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**THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL NAMES
LEAH COX AS DEAN OF THE ADF SCHOOL**

Durham, NC, September 2, 2015—The American Dance Festival (ADF) announced that **Leah Cox** has succeeded Gerri Houlihan as **Dean of the ADF school**, effective immediately. Her acceptance of the position follows Gerri Houlihan's recent decision to step down from the role she has held since 2013. Ms. Houlihan, who served as ADF Co-Dean from 2010 to 2013, prior to becoming Dean, will continue to teach at ADF as well as direct ADF's Dance Professionals Workshop.

ADF Director Jodee Nimerichter stated, "Gerri has been an outstanding dean, masterfully guiding our educational programs while inspiring countless dancers. We are grateful that she will continue to contribute her legendary talents to the ADF school. Leah Cox, who has served as ADF's Associate Dean since 2014, brings extraordinary knowledge, passion, and expertise to the deanship. We are delighted to have Leah lead the ADF school."

Leah Cox currently holds the position of Term Associate Professor at Bard College. She danced with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company from 2001 to 2009 and launched the company's education department in 2009. After becoming the Company's education director, she created the company's educational licensing program, developed educational materials for the company's works, restaged works, taught nationwide for the company, and began the company's partnership with Bard College. When the company merged with Dance Theater Workshop to become New York Live Arts, Leah continued her role as education director, incorporating the wider scope that the new entity encompassed. At Live Arts, she created Shared Practice, a class series focused on creative practice for NYC artists. Ms. Cox is an avid educator, teaching classes for all ages and levels of ability nationwide. She has been on faculty at ADF, Peridance, and Dance New Amsterdam and is a master teacher and adjudicator for YoungArts.

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Ms. Cox spent her youth training in ballet, graduating from North Carolina School of the Arts high school dance division. Her dance studies continued at Texas Christian University, where she received a BA in Philosophy with a minor in Religion. She received her MFA in Dance from Hollins University.

Ms. Cox commented, "It has been an honor to work alongside Gerri this past year. The knowledge she has about ADF could only be the result of someone with her history. In my role as Dean, it will be important to continue to make our education programs contemporary and relevant in both content and structure, while also honoring our rich history of dance makers, teachers, performers, and thinkers."

The ADF school continues to be at the heart of the festival and serves 400+ professional and pre-professional dancers. Each June and July, dance students and artists from around the world converge on the East Campus of Duke University to discover the endless possibilities available in ADF's educational programs. The school also hosts Winter Intensives in New York City and San Francisco, allowing students the opportunity to study intensively with ADF's outstanding roster of teachers during their winter break.

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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 82 years. americandancefestival.org.

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