



american dance festival

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2014 SAMUEL H. SCRIPPS/AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL AWARD
PRESENTED TO ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ**

Durham, NC, February 19, 2014 — The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** will present the **2014 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award** for lifetime achievement to choreographer and director, **Angelin Preljocaj**. Mr. Preljocaj is one of France’s preeminent choreographers, known for work that is daring, intensely physical, and complex. 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 Scripps/ADF Award presentation will take place on **Friday, July 11th at 8:00pm**, prior to **Ballet Preljocaj’s** performance at the **Durham Performing Arts Center**.

“Mr. Preljocaj creates visually arresting, beautifully physical work that never fails to amaze. We are pleased to honor his significant contributions to the dance world this summer at ADF,” said ADF Director Jodee Nimerichter.

Angelin Preljocaj began his career in classical ballet before turning to contemporary dance, studying with Karin Waehner at Schola Cantorum. In 1980 he studied in New York with Zena Rommett and Merce Cunningham, after which he returned to France, joining the Quentin Rouillier Company in Caen. He continued his studies at the The Centre National de Danse Contemporaine in Angers, at the time directed by Viola Farber. In 1982 he began dancing for Dominique Bagouet’s company in Montpellier, and in 1984 Mr. Preljocaj ventured out on his own and presented *Marché noir* at the Concours de Bagnolet, which won a Ministry of Culture award. Following this success, Mr. Preljocaj formed his own company in December 1984 in Champigny-sur-Marne and and since that time has produced 47 choreographic works. Since October 2006, Ballet Preljocaj and its 26 permanent dancers have resided at the Pavillon Noir in Aix-en-Provence, a building entirely dedicated to dance, with Angelin Preljocaj as its artistic director.

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Mr. Preljocaj collaborates regularly with other artists including Enki Bilal (*Roméo et Juliette*, 1990), Goran Vejvoda (*Paysage après la bataille*, 1997), Air (*Near Life Experience*, 2003), Granular Synthesis (“N”, 2004), Fabrice Hyber (*Les 4 saisons...*, 2005), Karlheinz Stockhausen (*Eldorado - Sonntags Abschied*, 2007), Jean Paul Gaultier (*Snow White*, 2008), Constance Guisset (*Le funambule*, 2009), Claude Lévêque (*Siddharta*, 2010), Laurent Garnier and Subodh Gupta (*And then, one thousand years of peace*, 2010), and Azzedine Alaïa and Natacha Atlas (*The Nights*, 2013).

His productions have been restaged by numerous repertory companies, many of which also commission works, including the Saatsoper of Berlin, the New York City Ballet, and the Paris Opera Ballet.

He has made short films (*Le postier, Idées noires* in 1991) and several full-length films, notably *Un trait d’union* and *Annonciation* (1992 and 2003), for which he was awarded the “Grand Prix du Film d’Art” in 2003, the “Vidéo-Danse” First Prize in 1992, and the Prague Video Festival Prize in 1993. In 2009, he made *Snow White*, featuring his own work, and in 2011 he created the commercial *L’Envol*, for Air France, based on the choreography of *Le Parc*.

Since then he has collaborated on several films of his own choreographic work: *Les Raboteurs* with Cyril Collard (based on the painting by Gustave Caillebotte) in 1988, *Pavillon Noir* with Pierre Coulibeuf in 2006, and *Eldorado/ Preljocaj* with Olivier Assayas in 2007.

Several books have been written about his work including *Angelin Preljocaj* (2003), *Pavillon Noir* (2006), and *Angelin Preljocaj, Topologie de l’invisible* (2008).

Throughout the course of his career, Angelin Preljocaj has received numerous awards, including the “Grand Prix National de la Danse” awarded by the French Ministry of Culture in 1992, the “Benois de la danse” for *Le Parc* in 1995, the “Bessie Award” for *Annonciation* in 1997, “Les Victoires de la musique” for *Roméo et Juliette* in 1997, and the “Globe de Cristal” for *Snow White* in 2009. He is an “Officier des Arts et des Lettres” and a “Chevalier de la Légion d’honneur” and he was appointed an “Officier de l’ordre du Mérite” in May 2006.

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, Garth Fagan, Maguy Marin, Eiko and Koma, Bill T. Jones, Murray Louis, Mark Morris, Laura Dean, Ohad Naharin, Martha Clarke, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, William Forsythe, Lin Hwai-min, and posthumously in honor of Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, José Limón, Pearl Primus, and Helen Tamiris.

Performances during **ADF’s 81st season will be presented June 12-July 26, 2014** at the Durham Performing Arts Center, Duke University’s Reynolds Industries Theater, and Duke’s Nasher Museum of Art. For detailed information about ADF’s programs please visit www.americandancefestival.org.

About ADF:

Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, 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, educational programs and classes, community outreach, national and international projects, archives, humanities projects, publications, and media projects. ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 80 years. americandancefestival.org.