



american dance festival

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**THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
2009 COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS**

**Durham, N.C.** – The American Dance Festival (ADF) celebrates its 32<sup>nd</sup> year in Durham with new community-based programs. Remaining true to the ADF’s mission of enhancing public understanding and appreciation of modern dance and its cultural and historical significance, these programs are designed to reach a broad cross section of the Durham community and beyond. New projects include outreach at local schools and community centers, an online video blog, site-specific works, and Pre-Performance Discussions. “The ADF’s commitment to Durham has long been a vital part of the organization. We are delighted to share our resources with the *entire* community and look forward to engaging as many community members as possible in the world of modern dance,” states ADF Co-Director Jodee Nimerichter. Other community programs from years past will again make an appearance including ADF Project Dance, ADF Community Tours, Post Performance Discussions, and ADF Community Day.

Under the auspices of the ADF, former Pilobolus dancer Gaspard Louis has been working with area youth since January. Most recently, Louis choreographed a piece for the Walltown Children’s Theatre. Over the next nine weeks, he will also teach and create with middle school children at the Hayti Heritage Center and Rogers-Herr Middle School. Throughout the summer, Louis will work with the Durham Parks and Recreation department. Projects at the Hayti Heritage Center, Rogers-Herr Middle School and with the Durham Parks and Recreation department will focus on creative movement and choreography. Finally, Louis will conduct a series of community master classes that are free and open to the public.

The ADF will for the first time partner with El Centro Hispano in downtown Durham by offering dance classes taught by ADF faculty as part of the center’s two week-long summer camps for children. Meeting four times per week, children aged 5-10 will participate in

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- Gerald Myers (1923 – 2009),  
*Philosopher-in-Residence*

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classes that focus on creative movement, including elements of composition and improvisation. These hands-on learning experiences are designed to help build self-esteem and confidence, improve cooperation, sharing, leadership skills, and create an appreciation of modern dance.

New York dance and theatre artist Mark Dendy will emphasize the diversity of events that take place during the Festival via an online video blog. *May we have this CyberDance?* will highlight ADF classes, rehearsals, performances, and other events, as well as feature interviews with artists, students, and community members on various dance related topics. New videos will be posted every day on the ADF's website: [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org). This new multimedia venture will share the incredible range of ADF activities and programs that occur each year.

Mark Dendy will also choreograph two site-specific works to be presented during the 2009 Festival. *Could you please restate your answer in the form of a question?* sends the audience on a treasure hunt for dances small and large at the Durham Performing Arts Center immediately prior to the 8pm performances by Shen Wei Dance Arts June 18 – 20. Boasting 50+ performers, this piece explores the audience's proximity to the dancers without the typical proscenium. A second piece, *Golden Belt*, will utilize a stunning top floor space in the newly renovated historic Golden Belt with repeating performances on July 17 & 18 at 7pm and 2pm, respectively. *Golden Belt* will be free and open to the public.

New to the ADF this season, Critic-in-Residence Suzanne Carbonneau will lead a Pre-Performance Discussion before **every** performance (excluding Shen Wei Dance Arts), providing an insightful look at the works being presented. Carbonneau leads the ADF's NEA Arts Journalism Institute for Dance and is on faculty at George Mason University.

In addition to the programs listed above, the ADF will continue to offer other community-based programs from years past, including **ADF Community Tours**, a sneak peek behind the scenes for Festival visitors; and **Post Performance Discussions** (PPDs), talk-backs which take place with the artists after selected evening performances. Back by popular demand, **ADF Community Day** will take place at the Nasher Museum of Art on Saturday, July 11. All of these events are free and open to the public. For more information on these programs, please visit the ADF website: [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).

*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 includes 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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