

Salisbury International Arts Festival

'Who Calls The Shots?'

David Hinton's talk at Salisbury Arts Centre, on Thursday 2nd June, was about dance films, and their production. I went along, never having watched a dance film; let alone knowing about what goes on behind the scenes. Hinton started off explaining how dance film had developed; he used clips from dance films and of dancers. He showed us a dance routine by Fred Astaire and used the famous dance sequence "Singin' in the Rain," by Gene Kelly.

We focused on the two main ways of making dance film. He explained how producers either created a film by editing lots of takes, and creating the movement from the edits; or by filming in one long take with no edits.

His talk wasn't scripted, and even though there were a few technical hitches he captured the audience's attention, and got them thinking. There was a good size audience with questions were being asked, it was more like an open discussion.

He ended with his own dance film; he explored the ideas of flight and the movement of birds – almost creating their own dance. I enjoyed it, and it was a nice introduction to a new world of media. Hinton managed to analyse the ways that producers worked with the dancers to create dance films very well.

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