



# IN THE STEPS OF TRISHA BROWN

## GLACIAL DECOY AT THE PARIS OPERA BALLET

A film by Marie-Hélène Rebois, featuring Lisa Kraus, Carolyn Lucas  
& the dancers of the National Paris Opera Ballet

**February 7, 2017**

Closing Night Film, Dance on Camera at The Film Society of Lincoln Center

**February 10-12, 2017**

BAMcinématek, Brooklyn Academy of Music

**April 20-23, 2017**

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco  
Dance Camera West Festival, Los Angeles

**June 12-13, 2017**

Laemmle Theaters, Culture Vulture Series, Los Angeles

An Icarus Films Release



## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Choreographer Trisha Brown revolutionized the world of contemporary dance. Now, her seminal 1979 work *Glacial Decoy*, with costumes and projected slides by the similarly risk-taking artist Robert Rauschenberg, is coming to Paris, performed by a new generation of dancers. *IN THE STEPS OF TRISHA BROWN* takes us behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the first performance by the National Opera Ballet of Paris.

The dancers are instructed in their difficult project by Lisa Kraus and Carolyn Lucas, eminent dancers who worked with Brown herself. Interspersed with little-seen archival footage from original productions and rehearsals, *IN THE STEPS OF TRISHA BROWN* is both a testament to the value of teaching and studying art and dance, and a privileged look at the process of staging a major dance piece.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Choreographer Trisha Brown revolutionized the world of contemporary dance. Now, her seminal 1979 work *Glacial Decoy*, with costumes and projected slides by the similarly risk-taking artist Robert Rauschenberg, is coming to Paris, to be performed by a new generation of dancers. *IN THE STEPS OF TRISHA BROWN* takes us behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the first performance.

Brown's work is so complex that it resists standard dance notation, so carrying on her legacy by teaching the surprising, challenging piece to the dancers of the National Paris Opera Ballet are choreographer Lisa Kraus, who helped create the original production of *Glacial Decoy* and danced in it, and Carolyn Lucas, the current Artistic Director of the Trisha Brown Dance Company.

Brown's choreography emphasizes the relationship of bodies with gravity, a near-boneless-seeming fluidity, and working close to the ground—qualities that may not come naturally to classically-trained dancers. Kraus in particular serves as a bridge between Brown and the young dancers of the National Paris Opera Ballet. She not only instructs the troupe, but also teaches them the history of Brown's work, illustrating the way that earlier projects such as *Man Walking Down the Side of a Building* (1970), *Leaning Piece* (1970), *Roof Piece* (1971) and *Walking on the Wall* (1971) were precursors to *Glacial Decoy*.

Interspersed with fascinating, little-seen archival footage from original productions and of Brown herself in rehearsal, *IN THE STEPS OF TRISHA BROWN* is both a testament to the value of teaching and studying art and dance, and a privileged look at the process of staging a major dance piece.

## IN THE PRESS

"Lisa Kraus, with fellow teacher Carolyn Lucas, is a disciple of Brown's school of dance, and her centrality to Rebois's film gives it its infectious, unpretentious, accessible likeability. Rebois matches her methods with an observational eye that is equally unpretentious, allowing the repeated rhythms of the dancers' movements to reveal themselves in long, uninterrupted sequences."

—**British Film Institute (BFI)**

"Works by Brown don't just challenge our perceptions; they expand our minds and untether our spirits... Some of us only dream about flying; Trisha Brown launches her dreams onto the stage."

—**The Village Voice**

## ABOUT DIRECTOR MARIE-HELENE REBOIS

Marie-Hélène Rebois is passionate about dance and movement. She films dancers at work, on stage or in rehearsal. She makes documentary films about choreographers, and the memory of the body and the cultural heritage of contemporary dance.

Selected filmography:

- 1999 *History of a transmission: Dominique Bagouet at the Paris Opéra*  
Best Documentary, Creteil Women Film Festival
- 2003 *Ribatz, Ribatz*  
Grand Prize, FID Marseille Documentary Film Festival
- 2009 *Maguy Marin: The Hidden Dance*
- 2012 *Merce Cunningham: Legacy of Dance*
- 2016 *In the Steps of Trisha Brown*  
Closing Night Special Presentation, Dance on Camera

## ABOUT CAROLYN LUCAS

Carolyn Lucas, Associate Artistic Director, Trisha Brown Dance Company, joined Trisha Brown Dance Company in 1984. Lucas originated roles in some of Brown's most acclaimed works including *Lateral Pass* (1983), *Carmen* (1986), *Newark (Niweeorce)* (1987), *Astral Convertible* (1989), *Foray Forêt* (1990) and *Astral Converted* (1991). Lucas' dancing has been described in the New York Times as "affecting in her softly penetrating attack" and "luminous."

In 1993, Brown appointed Lucas as her Choreographic Assistant, a position Lucas held for twenty years before being named Associate Artistic Director in 2013. As Choreographic Assistant, Lucas played an integral role in Brown's creation process in dance and opera, working closely alongside Brown for pieces including *If you*

*couldn't see me* (1994), its revision to the duet *You can see us* (1995) with Bill T. Jones and later Mikhail Baryshnikov, Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (1998), and its revival in 2002, *El Trilog* (2000), *Luci Mie Traditrici* (2001), *It's a Draw* (2002), *Winterreise* (2002) with Simon Keenlyside, *PRESENT TENSE* (2003), *O Zlozony/O Composite* (2004) with étoiles from the Paris Opera Ballet, *Da Gelo a Gelo* (2006) with Salvatore Sciarrino and La Monnaie, Rameau's *Pygmalion* (2010) with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, Festival d'Aix, Holland Festival and Athens Festival, and Brown's final work for the Company, *I'm going to toss my arms- if you catch them they're yours* (2011) which premiered at Theatre National de Chaillot in Paris.

In addition to assisting with new choreography, directing Company rehearsals and restaging existing choreography on the current dancers, Lucas has led projects for companies and institutions around the world, including The New School, P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels and Paris Opera Ballet. She was one of the first instructors Brown sent to P.A.R.T.S. to construct a *Set and Reset/Reset*, whose collaborative, interdisciplinary learning process is now a cornerstone of the Company's education program. Lucas is currently sharing her firsthand knowledge of three decades of dancing, teaching and documenting Brown's work for the Trisha Brown Archive.

## ABOUT LISA KRAUS

Lisa Kraus's career has included performing with the Trisha Brown Dance Company and choreographing and performing for her own company. She has taught at universities and arts centers; presented the work of other artists as Coordinator of the Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series; and written reviews, features and essays on dance for internet and print publication.

With TBDC she appeared in television and film projects including *Beyond the Mainstream* and created roles in several works including *Glacial Decoy* (1979) which she taught the Paris Opera Ballet and later Stephen Petronio Company. Her desire to communicate about this experience kick-started her writing on the weblog "Decoy Among the Swans." Since 2004 she has written for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Dance Magazine, Dance Research Journal, the Contact Quarterly, the Dance Insider, the Dance Advance Publications & Research site and her "Writing My Dancing Life" blog. She was a 2010 National Endowment for the Arts Fellow in Dance Criticism. She co-founded THINKingDANCE and was its director and editor-in-chief from 2011 - 2014.

As a resident of the Philadelphia area since 2000, Kraus began developing dance projects over multi-year timeframes including the Partita Project which animated the historic Mount Pleasant Mansion and Red Thread, inspired by women's quilting circles. Her work has been presented at such venues as the Kitchen, DTW and Danspace in New York; Philadelphia Dance Projects, the Painted Bride and CEC in Philadelphia; Sushi in San Diego, London's Dance Umbrella, the American Center in Paris, and Sydney's Dance Exchange and supported by funders like the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance, the Independence and Leeway Foundations, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

## ABOUT TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY

Trisha Brown Dance Company (TBDC) is a post-modern dance company dedicated to the performance, and preservation of the work of Founding Artistic Director and Choreographer, Trisha Brown. Established in 1970, TBDC has toured throughout the world presenting the work, teaching and building relationships with audiences and artists alike.

Brown engaged collaborators who are themselves leaders in music, theater, and the visual arts, including visual artists Robert Rauschenberg, Donald Judd, and Elizabeth Murray, and musicians Laurie Anderson, John Cage, and Alvin Curran, to name a few. With these partners, Brown has created an exceptionally varied body of work, with premieres and performances for NYC audiences and international counterparts.

When Brown retired as head of her Company in 2013, the Board appointed longtime Company members Diane Madden and Carolyn Lucas as Associate Artistic Directors with the mandate that they present her dances in a variety of spaces, indoors and out, proscenium and alternative; develop, deepen and expand the Company's educational initiatives; and treat the Company's archive as a living organism to be used to better understand her work, in particular, and dance in general.

With the announcement of Brown's retirement, TBDC embarked its *Proscenium Works, 1979-2011* tour, celebrating Brown's works for the proscenium stage worldwide. About 90,000 audience members over the course of 181 performances throughout 5 different continents had the opportunity to see the work, in 14 states in the US and 17 different international countries. In addition, TBDC has started touring *Trisha Brown: In Plain Site*, working closely with presenter worldwide in creating a specific program for the venues or sites they select, adapting Brown's broad range of works into a site-specific performance experience. Special focus is put on the audience engagement at each venue, breaking down access barriers, and providing a more intimate experience to an audience that includes families and people less familiar with modern dance. Engagements in the current season include appearances at The Venice Biennale, Italy, Fondation Cartier, Paris, France, Tanzquartier Wien, Austria, Dancing Athens Festival, Athens, Greece, University of Florida/Performing Arts, Duke Performances, New York University Abu Dhabi, UCLA Center for the Arts, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, Cape Fear Community College, Coker College, and UC San Diego.

The Company's Education and Outreach program includes worldwide workshops, master classes, and lecture demonstrations. Licenses of selected works are given to carefully chosen educational institutions and professional companies worldwide, and works are regularly restaged on dance students and professional companies. TBDC is Founding Partner of Gibney Dance Center's downtown location in New York City, teaching regular classes for students in New York City. TBDC is in its second year of residence at Bard College, which includes a year-round teaching presence, drawing inspiration from Brown's interdisciplinary and collaborative process. At Bard College TBDC is teaching the work of Trisha Brown in courses in dance technique, repertory, and creative practice across forms. In addition, Bard College houses the full Company for an annual full-company residency, allowing for

more in-depth engagement initiatives on campus. This season TBDC further partners with several institutions of higher education worldwide, including New York University, California State University San Marcos, La Manufacture (Switzerland), Duke University, Centre National de Danse Contemporaine Angers (France) and Belgium's professional training program P.A.R.T.S. Recent licensing and restaging projects include Lyon Opera Ballet, Stephen Petronio Company, Paris Opera Ballet, Candoco Dance Company (London), London Contemporary Dance School, Mills College, University of Washington Seattle, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, and Yale University.

In 2009, TBDC created the Trisha Brown Archive. TBDC holds significant archival material, including master performance footage of over 90 original works as well as "building tapes" – videos made while Brown created these works. With the generous funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, TBDC has built a content-rich database for the Trisha Brown Archive, which holds close to 3,000 items from over 40 years of Brown's artistic work. The Archive further consists of sets, costumes, press, photos, Company records and scores by some of the pre-eminent artists of the era. Archival material is used during the Company's rehearsal processes and integrated into TBDC's performance engagements to create a historical context for the work that is seen on stage, and displayed in stand-alone exhibitions worldwide.

## FILM CREDITS

Title: *In the Steps of Trisha Brown: 'Glacial Decoy' at the Paris Opera Ballet*

A film by: Marie-Hélène Rebois

Featuring: Lisa Kraus, Carolyn Lucas, and the dancers of the National Paris Opera Ballet

Running time: 79 minutes

Production year: 2016

Formats: DCP, Blu-ray, DVD

Country of production: France

Language: In English and French with English subtitles

The dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet (in alphabetical order):

Caroline Bance, Miho Fujii, Letizia Galloni, Claire Gandolfi, Christelle Granier, Juliette Hilaire, Laurence Laffon, Caroline Robert, Gwénaëlle Vauthier, Séverine Westermann

Director of dance: Brigitte Lefèvre

Ballet master: Fabrice Bourgeois

Producers: Olivier Charvet & Sophie Germain

Image: Hélène Louvart

Editing: Jocelyne Ruiz

Sound: François Waledisch

Sound Mix: Ivan Gariel- Centre Pompidou

Color Grading: Gadiel Bendelac

"Glacial Decoy"

Choreography by Trisha Brown -1979

Set and costumes by Robert Rauschenberg

A Kaléo Films production, in coproduction with Daphnie Production and Centre Pompidou. In association with Trisha Brown Dance Company and Paris Opera. With the participation of Centre national du cinema et de l'image animée, the support of the European Union's MEDIA Programme, and SCAM's "Brouillon d'un rêve".

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TRISHA  
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Daphnieproduction

**Movie Trailers:**

Watch *In the Steps of Trisha Brown* Excerpt #1:

<https://vimeo.com/198411713>

Watch *In the Steps of Trisha Brown* Excerpt #2:

<https://vimeo.com/198411838>

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