

Beyond Moving

A film by VIKRAM DASGUPTA



PRESS KIT



BEYOND MOVING | Synopsis

LOGLINE

Beyond Moving is a Billy Elliot story with a South African twist.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When a young Siphe November leaves his small township in South Africa to follow his dreams at Canada's National Ballet School, he begins a remarkable journey that reveals deeply personal pulses of family, prejudice, expectation, loss, and resilience that beat beneath the surface of a beautiful and demanding art form. As he soars on stages around the world, he must navigate evolving relationships with the important people in his life: his mother, with whom he feels a profound duty to help live a better life; with his first ballet teacher, who is thrilled for Siphe but wishes he would give back to his community and with his Canadian family, who strives to help him feel at home in two countries.

LONG SYNOPSIS

When a young Siphe November leaves his small township in South Africa to follow his dreams at Canada's National Ballet School, he begins a remarkable journey that reveals deeply personal pulses of family, prejudice, expectation, loss, and resilience that beat beneath the surface of a beautiful and demanding art form.

Growing up in Zolani – a segregated township outside Cape Town, South Africa – Siphe is surrounded by his family's love for dance, but his extraordinary potential becomes clear when he and his brothers start dancing with their first teacher, Fiona Sutton. From a privileged community across the mountains, Fiona displays both passion and frustration as she pushes the boys to commit to their talent. When Fiona invites a family of Canadian travellers to watch the children perform, Siphe's talent moves them to sponsor his education at a good school so he can dedicate more time to dancing.

Siphe's talent takes him farther from home when he is accepted into Canada's National Ballet School's professional ballet training program, one of the world's most elite dance programs located in Toronto, more than 8,000 miles from Cape Town. Over the next seven years, he pushes the limits of his talent, tackles an intensive training regimen, and soars on stages around the world while growing up away from his family, all with a unique body that breaks the traditional ballet aesthetic. At the same time, he must navigate evolving relationships with the important people in his life: his mother, with whom he feels a profound duty to help live a better life; with Fiona, who is thrilled for Siphe but wishes he would become a role model and give back to his community; with his Canadian family, who strives to help him feel at home in two countries; and with his brother Mthuthu, a professional choreographer and dancer in Europe.

As Siphe graduates and begins his career as a professional ballet dancer, his reflections continue – on his role as a black ballet dancer on the world stage, how he and his brother hope to give back to his mother and the township and deal with the loss of the one who helped him discover his true potential.



BEYOND MOVING | Festivals



BEYOND MOVING | Press coverage

“Often films about dance focus on the rigorous routine and physical demands of dancing but Dasgupta has accomplished something hard to capture on screen; he’s made a film capturing the joy and privilege of dancing”.

— *New Zealand Herald*

“Siphe November never expected to have a life as a ballet dancer — now his grace will amaze you”.

— *CBC Arts*

“It’s a Billy Elliot story with a South African twist”.

— *Toronto Star*

BEYOND MOVING | Reviews

[The Globe And Mail - Beyond Moving Chronicles a real-life Billy Elliot story](#)

[POV Magazine - “Beyond Moving”:](#) Siphe November Takes Centre Stage

[BlogTO - Doc Soup: Beyond Moving](#)

[New Zealand Weekend Herald - Top Docs: Beyond Moving](#)

[DANZ New Zealand - Film Review: Beyond Moving](#)





BEYOND MOVING | Reactions

“A beautiful, uplifting and inspiring joie de vivre in the world of dance that goes to the heart of sacrifice, love and hope.”

— Alex Lee, Artistic Director DocEdge NZ

“The film was amazing and moving. It was such an inspiring film and a great lesson to all throughout the film. That lesson was “no matter what culture you’re from, never be afraid to dream big, and show the world what you’re made of.”

— Madeleine Tuoky, 10 Years old

“*Beyond Moving* is just another world – down to the heart”.

— Helle

“The film is amazing and moving. It was such an inspiring film and a great lesson. That lesson was no matter what or where you’re from, never be afraid to dream big and show the world what you’re made of”.

— Madeleine Tuoky

“It was a very inspiring movie. The love between the boy and the mother and the brother was very touching. The Canadian Ballet School was a very interesting aspect of the movie as we got to see how they operate and the very hard work that goes into the career of a dancer”.

— Melanie Abdelnour

BEYOND MOVING | Cast

SIPHESIHLE NOVEMBER | Dancer

Siphesihle November was born in Zolani, South Africa and trained at Canada's National Ballet School. Mr. November joined The National Ballet of Canada as a member of the Corps de Ballet in 2017 and was promoted to First Soloist in 2020.

Most recently, Mr. November performed a featured role in Crystal Pite's Dora Mavor Moore Award-winning *Angels' Atlas* and made his debut as Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*. He has danced such roles as Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Lewis Carroll/White Rabbit in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Puck in *The Dream* and in such ballets as *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Nijinsky*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Four Seasons*, *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, *Chroma*, *Angels' Atlas*, *Emergence*, *Chaconne*, *Etudes*, *Being and Nothingness*, *Paz de la Jolla*, *Night*, *Orpheus Alive* and *The Dreamers Ever Leave You*. In 2019, Mr. November won The International Competition for The Erik Bruhn Prize.

Mr. November was featured in a documentary, *Beyond Moving*, which follows his journey from Zolani, South Africa to Canada's National Ballet School and The National Ballet of Canada.





BEYOND MOVING | Filmmaking team

VIKRAM DASGUPTA | Director/Editor/Producer

Born in New Delhi, India into a family of artists, musicians, dancers and scientists, Vikram's biggest influence was his grandmother and her story-telling. While graduating with Fine Arts from Kolkata University, he made a short docudrama *InSANITY* that brought him to the Film program at Sheridan, Canada.

Vik's commercial for the Pan Am / Parapan Am TO2015 titled *Are you ready* was nominated for the Cannes Lions 2015 in the Film category. His short film, the multi award winning *Calcutta Taxi* (Clermont Ferrand, Aspen Shortfest, Rhode Island Int FF) funded by Bravofact! and National Film Board of Canada, was in the races for the Academy Awards in 2014 after winning the Oscar Qualifier at the Aspen ShortFest and was screened at over 50+ festivals worldwide. In 2017 he worked as the Art Director on James Cameron's documentary *Search for Atlantis* produced by National Geographic. He has worked as a creative director and director in Film and TV, including working with Indian musical genius AR Rahman of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame on multiple occasions.

Vikram has successfully finished his first feature documentary titled *Beyond Moving* about a South African ballet dancer (Siphe November) currently dancing as a soloist for the National Ballet of Canada. The documentary was screened at HotDocs in February 2020. *Beyond Moving* is set for a theatrical release for later this year. He is also currently working on his second feature documentary, *Dog-Ma* a personal journey about his relationship with his own mother feeding 500+ stray dogs on the streets of Delhi is set to release in the summer of 2020.

FRANCESCA CIMOLAI | Producer

Francesca Cimolai is an Italian Producer born in Milan. It was during her Business administration and major in Marketing Management that her interest soon gravitated into applying her economic and management skills into the filmmaking process. She then gained experience in Times Television Network (Mumbai), Discovery Networks (Milan) and Curry Western Productions (Mumbai) as Business Development strategist and Junior Producer. Currently Francesca collaborates with Toronto based company Pixel Palette Inc. She has produced several award winning commercial amongst which the Pan Am / Parapan Am TO2015 titled *Are you ready* that was nominated for the Cannes Lions 2015 in the Film category. She is currently producing a feature documentary *DogMa* about a mother that has gone bankrupt feeding 500 stray dogs in Delhi.

DALAL BRUCHMANN | Music Composer

DALAL is an Austrian born and raised Recording Artist, Composer and Songwriter.

Dalal's ancestor was the lyricist for renowned composer Franz Schubert. Her classical EP "*THE QUIET HEART*" celebrated its release on Sep. 29th 2017 (The Orchard). Warner Classics has released 6 Singles by renowned composer Ludovico Einaudi, played on piano by Dalal Bruchmann with an Album holding 50 signature pieces for solo piano in October 2018. A piano Single with Ameritz Music Group/ Mellotron Records was released January 25th and another Album titled "*The EINAUDI Sound*" with Warner Music Group/ Warner Classics followed FEB 22nd, 2019. Dalal has been nominated for a Hollywood Music in Media Award for the scoring work on the documentary *HAIR* (HULU) and just finished writing the score together with Jeff Franzel for the UK feature film *HURT BY PARADISE*. She is currently finishing up her classical Album "*Familiars*".





JEFFREY MAHER | Cinematographer

Montreal born Jeff Maher began his interest in art when his parents gave him a tape recorder for his 7th birthday. He went on to study film and television production at York University and Sheridan College where he won the CSC award in Student Cinematographer. Since graduating Maher has shot dozens of short films and award winning TV series. Maher's most recent projects include the Oscar qualifying short film *Calcutta Taxi* as well as the Cannes Lion nominated Parapan Am Games commercial *Are You Ready* for which he won the CSC Fritz Spiess Award for Commercial Cinematography.

CHRISTOPHER LEW | Cinematographer

Christopher Lew is a Canadian born cinematographer drawn to character driven narratives that call for an honest and striking visual approach. His ultimate goal is to move audiences emotionally through powerful photography. Always looking for the truth in an image, Christopher brings a sensitivity to his work that he uses to tell meaningful stories. Christopher's most recent feature film *'Tito'* premiered at SXSW 2019.

BEYOND MOVING | Production

ABOUT PIXEL PALETTE

Pixel Palette inc

Pixel Palette Inc is a production company based out of Toronto and founded by award winning filmmaker Vikram Dasgupta in 2004. Pixel Palette's goal is to make independent films for a global platform while inspiring audiences and raising awareness around globally relevant issues. Pixel Palette is developing its first feature film set on the Himalayas and aimed at being a Canadian-Indian-UK co-production. The company is currently producing three documentaries: *DogMa*, set in India about the director's conversation with his own mother that everyday feeds 500 stray dogs in the streets of Delhi, *Beyond Moving* in collaboration with Canada's National Ballet School about an extremely talented dancer from a rough township in South Africa that breaks all the stereotypes of typical ballet dancer. And *'The Orchestra'* about the Toronto Symphony Orchestra first ever tour and performance in Israel.





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BEYOND MOVING | Additional information

DIRECTOR	Vikram Dasgupta
PRODUCERS	Vikram Dasgupta & Francesca Cimolai
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	John Dalrymple
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Jeffrey Maher & Christopher Lew
EDITOR	Vikram Dasgupta
ADDITIONAL EDITOR	Geoffrey Klein
COMPOSER	Dalal Bruchmann
LENGHT	83 minutes
GENRE	Documentary
ORIGINAL VERSION	English
SOUND	5.1 Surround
PRODUCTION COUNTRY	Canada
YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2020

BEYOND MOVING | Contact

PUBLICITY



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