



american dance festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

April 2, 2009

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OHAD NAHARIN TO RECEIVE THE
2009 SAMUEL H. SCRIPPS/AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL
\$50,000 AWARD

Durham, N.C. – The American Dance Festival (ADF) will award distinguished dancer and choreographer Ohad Naharin with the 2009 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement. Established in 1981 by Samuel H. Scripps, the annual award honors choreographers who have dedicated their lives and talent to the creation of modern dance. The \$50,000 award will be presented to Mr. Naharin in a special ceremony on Thursday, June 25th at 8:00pm at the Durham Performing Arts Center, prior to the performance of Mr. Naharin’s Decadance (2007) by Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet.

Ohad Naharin has garnered a remarkable reputation the world over for his work as both a performer and choreographer. Trained as a dancer at the Tel Aviv-based Batsheva Dance Company in Israel, Mr. Naharin was invited by Martha Graham to New York City early in his career to join her company and to attend the School of American Ballet. He continued his studies at the Juilliard School of Music, as well as with Maggie Black and David Howard. In 1980, Mr. Naharin made his debut as a choreographer at the Kazuko Hirabayashi Studio in New York City where he studied and worked with David Gordon, Gina Buntz, and Billy Seigenfeld and continued his relationships with Maggie Black and David Howard. In 1990, Mr. Naharin was appointed Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, an intensely sought-after company that performs all over the world. Mr. Naharin refers to the unique movement style he has created as “Gaga” – a discovery of new and unfamiliar patterns that allows a dancer to become more efficient in movement and to go beyond the familiar. Utilizing the gaga style, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet will perform Ohad Naharin’s Decadance (2007) as part of ADF’s 2009 season.

- MORE -

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Mr. Naharin often collaborates with musicians in his works, utilizing widely divergent musical sources. Also known for his design aesthetic, Mr. Naharin holds long-standing artistic associations with prominent Israeli designers, including lighting designer Bambi and costume designer Rakefet Levy. His works have been performed by the Frankfurt Ballet, Bayerisches Staatsballet, Cullberg Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Lyon Opéra Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, and Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Hubbard Street Dance, and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. Mr. Naharin was awarded the “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” (Order of Arts and Literature) in 1998 by the French Government in recognition for his significant contribution to the arts.

Past recipients of the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award include Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Hanya Holm, Alwin Nikolais, Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Erick Hawkins, Twyla Tharp, Anna Sokolow, Donald McKayle, Talley Beatty, Trisha Brown, Meredith Monk, Anna Halprin, Fayard and Harold Nicholas, Pina Bausch, Pilobolus Dance Theatre, Garth Fagan, Maguy Marin, Eiko and Koma, Bill T. Jones, Murray Louis, Mark Morris, Laura Dean, and posthumously in honor of Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, José Limón, Pearl Primus, and Helen Tamiris

*Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, the ADF remains an international magnet for choreographers, dancers, teachers, students, critics, musicians and scholars to learn and create in a supportive environment. ADF's wide range of programs include performances, artist services, humanities projects, publications, community outreach, educational programs and classes, archives, media projects, and national and international projects. ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 75 years. [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org)*

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