dance for Screen films. The Satellite section 2026-2027 presents a selection of Swedish and Turkish artists.

Team Dansfilmfestivalen: Benedikte Esperi, Olivia Alf and Cheyenne Esperi

The satellite project was realised with support from the Västra Götaland Region, Röda Sten Konsthall, The Swedish Arts Grants Committee's Dance Residency Grant (Istanbul), and DAB (Dance Across Borders).

PROGRAM  
VOICES OF ISTANBUL

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# DANSFILMFESTIVALEN



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## Where the wind ends

15:00

Synopsis: During the pandemic, when everything stood still, performance artists and creatives were among the most affected. As their practice depends on physical presence and human interaction, a sense of being discarded and forgotten emerged. During this period, a project developed within the ancient landscape of Calycadnum, a remote Mediterranean terrain in Göksu Bird Paradise, Turkey.

The work unfolded in isolation, far from audiences and urban life, exploring absence, grief, solitude, and intimacy. None of the shoots were planned; the process was shaped by daily moods, weather, landscape, and instincts of the collaborators. Using the collected footage and fragments, Ataman Girişken brought a non-existent storyline into existence, shaping meaning through what was found rather than planned. In parallel, the piece reflects Korhan Başaran's search for his drive and instinct for dance, and for its core impulse. Through this ongoing search, nature becomes a space of recovery, slowly emerging from a sense of void and gradually restoring his will to dance, step by step.

### Credits:

Director Ataman Girisken

Starring Korhan Basaran

Bio: Ataman Girişken and Korhan Başaran (aka Core Bash) are a collaborative duo working across various contemporary disciplines, including physical theatre, contemporary dance, film, movement and video installations. Their work explores memory, vulnerability, absence, transformation and has been presented at various festivals, biennials and artistic contexts across Europe and beyond, as well as commissions from prestigious institutions, both individually and as a duo.

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## WET VOLUME / Bayrampaşa Old Prison

11:00

Synopsis: This film is the remembrance of a memory that no longer exists. I went to the Bayrampaşa Old Prison years after the 'Return to Life Operation' carried out there in December 2000. I watched the operation live on television. A prisoner's statement, "there was no fire but my face was burning," echoed in my ears for years. It was hard to believe what I saw when I got there years later. I approached and interpreted the architectural space and the body as a 'wet volume'. The choreography was created and performed in the Bayrampaşa Old Prison. Besides, I ensured that the audience watches what they "cannot see" in this massive space as if watching a documentary (just like prisoners). Filmed May 2010, Premiered 17th. Istanbul Theater Festival.

Concept & Choreography: Tuğçe Ulugün Tuna

Artists: Çiğdem Agas, Erdiñç Anaz, Aslı Bostancı, Harun Kocabiçak, Tuğçe U. Tuna, Dicle Doğan, Büşra Firidin, Burak Yamantürk.

Music: Vahit Tuna, Sezen Aksu

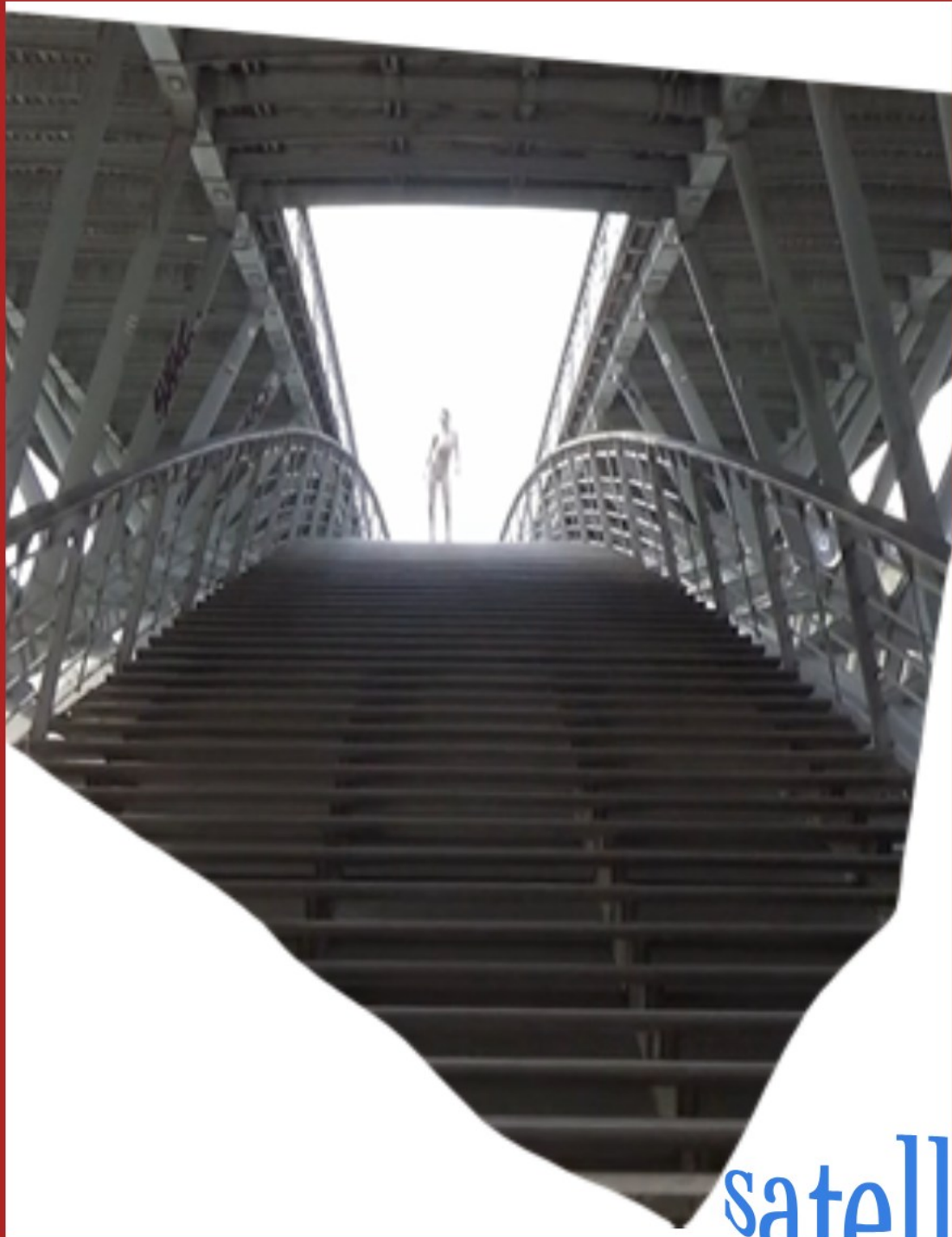
Flow Control: Nehir Erođlu, Pınar Akyüz

Visual Archive: Osman Nuri İyem, Tuğçe U. Tuna

Shooting: Osman Nuri İyem, Serdar Gazi, Alican Görgeç, Kenan Özbek, Berk Asal

Bio: Tuğçe Ulugün Tuna, one of the leading names in contemporary dance in Türkiye, celebrated the 32th anniversary of her artistic career in 2025. Tuna is an award-winning choreographer, contemporary dance and interdisciplinary performance artist, body reader and academic (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul). In addition, as a social transformation activist, she continues her work in the field of dance and movement therapy. Since 1993, she has been pursuing her career as a contemporary dance and performance artist, dance technique instructor and choreographer in Türkiye and Europe. (PhD) Professor Tuna has been teaching mainly at the MSFAU, Contemporary Dance dept. since 1996. When creating the layers of her choreographies, Tuna develops innovative, pioneering, and individual forms through the diversity of concept, body and space.

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## Necromancy

03:20

Synopsis: Necromancy is a three-minute dance film shot at Paris's Léopold Sédar Senghor Passage. The artist treats the body as a vessel that carries both historical and spiritual resonance. A female performer—dressed in a skin-toned costume, almost translucent in the backlight, her long braids trailing—moves inverted along the staircase. Her choreography unfurls like smoke, bending space and time into fluid, porous boundaries. Her movements evoke a ritual of invocation, drifting between states of life and death, presence and erasure. Necromancy summons the lost spirits embedded in the modern city, inviting viewers to engage with their own bodily memory, the lingering vibrations of colonial histories, and narratives rendered invisible. In the public sphere of Paris, the work stages a poetic dialogue between the ghosts of a colonial past and the living body of today.

Concept, Choreography, Directed by: Canan Yücel Pekiçten

Thanks to: Nazlı Meriç Çukurova, Riason Naidoo. Produced during the Cité Internationale des Arts artist residency (2019). Passerelle Léopold-Sédar-Senghor, Paris.

Bio: Canan Yücel Pekiçten is a dance artist, choreographer, and Associate Professor at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul. Her works have been performed at festivals and venues across Europe, the USA, and Turkey. She collaborates with Turkish and international choreographers and visual artists, participating in events such as the Venice Biennale and Block Universe in London. Her recent research and creations explore opera, orientalism, social classes, and themes of femininity and cultural representation. Canan has been awarded First Prize at the 8th Gdańsk Solo Dance Contest and has held residencies at leading institutions, including Saari Residence (Finland), Gothenburg Residency (Sweden), Movement Research (New York), Cité Internationale des Arts (France), Dansmakers Amsterdam (Netherlands), Espace Darja (Morocco), and Tanzhaus NRW (Germany).

# DANSFILMFESTIVALEN



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IP / 2  
02:10

Synopsis: A string game becomes a method for carrying the measurement of a structure into another space. In this process, “translation” is the transformation of a volume into string material, of string material into weight, of weight into time, of text into language. Without knowing where the string is anchored, or who maintains the tension, I trace its path. Pairs, ruptures, voids. Everything leaves a mark, or its own echo. In the interval, the fissure between the original and the trace, a new space opens. After how many repetitions does the loss of the original become possible?

Credits:

Concept, Choreography and Performer: Mustafa Kaplan

Video Design: Mustafa Kaplan

Bio: Born in Konya in 1965, the artist began dancing in 1984 with Graham technique classes from Geyvan McMillan. A graduate of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Yıldız Technical University, Kaplan danced with the Contemporary Ballet Ensemble between 1989 and 1992 and worked as a dancer and choreographer at the Istanbul City Theatres between 1991 and 2001. He received theatre training from Beklan Algan and Ayla Algan. He is one of the founders of Yeşil Üzümler Dance Theatre, Dance Factory, Taldans and ÇATI Studio. He performed in the choreographies of Aydın Teker and took part in many national and international festivals with his work. Kaplan continues his productions at Taldans, which he founded together with Filiz Sızanlı; he also teaches dance and movement at ÇATI Studio and at the Theatre Department of Okan University.

## Fragments of Lights in Istanbul

04:52

Created by Benedikte Esperi during her residency in Istanbul, Turkey, February 2026.

The location Dansbana! Kalamis is a public space for dance designed by the organization Dansbana! (architects Anna Fridolin, Anna Pang and Teres Selberg) for Istanbul Design Biennial and in collaboration with Kadikoy municipality in Istanbul. Visitors can connect their phones to the soundsystem via Bluetooth, play music and dance.

With support from The Swedish Arts Council and the Swedish Consulate in Istanbul.

Credits:

Concept, choreography & video: Benedikte Esperi

Music: The Vanhalia Project - Sogno D'Autunno source Free Music Archive license CC BY

Bio: Benedikte Esperi is a choreographer, performance and video artist based in Gothenburg, Sweden. Her work spans stage, film, installation, and public space, often engaging with the social, poetic, and political dimensions of the body. She is Artistic Director of the self-organized residency platform Finnekumla Dans & Konstscen and founder and curator of Dansfilmfestivalen in Gothenburg. Esperi also holds a position as Senior Lecturer at the Academy of Music and Drama, University of Gothenburg. Over many years, Esperi has initiated and led collaborations between dance, film, and visual art in Sweden and internationally, including residencies, workshops, and artistic exchanges. She is active as a teacher, mentor, and lecturer in dance, movement, and performance. Her artistic practice is marked by an investigative approach to movement as language, archive, and act of resistance.

## Part of the Puzzle

01:49

'Part of the Puzzle' was produced during a workshop in Dance for Screen with Benedikte Esperi, 2026 in Istanbul during her residency at Consulate General of Sweden, Istanbul / Swedish Research Institute with grant from Swedish Art Grants Committee / Konstnärskommittén

### Credits:

Choreography and Camera: Derin Ağma, Ezgi Atan, Defne Dosay, Hayat Elbi, Eda Erenözlü Buse Büşra Güzel, Duru Süyece, Karya Zafer & Nilya Özgür. Students at Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi Sahne Sanatları Bölümü Modern Dans Anasanat Dalı, Istanbul

Video: Concept and Editing Benedikte Esperi

Music: 'End titles' by Itsensäsyojät source Free Music Archive license CC BY

**Dansfilmfestivalen** är ett forum och en arena för dansfilm där publiken möter verksamma dansare, koreografer och filmare som skapar dansfilm . Festivalen arrangerar visningar i egen regi årligen på Ringön i Göteborg och bjuds regelbundet in till en rad kulturevent nationellt och internationellt så som Dansfilmfestivaler, Dansfestivaler, Scenkonstbiennalen, Folk och Kultur, Kulturkalaset m.fl.

Konstnärlig ledare och curator Benedikte Esperi  
Projekt & grafisk design Olivia Alf  
Kommunikatör & koordinatör Cheyenne Esperi

Benedikte Esperi är curator, koreograf & videokonstnär. Hon skapar verk för scener, utställningsmiljöer och offentliga rum både nationellt och internationellt. Utöver Dansfilmfestivalen driver hon Finnekumla Dans & Konstscen och undervisar bland annat på Högskolan för scen och musik.

Olivia Alf är kulturvetare och evenemangsarrangör i Göteborg med omnejd. Hon har sedan december 2020 arbetat med flera olika aktörer på Ringön, som är sätet för Dansfilmfestivalen. Olivia är festivalens grafiska formgivare, skapat den digitala profilen och festivalens alla tryckta publikationer.

Cheyenne Esperi jobbar som music curator och är utbildad inom evenemang och affärsutveckling. Hon jobbar inom besöksnäring, festivaler och event. Hon är Dansfilmfestivalens kommunikatör och projektkoordinator.

**Dansfilmfestivalen** is a forum and platform for dance film, where audiences meet practising dancers, choreographers, and filmmakers who create works within the genre. The festival organises its own annual screenings at Ringön in Gothenburg and is regularly invited to a variety of cultural events nationally and internationally, such as dance film festivals, dance festivals, the Swedish Biennial for Performing Arts, Folk och Kultur, Kulturkalaset, among others.

Artistic Director and Curator: Benedikte Esperi  
Project & Graphic Design: Olivia Alf  
Communicator & Coordinator: Cheyenne Esperi

Benedikte Esperi is a curator, choreographer, and video artist. She creates works for stage, exhibition spaces, and public environments both in Sweden and abroad. In addition to Dansfilmfestivalen, she runs Finnekumla Dans & Konstscen and teaches at the Academy of Music and Drama.

Olivia Alf is a cultural scholar and event organiser based in Gothenburg and its surroundings. Since December 2020, she has collaborated with several different stakeholders at Ringön, which is home to Dansfilmfestivalen. Olivia is the festival's graphic designer, responsible for its digital profile as well as all printed publications.

Cheyenne Esperi works as a music curator and holds a background in event management and business development. She is active within the tourism, festival, and events sector. At Dansfilmfestivalen, she serves as the festival's communicator and project coordinator.