

Notes

[← Prev Note](#)

Slow Dancing with the Stars: David Michalek at Lincoln Center



Manhattanites are used to moving fast. But when the [Lincoln Center Festival](#) begins this week, attendees who rush through the plaza might miss an extraordinary sight.

Projected on three thirty-by-forty-foot screens, some of the best dancers in the world pose motionless—almost. At first glance, they look like still portraits, explains Lincoln Center spokesperson Marian Skokan. “But if you’re looking at the dancers’ musculature, you can see barely perceptible shadows and muscles that are rippling and undulating, like ripples on water.” The subtle movements gracefully unfold into intricate choreographed sequences over time. Aptly titled *Slow Dancing*, the free outdoor installation runs nightly, from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. July 12, and from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. July 13 to 29.

Multimedia artist [David Michalek](#) created the piece with a high-speed HD camera (often used by the military for weapons analysis) by shooting at a whopping 1,000 frames per second. He captured five seconds of movement apiece from forty-two virtuosos from around the world, including modern dancer Bill T. Jones, krumper Lil C, capoeirista João Grande, and ballerina Wendy Whelan, who is also Michalek’s wife. In this world premiere, Michalek will display three clips at once on the New York State Theater’s facade, playing them in ultra-slow motion, so five seconds last ten minutes. That’s quite an adagio.

“Dance photography is inherently dissatisfying, because dancers work in time and space,” Michalek notes. “I thought it’d be nice to have photos that do move in some way—but just a little.” Others have experimented with barely moving video portraits, most notably the avant-garde stage director Robert Wilson, whose elaborate HD [Voom Portraits](#) feature performers ranging from Brad Pitt to Mikhail Baryshnikov, as well as royalty, regular folks, and even animals in surreal slowed-down scenarios. But the two artists’ methods were completely different: Wilson directed his subjects to move slowly, whereas Michalek used technology to reveal the hidden nuances of the human body’s movements in real time.

[*Slow Dancing* rendering by David Michalek and Matthew Wakem]

[Lisa Delgado](#)

[Activism](#) [Advertising](#) [Album](#) [Art](#) [Animation](#) [Blogs](#)
[Cinematography](#) [Dance](#) [Documentary](#) [Exhibitions](#)
[Fashion](#) [Feature Films](#) [Film Festivals](#) [Graffiti](#)
[Improvisation](#) [Indie Rock](#) [Installation Art](#) [Interactive](#)
[Design](#) [Machinima](#) [Mashup](#) [Multimedia](#) [Music Video](#)
[Noise](#) [Psychedelic](#) [Punk](#) [Satire](#) [Street Art](#)
[Sustainability](#) [Tangible Media](#) [The Internet](#) [TV](#) [Video](#)
[Art Visual Art](#)

JUST POSTED

[Slow Dancing with the Stars: David Michalek at Lincoln Center](#)

[New Hope for Hong Kong Cinema](#)

[Bloody Hell](#)

[New Morning](#)

[Sevens Wild: The Boredoms Stage a Drum Circle in Brooklyn](#)

ARCHIVES

[July 2007 / Notes](#)

[June 2007 / Notes](#)

[May 2007 / Notes](#)

Canon

**TRIBECA
CINEMAS**
NEW YORK CITY

© 2007 Tomorrow Unlimited, LLC

[About](#) [Contact](#) [Privacy](#) [Credits](#) [Contributors](#) [RSS](#)
[Newsletter](#)