

MIRANDA PENNELL
FILM AND VIDEO



BIOGRAPHY

Miranda Pennell is an artist and film maker. She originally studied contemporary dance in New York and Amsterdam, after which she started to explore choreographic ideas through film-making. While her film and video work has led away from the specificity of Contemporary Dance, an interest in the nature of performance remains central to her films.

Pennell's work looks at the choreography that can be found in the 'real' world, using a diverse range of subjects that has included soldiers and a marching band, teenage ice-skaters, stage-fighting, amateur dancers and currently, rock-drummers. These films revolve around real people and places. However their realism is undercut by a formal approach to camera and editing which finds surprising contrasts and contradictions within the worlds explored.

Her films and videos have received funding from the Arts Council of England, Film London, Channel 4, and the BBC. They have won numerous prizes, including from the Biennale of Moving Images (Geneva 2005), the Ann Arbor Film Festival (USA 2004), Cork International Film Festival (Ireland 2003), the Grand Prix Video Danse (France 1997), and have been exhibited across a range of contexts. In 2006 her work is profiled at the 52nd Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen (Germany).

FILM & VIDEO DESCRIPTIONS

You made me love you

2005 / 4 minutes / colour

Twenty-one dancers are held by your gaze. Losing contact can be traumatic.

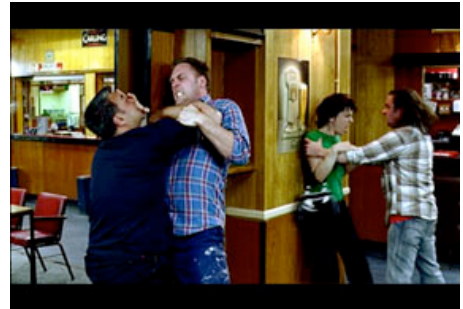


Fisticuffs

2004 / 11 minutes / colour

A bloke walks into a pub...

Six actors punch, kick and wrestle their way through the Wild West of an East London drinking establishment. The ritual of the Western bar-brawl, is re-located to a London working mens' club. The violence appears to have no consequences, the actors' bodies being as rubbery and invulnerable as those in the TV Westerns that inspired the film.



Magnetic North

2003 / 9 minutes / colour

Adolescent rituals are played out across the wintry landscapes of small-town Finland.

A teenage girl skates on a frozen lake, while a teenage boy poses with a guitar in his room. The film evokes a world of adolescent fantasy and yearning.

Photo Margaret Williams



Human Radio

2002 / 9 minutes / b & w

People dance in private moments of personal abandon across London in the summer of 2001.

The film is the result of the director's work with the first ten respondents to a local newspaper advertisement that she placed seeking 'living-room dancers' - people who love to dance behind closed doors.



Tattoo

2001 / 9 minutes / b & w

Trees, insects and birds look-on as the countryside is invaded by a lost regiment of soldiers engaged in a repetitive display. The senseless beauty of military drill, dwarfed by the landscape.

Photo Margaret Williams



DISTRIBUTION

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