

PDF Transcript for Video Intro talk by Melanie Lane and curator Liz Lea for Danse de la Lune by Melanie Lane and Chamaeleon Collective

Liz Lea:

So, hello, Melanie Lane.

Melanie Lane:

Hello, Liz Lea. How are you going?

Liz Lea:

I'm good, lovely. So you're at the airport flying off to the UK?

Melanie Lane:

I am indeed. Yes. Just got on a Murray's coach from Canberra.

Liz Lea:

Right, okay. Yeah, because that always helps before a really long international flight.

Melanie Lane:

Always helps to just centre yourself. Yes.

Liz Lea:

So look, we just wanted to take the opportunity to talk to you briefly about the process of creating Danse De La Lune.

Melanie Lane:

Yes.

Liz Lea:

Which is going to be the opening film for I Dance II with the one-day conference, and we're so thrilled.

It's been a delight to work with you and to bring you in to work with the Chameleon Collective. So if you could just talk to that process a little, it would be wonderful.

Melanie Lane:

Sure. Oh, gosh, yeah.

It's been such a pleasure and it was such a beautiful invitation to come and work with the group. I'd seen and met them before in some of your rehearsals, Liz, and I just thought what a beautiful energy and a beautiful sort of community and collective that you've created. So yeah, it was a real joy getting to meet them all. They all have such different ways of thinking and moving, and different styles and different sort of energies and personalities, and that's just so, yeah, really inspiring to be around.

And then the film was basically created over a week and I wanted to come to the group with some themes that we can all relate to, we all experience in some ways. And I thought just a kind of very simple, but also very sort of enigmatic and quite magical theme was the idea of the moon, because it's something that we've all experienced. We can all see it up there, but there's so much mystery behind it and so much imagination that you can throw onto it and dream into.

So that was sort of the catalyst for the ideas of the work. And we got together as a group and started to chat about it and dream about it and sort of imagine all the different kinds of energies and ideas and images that we could think of and move around. Yeah, and as a result came these beautiful sort of movements and imaginations from the group that we brought together and created into a film that's really, really exciting and really beautiful to experience with them.

Liz Lea:

I think what was lovely is watching, was them watching you work and then the hairpieces.

Melanie Lane:

Yeah.

Liz Lea:

And I think I ended up going home with a whole lot of your hair pins. So I owe you hair pins.

Melanie Lane:

Yeah. I mean, yes, I love working with costume and design ...

Liz Lea:

I know.

Melanie Lane:

And all that kind of stuff. So, yeah, I just had this sort of obsession giving them incredibly long braids and hair pieces that they could swing around and fly around like another sort of body part. And I think they were into it, so ...

Liz Lea:

I was so into it.

Melanie Lane:

Yeah. So I really enjoyed seeing them get quite titillated by those costume ideas.

Liz Lea:

Yeah, no, it was exciting. And for some of them as well, it can be difficult to have their nails painted or have things stuck on their face or [inaudible 00:03:26] hair extensions.

Melanie Lane:

[inaudible 00:03:29]. Yep.

Liz Lea:

And then one of the girls didn't want hair extensions and then when she saw everyone else had hair extensions ...

Melanie Lane:

Yeah.

Liz Lea:

She wanted hair extensions, but it was too late by then. And it was really lovely the way you worked with them, and if I may say, you brought something different and new out of them in a really short space of time, whilst also staying true to who they are as people and as movers and the process, the intimacy of the process brought them together as dancers, really synced them in. So look, we just wanted to keep it brief. So grateful to you kind of zooming in from [inaudible 00:04:06] ...

Melanie Lane:

Likewise.

Liz Lea:

From Sydney Airport and have a wonderful time in Europe.

Melanie Lane:

Thank you.

Liz Lea:

My phone is ticking away. And, yeah, we look forward to reconnecting and we'll be sending you the link, so share it nice and wide.

Melanie Lane:

Absolutely will, yeah. Have a wonderful opening and I can't wait to see them see the film in front of their eyes.

Liz Lea:

I know.

Melanie Lane:

I think that'll be really beautiful.

Liz Lea:

Yeah.

Melanie Lane:

So yeah, big love to everybody.

Liz Lea:

Okay.

Melanie Lane:

And enjoy.

Liz Lea:

Thank you so much.

Melanie Lane:

Thanks.