

2017

## Guest Editor's Introduction

Steven Caras

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### Recommended Citation

Caras, Steven (2017) "Guest Editor's Introduction," *be Still*: Vol. 2 , Article 4.  
Available at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/bestill/vol2/iss1/4>

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**STEVEN CARAS** IS A DANCER, PHOTOGRAPHER, KEYNOTE SPEAKER,

PUBLISHED AUTHOR, AND THE SUBJECT OF AN EMMY AWARD-WINNING PUBLIC TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED *STEVEN CARAS: SEE THEM DANCE*. FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, HE PERFORMED WITH THE NEW YORK CITY BALLET UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS LEGENDARY FOUNDER, GEORGE BALANCHINE™. NOTING CARAS' PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, BALANCHINE ENCOURAGED HIM TO TAKE THIS ADDED TALENT SERIOUSLY WHICH LED TO A SECOND CAREER FOR HIS YOUNG PROTÉGÉ.

TODAY, CARAS' 40-YEAR BODY OF WORK IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES IN THE HISTORY OF DANCE, FEATURING MANY OF THE DANCE WORLD'S ICONIC ARTISTS AND INSTITUTIONS. HIS IMAGES CONTINUE TO APPEAR INTERNATIONALLY IN PROMINENT BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, EXHIBITIONS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS. HE SPEAKS BOTH PERSONALLY AND HISTORICALLY ON DANCE IN AMERICA AND THE EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BROUGHT IT TO LIFE, WHILE ALSO COVERING IMPORTANT INTERRELATED YET OFTEN OVERLOOKED SUBJECTS, RANGING FROM THE EXTREME PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES A DANCER ENDURES, TO BULLYING AND OVERALL DISCRIMINATION.



**Photo: Jacek Gancarz**

## **Through the Lens of Dancer/Photographer Steven Caras**

- ▶ *I've always been drawn to images that live – remain timeless – and I seek to realize the very same essence in my work. Exploring beyond physical form to discover the actual person is my ultimate objective. On those divinely aligned occasions when the shielded fully surrender, layers of defense diminish, revealing a trusting, triumphant human being – each exceptional and unique – enduring well-beyond the shutter's fleeting second.*
- ▶ *In this issue of be Still, we address the male form. The photographs I've selected involve a varied sort of man, yet hopefully all displaying a sense of continuous momentum while sharing a commonality of innermost truth.*

**Steven Caras**