



american dance festival

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL DEDICATES 2012 SEASON TO MARY REGAN

Durham, NC, April 11, 2012 – The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** is pleased to dedicate its 79th season to fervent arts advocate and former North Carolina Arts Council Executive Director, **Mary Regan**. The ceremony honoring Regan will be held **Thursday, June 13th at 7 pm** prior to the season opening performance of Doug Elkins and Friends' *Fräulein Maria* at the Durham Performing Arts Center.

Throughout her accomplished career as a leader in North Carolina's arts agency movement, Mary Regan has worked tirelessly to promote the arts within the state and has been an ardent voice for the ADF. She is a lover of modern dance, attending almost every ADF performance each summer, and continues to be an active supporter of the ADF's place in North Carolina's cultural landscape. As Executive Director of the North Carolina Arts Council (NCAC) from 1976 until her retirement in 2012, she led the creation of a full and comprehensive agency that supports North Carolina's diverse and dynamic arts community.

During her time with the NCAC, she helped establish numerous programs that positioned North Carolina nationally as a leader in the arts, including the Grassroots Arts Program, the nation's first per capita decentralization program, and the Visiting Artist Program, which placed artists in rural communities across the state through the NC Community College System. In 2001, under her direction, North Carolina was one of 13 states chosen to participate in START, a major national initiative to develop new approaches to arts participation. She also led the Arts Council to focus on public values and the integral role of the arts in making North Carolina a better state.

Regan has received numerous awards during her seasoned career, including the first Gary Young Award for outstanding leadership in the state arts council movement in America, the 1993 Arts North Carolina President's Award, and the Chancellor's Award from the NC School of the Arts in 1998. She was named the 2000 Distinguished Woman of North Carolina by the NC Council for Women for her contributions to the arts. She has served

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on several panels and Boards of Directors, including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Dance Panel State, and the NEA Regional Partnership Panel, which she chaired.

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.

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.

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