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## **DANCING WITH WILD DOLPHINS**

### **First Time on Film: Humans and Wild Dolphins Communicate Through Dance**

*'Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins'* (3 min 33 sec), depicting the tender dance between NY choreographer/filmmaker Chisa Hidaka and wild dolphins, will be shown on the Big Screen Project<sup>1</sup> on January 27 at 6 pm as part of the 39th annual Dance on Camera Festival.

Awarded Best Experimental Film at its recent premiere at the 2010 Big Apple Film Festival, *'Together'* depicts the beauty and importance of the unique relationship between humans and wild dolphins who dance 'together'. Viewers experience the delight and wonder of a human and wild dolphin discovering a shared language through dance. Eye to eye, they communicate their mutual affection, 'listening' to each other through their bodies and synchronous movements. "When we approach dolphins with dance," observes producer Ben Harley, "they recognize it as intelligence."

*'Together'* is the debut film of the Dolphin Dance Project, initiated by Chisa Hidaka to explore how far these interspecies interactions can be developed, both creatively and as a complement to research on communication. Trained in dance and medicine, Dr. Hidaka integrates vanguard approaches to dance and improvisation with the most current scientific information about dolphin behavior to engage the dolphins in creative play. Working only with wild dolphins in the open ocean, approaching them as coequals and always on their terms, the project aims to highlight their creativity and beauty, inspiring audiences to respect them and protect their ocean habitats. To reach a global audience, a trailer for *'Together'* in Japanese, Spanish, French, and English has been published on the movie's webpage (<http://dolphin-dance.org/together>)

Next, the Dolphin Dance Project is developing a more elaborate dance film featuring multiple human dancers and an accompanying documentary that will integrate the latest dolphin research with the full story of these remarkable interactions to help a wide audience appreciate what they see.

For a complete Media Kit, with photos and more information about *'Together'* and the Dolphin Dance Project, please visit our webpage - <http://www.dolphin-dance.org/dolphin-dance/Press.html>

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<sup>1</sup> The Big Screen Project is a huge, brand-new, high-tech screen visible from the street between 29th and 30th streets near 6th Avenue, nearby FoodParc and plaza of the Eventi Hotel. The best view of *'Together'* will be from Bar Basque, the venue for Dance on Camera's celebration.