

**SANDRA SILVA**  
**choreographer - performer - vocalist**

**What the critics say —**

"Finally, there is the most modest work of the entire program "Kino Tañca Online, vol 1 – Izolacja": ie **Home** (dir. Marlene Millar). I am glad that it was chosen because it belongs to the projects that can often be overlooked, due to the rush of the world demanding more and more attractive, varied and rapidly changing forms in its film (as well as musical, theater and dance) manifestations. Here we have something completely different – one of the pioneers of dance, Sandy Silva, shows us that you don't always need a band, costume, hall or lights. It shows us that we have everything we need with us, and "Home" is nothing but tangible proof of it. Here the choreographer's body becomes a musical instrument. It's such a quiet job, just a dancer walking down a small empty street, singing quietly, her shoes tapping on the concrete, and snapping her fingers sets an additional rhythm ... Nothing happens, but something is happening. A song is being created in front of our eyes."

*Strona Tanca, October 2021*

"the spirit-shocking presence of percussive step-dancer, Sandy Silva . . . merged the ensemble effortlessly, with a range of elastine set pieces that dizzied the audience. . . she reminded us that this music is made for dancing."

*The Irish Times*

". . .people hold their breath each time Sandy Silva appears . . . she burns the floor"

*Le Soleil, Quebec City*

"...a gem of a show that is at once intimate, intense and joyful."

*La Presse, Montreal, Que.*

"...original and ultra-musical performer with cool authority and original ideas."

*Seattle Times*

"...with her body as an instrument she makes the audience shout with joy."

*Sweden Press*

"...marvelously inventive..."

*Irish Echo, New York City*

"Finding pure joy in her own rhythms, Silva builds her sounds delicately in silence. Then they explode in rapturous partnership with live tango music as she lies on her stomach

on a spinning stool, still tapping and clapping out the gift of life."  
*The Montreal Gazette*

### **RECIPIENT of the McKnight International Choreography Fellowship in 2023**

“Sandy Silva was wonderful during the McKnight International Residency in Minneapolis. She shared her practice with a variety of communities and adapted to each group beautifully. Over the course of four weeks she worked with young actors on the use of their voices, challenged professional dancers with body percussion and rhythms, shared songs with recent immigrants and processed in city and county parks with a wide array of community members. Her artistry engages the body, mind and spirit.”

- Dana Kassel, Program Director, McKnight Choreography Fellowship

### **CHOREOGRAPHY FOR FILM**

#### **NAVIGATION (2019) dir. Marlene Millar, a Migration Dance Film Production**

For the Poetry of Movement Article :

<https://movingbody.bg/en/2022/02/16/for-the-poetry-of-a-movement/>

*“For its judicious use of space, its uplifting sound composition, and its breathtaking images, and for the director’s generous sharing through extraordinary attention to detail, the student jury awards the prize for best Canadian short film to Marlene Millar and Sandy Silva’s film Navigation.”*

*le jury étudiant remet le **Prix du meilleur court métrage canadien** au film Navigation de Marlene Millar et Sandy Silva”.*

**Best Canadian Short Film Award - Festival International du film sur l’art - Montreal 2021**

*“This film is strong both formally and narratively. It addresses migration in a subtle, complex way. A full and complete production utilizing beautiful camera work, stunning environments, wonderful sound design and simple gestural movements. All-in-all a very compelling production”.*

- **2nd Place Award for Best Production - WildDogs International Screendance Festival, Calgary 2021**

*It is with great appreciation for the overall production that we would like to present an Honorable Mention to NAVIGATION by Marlene Millar and Sandy Silva. Strikingly kinesthetic and rich in sound and image, the film portrays a strong sense of community, history and cultural heritage. The production beautifully presents a symbiotic relationship of choreography,*

landscape and music. It lingers in the memory long after the final scene, and is a poetic reflection on the past combined with hope for the future.

- **Honorable Mention - Short Waves Festival - Poznan, Poland 2021**

"It came together beautifully as a piece and worked superbly well both on, and in, its environment. All elements in the film coalesced to deliver its message." - Ingrid Nachstern (Screendance jury, choreographer and filmmaker\_

- **Best Screendance Award - Flatpack Film Festival, Birmingham, UK 2021**

The jury decided to award Navigation because "it manages to convey a strong message about humanity, which is reflected in the way bodies, sound, camera and location are used. It emphasizes, generously, how different generations evolve side by side and the different ways of living together while finding each's voice."

- **Best Film Award, Bucharest International Dance Film Festival - Sept 2020**

The film is a collaborative effort over time, and is very successful at facing current issues such as migration and the right of women and men to move. A very accurate image as well as a strong narrative structure make it an evocative and emotional work, where voice becomes a gesture. The relationship with nature, a strong protagonist here, is symbiotic. This dialogue refers to the affirmation of a unique body, ancestral and inseparable, that of a community able to give corporeality and voice to landscape, too. Dancers and singers blend in a single choir, where the first cross the borders of body percussion technique to embody a natural intimate space, and where choreography carries the power and the poetry of nature itself.

For these reasons, even if not exhaustive, the award for Best Film goes to Navigation, by Marlene Millar and Sandy Silva.

- **Best Film Award, Stories We Dance- Genoa, Italy 2020**

The choral dimension of the heterogeneous group is masterfully interpreted as a visual and sound unison without losing the diversity of each one as an individual. At the same time the driving force of this narrative is given by this collective movement of the group embraced by the beauty of the landscape .

Pablo Sousa (in shadow)

"the driving force of the narrative is given by the collective movement of the group, embraced by the beauty of the landscape"

- **Best Interpretation Award, 2021 - InShadow Lisbon, Portugal**

"Beautiful locations. The use of black and white gives a proper dramaticity for the work. The presence of a large number of people gives a better concern about the thematic."

"Sound, vision, and movement evoke a kind of perceptual phenomenon (like synesthesia), which engenders bodily imagination through senses - a viewer can smell, feel cold wind; all in all to establish a sense of belonging with nature."

- **Jury Recommendation Award - ROLLOUT FILM FEST, MACAO 2020**

## **PILGRIMAGE AWARDS**

### ***First Prize - Cinematica Jury award, ITALY***

Pilgrimage is a great work on percussive and vocal dance. The ritual dimension is the dramaturgical and diegetic spine of the video, flowing smoothly through evocative landscapes because they are real. From the gesture of the bodies emerges a memory of the places that makes them rhythmic like the dance.

The filming is enveloping and perfectly functional to the coherence of the work. Knowledge, sageness, contemplation of the senses emerge gracefully from the movements of real and intense bodies. At the same time, contemporary and actual, this work can offer itself to the vision and understanding of many audiences."

Quality Jury composed by the Italian film director SILVIO SOLDINI, the choreographer RAFFAELLA GIORDANO and dance historian ALESSANDRO PONTREMOLI.

### **LAY ME LOW AWARDS**

#### **WOFFF21 Experimental Film Award**

*"Calling on our reliance of ritual and the consolation of collective singing, this beautifully composed funeral dance offers a true celebration of a life. Filmed in nature and excellently choreographed, the dance is rhythmic and respectful. Close shots of the gestures to the sky and the earth recognise that the body is a spiritual conduit in motion.*

*As we linger on shots of leaves on the trees and listen to the wind, the dance procession flows towards the sea and reminds us that we too are part of this natural flow.*

*The percussive rhythmic sounds are an exciting mix of tap, clog, shuffle, clap and click. The voices are in beautiful harmony with each other and the body movements are both individual and collectively entwined: A resonant performance.*

*All wearing formal black clothing deeply rich in metaphors of lace, tattoos and fabrics, these loving friends speak with their bodies as they say farewell.*

*Excellent cinematography, beautifully composed and professional performances from all.*

*A beautiful and poignant film". - Trisha McCrae, filmmaker, jury WOFFF (Women Over Fifty Film Festival, UK)*

*"An extremely well-crafted film that speaks to the viewer on many sensorial levels. Floating outside of a specific time or history the film addresses in a powerfully original way universal themes of grief and the power of communal ritual. An intensely moving film that resonates with what it means to be alive". Charlotte Ginsborg - filmmaker, jury WOFFF21 (Women Over Fifty Film Festival, UK)*

***Sandy Silva et Marlene Millar récipiendaires du Prix Lumière 2015 pour le film Lay Me Low***

*Cinédanse Québec est heureux d'annoncer le gagnant du premier « Prix Lumière ». Ce prix a été remis lors de la clôture de l'événement Cinédanse Québec 2015, le dimanche 27 septembre à 16h.*

- Le Devoir, Montréal, QC.

### **Les gagnantes**

*Le film Lay Me Low de Sandy Silva et de Marlene Millar a été sélectionné par le jury présidé par Martine Époque. Le jury qualifie leur œuvre comme un « film accompli dans lequel tous les éléments s'unissent avec force. Rien n'y est en trop, en surplus, en excès. La sobriété, l'efficacité des moyens choisis et l'authenticité de l'interprétation en font une œuvre unique, lumineuse et universelle. Lay me low est un film sensible et envoûtant. »*

### **Le jury**

*Outre Martine Époque, le jury était composé de : Kathleya Afanador, directrice de la programmation et du contenu artistique de la plate-forme TenduTV (New-York); Josianne Desloges, journaliste et chroniqueuse en arts visuels du quotidien de Québec Le Soleil; Sébastien Hudon, directeur artistique de la Bande-Vidéo de Québec; Greta Schoenberg, directrice artistique et fondatrice du San Francisco Dance Film Festival; Mor Shani, jeune chorégraphe-interprète israélien.*

### **Migration Dance Film Project AWARDS:**

Best Performing Arts & Entertainment Award - 75th Yorkton Film Festival, Canada, 2022; Best Music and Performance Award - Fine Arts Film Festival, Venice, California, 2022; Best Canadian Short Film Award, Festival International du film sur l'art, Montréal 2021; Best Film Award, Bucharest Int'l Dance Film Festival 2020; Best Film Award & Audience Award - Fuori Formato, Stories We Dance, Italy, 2020; Rollout Dance Film Festival, Macao 01/2021, Jury Recommendation Award; 2020 NBFF Visionary Award, Knowbox Dance Film Festival, Korea/USA; Jury Mention, Screen.dance, Scotland 2020; Golden Sheaf Award, Performing Arts + nomination for Best in Festival, Yorkton Film Festival 2019; Cinémathèque Québécoise Award for Best Film, Quartier Danses 2019; Moving Pictures Award, Dance: Made in/fait au Canada Festival 2019; Idaho Screendance 2019 - Best Screendance Award, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Awards; 4th International Video Dance festival Braga, Portugal, 2nd Prize; FIVM- Festival VideoMovimiento – Videodanza Colombia - Audience Award 2018; Cinematica (Italy) 1ST PRIZE Jury Award 2018: Stories We Dance, Genoa Italy 2017- BEST PERFORMER (for all nine performers);Perth Screendance Festival, Scotland 2017 - BEST INTERNATIONAL SCREENDANCE Award; Best Dance Film Aesthetica Short Film, Festival, UK 2016; 2nd Dances with Camera Award, Short Waves film festival, Poznan, Poland; Audience Award – Screendance Miami 2016; Best of Festival Award - Third Coast Dance Film Festival; Best Screendance Short Award, San Francisco Dance Film Festival

2015; Prix Lumière, Cinedanse, Québec, 2015; Special Jury Prize - Festival Des Arts Des Cines, St. Etienne France 2015; Best of Festival Award, Utah Dance Film Festival 2015; Audience Award for Best Short Dance Film – Cinedans, Amsterdam 2015; BEST CHOREOGRAPHY, AND AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD; InShadow, Lisbon Screendance Festival - Public Jury Award