



## american dance festival

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2012 SAMUEL H. SCRIPPS/AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL AWARD PRESENTED TO DISTINGUISHED CHOREOGRAPHER WILLIAM FORSYTHE

### ONE OF WORLDS FOREMOST CHOREOGRAPHERS WILL RECEIVE \$50,000 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Durham, NC, February 14, 2012 --** The American Dance Festival (ADFa) will award renowned American born-choreographer, designer, and filmmaker, **William Forsythe** with the **2012 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement**, the most prestigious award for lifetime achievement in modern dance. The Award will be presented to Mr. Forsythe by former Forsythe Company dancer and collaborator, Jill Johnson, in a special ceremony on **Saturday, June 30th at 8:00pm**, prior to the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago performance at the **Durham Performing Arts Center**. The performance by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will include Mr. Forsythe's 1993 work, *Quintett*.

Established in 1981 by Samuel H. Scripps and the ADF, the annual award includes a \$50,000 prize, the largest monetary award given for lifetime achievement, and honors choreographers who have dedicated their lives and talent to the creation of modern dance.

"Mr. Forsythe has created a breadth of work that is both beautiful and challenging, but always completely original. We are thrilled to honor his extraordinary contributions to the dance world this summer at the ADF," said ADF Director, Jodee Nimerichter.

Celebrated as one of the world's leading choreographers, William Forsythe is recognized for redefining traditional ballet from its classical roots to a dynamic 21st century art form. His deep interest in the fundamental principles of organization has led him to produce a wide range of projects including Installations, Films, and Web based knowledge creation. In 2009, Mr. Forsythe's choreography was presented at the ADF by the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet during a season that celebrated *Where Ballet and Modern Meet*. His choreography has been featured by nearly every major ballet company in the world including The Kirov Ballet, The New York City Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, England's Royal Ballet, and The Paris Opera Ballet.

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Born in New York in 1949, Mr. Forsythe's early career began as a dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, and later with the Stuttgart Ballet where he was named the Resident Choreographer in 1976. Over the next seven years he created new ballet works for both the company as well as ballet companies in Munich, London, Berlin, Paris, and New York, among many others. In 1984 he became the Director of the Ballet Frankfurt, and for the next 20 years established a repertoire of contemporary ballet works that gained him international praise while establishing the company as one of the world's premiere dance companies. In 2004 he inaugurated his own independent company, The Forsythe Company, which has been exclusively performing his most recent dance works. He has received numerous awards for his work including four New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards, London's Laurence Olivier Award, and the title of Commandeur des Artes et Lettres by the French Government, among many others.

Outside of the classical dance world, Mr. Forsythe has collaborated with architects, media specialists, and educators including being commissioned to produce architectural and performance installations with Daniel Libeskind, ARTANGEL(London), Creative Time (New York), and the City of Paris. In 1994 he merged his talents into the web-based world by helping develop new approaches to dance documentation, research, and education through the computer application, *Improvisation Technologies: A Tool for the Analytical Eye*, which is used as a teaching tool by professional dance companies and conservatories, universities, postgraduate architecture programs, and schools worldwide. Additionally, 2009 marked the launch of *Synchronous Objects for One Flat Thing, reproduced*, a digital online score developed with The Ohio State University that reveals the organizational principles of the choreography and demonstrates their possible application within other disciplines. *Synchronous Objects* is the pilot project for Forsythe's Motion Bank, a research platform focused on the creation and research of online digital scores in collaboration with guest choreographers.

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, Ohad Naharin, Martha Clarke, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, and posthumously in honor of Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, José Limón, Pearl Primus, and Helen Tamiris.

Performances during the ADF's 79th season will be presented at the Durham Performing Arts Center and Duke University's Reynolds Industries Theater from June 14 - July 28, 2012. For detailed information about the ADF's programs, please visit [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).

*About ADF:*

*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. The ADF's wide range of programs includes performances, artist services, educational programs and classes, community outreach, national and international projects, archives, humanities projects, publications, and media projects. The ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 78 years. [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).*