



DANCING IN THE DARK

Director: Rowena Baines Producer: Paula Jones

Dancing in the Dark sheds light on the transformative power of dance.

**PREMIERING AT NZIFF 17 JULY 2015
AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM 18 JULY 2015**

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Dancer Peter Vosper sheds light on what happens on an average weeknight when a room full of strangers is enclosed in a dark room. Individuals unite at No Lights No Lycra to lose their inhibitions and cast off their social masks in the absence of criticism. The shy dancers are immediately electrified as they exit out of the doors of Grey Lynn Library Hall. A journey into the transformative power of dance.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Ever feel like nothing exciting happens on an average Monday night? Well that is not the case for dancer Peter Vosper. Dressed head to toe in black he blends into the night and takes us on a journey where we discover the transformative power of dance.

With a flick of a switch Peter lights up the streets and makes his way to the Grey Lynn Library Hall. A door opens to a new experience called No Lights No Lycra where strangers are gathered together in the dark and participate in an hour of intense free dancing in an alcohol, cell-phone and conversation-free environment. Peter sheds light on what happens when the lights go off, the music kicks in and a hundred closet exhibitionists let loose.

Once the doors break open a transformation is evident in the faces and an average weeknight is turned into something more than average.

Director: Rowena Baines

Rowena is an independent filmmaker who obtained a Masters in Science Communication Documentary Filmmaking at Otago University. She has since had three short documentaries in international film festivals (*The Contract; Malandro and River Rehab*) and is currently heavily involved in the Vanuatu Music Revival Project. She is motivated by the opportunity film offers as a catalyst for social change.

Producer: Paula Jones

Paula is the producer of the feature documentary *Hip Hop-eration*, triple award winner at the 2014 New Zealand Film Awards including Best Documentary, and winner of the coveted Audience Award at the prestigious Santa Barbara Film Festival. She has mentored hundreds of young filmmakers in her career as Head of Production and Training at South Seas Film and Television School and has enjoyed wide experience as a researcher, storyliner and production coordinator for Television New Zealand. She is currently an independent producer with several exciting features at various stages of production and development and proud to be associated with Loading Docs New Zealand 2015 and talented new Kiwi Director, Rowena Baines.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Loading Docs has been the perfect platform for me to explore the world of short film even further. A three-minute film was a new challenge for me! *Dancing in the Dark* was yet another opportunity for me to show the positive effect of dance. I wanted to capture the magical transformation I witnessed at 'No Lights No Lycra' after a Monday night blow-out. Peter Vosper stood out amongst the regular 'No Lights No Lycra' crowd and revealed a very interesting character behind his mask.

PRESS RELEASE

On Monday nights at the Grey Lynn Library Hall hordes of people gather to bust a move under the cloak of darkness. It's a weekly event called No Lights, No Lycra that originated in Melbourne and now happens all over the world. The aim is to give people the freedom to let loose and be themselves without worrying about what others may think of them or their dance moves – there are no lights and there is no lycra... as far as anyone knows.

One person you will find at No Lights, No Lycra almost every week is Peter Vosper, founder of Vospertron: Neon Dance and Multimedia Technology. Vosper can be seen regularly dancing around K Rd in a light up suit which is essentially the concept behind his company. Filmmaker Rowena Baines have made Vosper, a veteran of No Lights, No Lycra, the subject of her 3-minute documentary *Dancing in the Dark* that is being launched as part of Loading Docs 2015.

The documentary follows Vosper from his studio where he makes his light suits to a Monday night at Grey Lynn hall where he literally sheds some light on No Lights, No Lycra. The director of the film, Baines, says that she initially set out to follow a 'newbie' on their first experience of the event but decided to follow Vosper instead as he "could really speak about the lasting impact it has on his life". One of the things that she hopes that people will take away from the film is that dancing can play a role in connecting people within the community in a positive way. She also hopes that through Vosper's story people will be inspired to go against the grain and follow their passions in the same way that he has.

The Loading Docs initiative that *Dancing in the Dark* is a part of supports 10 filmmaking teams to experiment with the confines of a 3-minute timeframe to make innovative and creative documentaries that tell New Zealand stories, this year based around the theme of connection. *Dancing in the Dark* has been selected to premiere at the NZ International Film Festival on the 17th July, 2015, screening before the feature *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*, after which it will be available to view online at www.loadingdocs.net and on **TVNZ OnDemand**.

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