



MEDIA INFORMATION

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Broadcast and Streaming Marathon Celebrating 100 Years of Merce Cunningham

ALL ARTS has partnered with the Merce Cunningham Trust to showcase a selection of films highlighting the prolific choreographer's legacy in honor of the Merce Cunningham Centennial

*Week of October 6 on the ALL ARTS broadcast channel ([check local listing](#))
Programming will also be available to stream through Saturday, October 12
on the ALL ARTS [streaming app](#) and allarts.org*

About the ALL ARTS Merce Cunningham Marathon:

ALL ARTS, WNET's new broadcast channel and streaming platform dedicated to the arts, celebrates the Merce Cunningham Centennial the week of Sunday, October 6 with full day marathons of filmed performances from the prolific modern dance choreographer's body of work and with pieces filmed from 1967 to 2010. This presentation highlights how he grew over 50 years of creating revolutionary abstract dance. His work often consists of random computer-generated sequences of steps, raising questions about time, space, and free will.

This selection of films is made available through partnership with The Merce Cunningham Trust, including "498, 3rd Ave.," a documentary that details the early days of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company; "Walkaround Time," Charles Atlas' first visual documentation of a Merce Cunningham dance; and many more gems from the Trust's archive. The films will also be available to stream nationally on the ALL ARTS website and streaming apps from October 6 through 12.

Featured Films and Airtimes:

- **Ocean** – John Cage's original concept of "Ocean", in 1991, was for a dance to be performed in a circular space, with the audience surrounding the dancers, and the musicians (112 of them) surrounding the audience. It was not possible to realize this project at the time, but a commission for performances in Brussels and Amsterdam in 1994 made it a reality. Andrew Culver composed music according to Cage's concept, David Tudor made an electronic component, and Cunningham's choreography was in nineteen sections.

- Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 6 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 6 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 6 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

- **RainForest** – This performance differed from Cunningham’s other pieces in that, except for Cunningham, each of the six dancers performed his or her role, then left the stage and never returned. Andy Warhol agreed to let Cunningham use his installation "Silver Clouds." The music was by David Tudor and evoked the chirping and chattering of birds and animals.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 7:41 a.m., 2:11 p.m. & 8:41 p.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 7:41 a.m. & 2:11 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 7:41 a.m. & 2:11 p.m.

- **Walkaround Time** – This Cunningham repertory piece was filmed in two parts. The dance also incorporates some of the ideas Marcel Duchamp was concerned with - transparency, motion, the role of the spectator, the way the eye sees. The transparency of the set allowed for a part of the dance action to be seen through the décor, which was designed by Jasper Johns.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 8:08 a.m., 2:38 p.m. & 9:08 p.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 8:08 a.m. & 2:38 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 8:08 a.m. & 2:38 p.m.

- **498, 3rd Ave.** – A documentary of the Dance Company in New York City. It tells the story of the making of the dance “Scramble” with a special focus on the daily routine of the dancers, how and where they work, and other aspects of producing new works. Includes performance footage at the Philip Johnson Glass House, with music by the Velvet Underground.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 9:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 9:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 9:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

- **Beach Birds for Camera** – This is an adaptation of a dance work originally made for the stage for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company’s repertory, adding three additional dancers. This film combines different shooting locations, black and white and color film, and Dolby stereo sound to present dance through the visual medium of film. Filmed at Kaufman Astoria Studios and Industria Superstudio in New York, NY, December 1991.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:

- Sunday, October 6 at 10:28 a.m., 4:58 p.m. & 11:28 p.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 10:28 a.m. & 4:58 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 10:28 a.m. & 4:58 p.m.
- **Merce by Merce by Paik** – This 30-minute video is in two parts – the first, "Blue Studio" and the second, "Merce and Marcel." Paik and Kubota transpose their source material into a witty collage in tribute to Cunningham and Duchamp, as they address an issue important to both Cunningham and Duchamp: time. In this homage to the two individuals who inspired their work, Paik and Kubota illustrate that time and movement are reversible and can be made manifest through video editing.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. & 12 a.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 11:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 11:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 - **Split Sides** – "Split Sides" is a work for the full company of fourteen dancers. The choreography, music and design elements for the dance were each created in two parts, or, in the case of the music, by two bands. British rock band Radiohead and Sigur Ros. Each performance varies, as chance procedures decide which of the two versions of each element will be paired together. Mathematically, there are thirty-two different possible versions. The choreography, as with all Cunningham's dances since 1991, was made with the use of the computer program DanceForms.
 - Broadcast Airtimes:
 - Sunday, October 6 at 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m. & 12:30 a.m.
 - Monday, October 7 at 11:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 10 at 11:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Press Kit with Hi Res Images: allarts.org/pressroom/merce-cunningham-marathon/

Embeddable Trailer: <https://allarts.wliw.org/programs/all-arts-performance-selects/all-arts-celebrates-100-years-merce-cunningham-ehugad/>

New York Area Channel Listings

Digital Antenna: 21.4

Comcast: 958/1156

Optimum: 144

Spectrum: 1276

Verizon Fios: SD 497/HD 498

About ALL ARTS

Powered by public media and supported by an arts-minded community, ALL ARTS is a single place for everything that makes your heart beat, your mind expand and your spirit explore. From the stories behind the

art, to smart conversations with foremost experts and in-depth investigations that open doors to the world of art in all its forms, ALL ARTS is for artists and art lovers of all ages. ALL ARTS is currently accessible on the [Web](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and streaming apps on iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, Roku, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire TV.

Leadership support for ALL ARTS is generously provided by Jody and John Arnhold, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Rosalind P. Walter, and The Agnes Varis Trust.

About WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of [NJTV](#), the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new [ALL ARTS](#) multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create, and World), and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education, and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend***, and the nightly interview program ***Amanpour and Company***. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW, and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

About the Merce Cunningham Trust

The Merce Cunningham Trust preserves, enhances, and maintains the integrity of Merce Cunningham's artistic work and processes, and makes his works available to the public. Established by Cunningham in 2000, and now under the leadership of eight Trustees and Executive Director Ken Tabachnick, the Trust promotes Cunningham's artistic legacy as a living, breathing thing, passed down to those who embody, view, or perceive it. The Trust looks toward a vital future, forging community by promoting public engagement with Cunningham's work, celebrating his unique contributions, and seeing his influence reflected in the works of new generations of choreographers and dancers.

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