

Endangered Ideas Presents

ASCENDANCE

"Inspires communities to use the power of art
to address social justice issues"

Consuelo Alba

AscenDance LOGLINE:

As the pandemic shuts down Oakland's streets in the midst of the BLM Protests and fight for racial justice, artists attempt their largest mural yet determined to use their artistic expression to amplify the cause.

SYNOPSIS:

Amidst the pandemic shutting down Oakland's streets and the Black Lives Matter protests, artists attempt their most challenging mural yet. Born out of the struggle to preserve local culture, "AscenDance" is a grandiose 90 feet tall mural. Though initially violent, the protests blossom into artistic expression, transforming broken windows into canvases. "AscenDance" arises in this landscape of public resistance and art.

AscenDance TRAILER:

- Full length trailer on [Vimeo](#)

VISUAL MATERIALS:

- AscenDance [Poster](#)
- AscenDance [Logo](#)
- AscenDance Stills: [Still 1](#), [Still 2](#), [Still 3](#), [Still 4](#)
- [Headshot of Director Spencer Wilkinson](#)

SPECIFICATIONS:

Running Time & Specs: **17 minutes, 1920p, 16:9 Aspect Ratio**

Director: **Spencer Wilkinson**

Producer: **Kodhai Thirumalai**

Finishing Editor: **Jon Ayons Alonso**

Cinematography by: **Demondre Ward, JJ Harris & Spencer Wilkinson**

Composer: **Micah Berek**

Sound Designer: **James Berek**

Color By: **Alkemic Color**

Contributing Editors: **Sareeta Young & Braelan Murray**

Associate Producer: **Desi Mundo**

Photographers: **Rudi Tcruz, Demondre Ward**

Poster Designer: **Vero Orozco**

BACKGROUND:

When the culturally significant ALICE STREET mural was to be covered up by the construction of luxury condos in downtown Oakland, the community danced through the streets determined to preserve their landmark. Though the condos continued to be built, Oakland community members won vital Community Benefit Agreements to be used in the creation of a 'AscenDance,' a new mural to represent Oakland's rich history and cultural communities. At a grandiose height of 90 feet, 'AscenDance' is to be painted on the 'Greenlining Institute,' a building that houses an organization that advocates against systemic racism.

During the creation of 'AscenDance' horrific news about the brutalities against Black communities come to the spotlight and the nation is swept by the Black Lives Matter Movement. Oakland, a longtime hotspot for social justice and birthplace of the Black Panthers, takes to the streets. Though initially violent, the protests blossom into artistic expression, transforming broken windows into canvases. 'AscenDance' arises in this landscape of public resistance and art. As the city and country continue in turmoil, the mural stands as a monument against the gentrification that displaces its communities of color and as a reflection of the strength of their collective voices.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS:

- [Greenlining Institute](#)
- [Community Rejuvenation Project](#)
- [Twin Walls Mural Company](#)



IMPORTANT QUOTES:

"We are honored to present 'AscenDance,' a film that inspires communities to use the power of art to address social justice issues and to celebrate our cultural diversity." - Consuelo Alba, Watsonville Film Festival.

"Ascendance" picks up where "Alice Street" left off -- it's a much needed follow up as we artists continue to reclaim space for and with the community in Oakland." - Fay Darmawi, San Francisco Urban Film Fest

FILMOGRAPHY:

[Ascendance \(2024\)](#)

[Alice Street \(2020\)](#)

[Reclaiming the Legacy of Oakland's Boogaloo Dance \(2021\)](#)

[One Voice: The Story of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir \(2018\)](#) [Trailer](#)

IMPACT:

Our goal is for our film *AscenDance* to be leveraged to address specific issues faced by individual communities. Our [Impact Guide](#) can be found here. Inside is an extended synopsis of the film, a director's statement, bios for members of the cast and additional information about our impact goals.

PUBLICITY CONTACTS:

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