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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL NAMES
JENNY BLACKWELDER GRANT AND DAVE HURLBERT
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Durham, NC, November 10, 2015—The American Dance Festival (ADF) announced that **Jenny Blackwelder Grant** and **Dave Hurlbert** have joined the ADF Board of Directors, effective immediately.

“We are honored to welcome two new members to the ADF board. Both come with fantastic enthusiasm for ADF and backgrounds that will provide tremendous benefits to the board and organization as a whole. We are looking forward to the fresh perspectives they will each bring,” stated Jodee Nimerichter, ADF Director.

Jenny Blackwelder Grant currently serves as the client and community relations manager for PNC. She is responsible for leading PNC’s community involvement in the Eastern Carolinas region through sponsorships, PNC Foundation grants, and employee engagement.

Raised in Asheville, NC, Ms. Grant received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications from North Carolina State University. She now lives in Apex, NC with her husband John, their son Jack, and their basset hound Gilbert. As a life-long supporter of the arts, Ms. Grant finds herself at her happiest when she is dancing or watching others dance. She has always gravitated towards modern dance as it is constantly growing, evolving, and pushing itself beyond convention. Ms. Grant is looking forward to contributing her passion and professional skill set to help grow the community’s understanding, appreciation, and support of modern dance.

Dave Hurlbert is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Marigny Opera House in New Orleans, and since its foundation has produced and presented performances of opera, classical music, jazz, modern dance, stage plays, musicals, and puppetry. He co-founded the Marigny Opera Ballet in 2014 and serves as Co-Director.

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Before moving to New Orleans in 2010, he worked in San Francisco as a Senior Consultant for Landor Associates, an international marketing and brand identity firm. In 1997 he founded Goat Hall Productions, a small opera and musical theater company, where he served as Producer and Music Director for productions of *Les Mammelles des Tiresias*, *The Medium*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Little Night Music*, and others.

Mr. Hurlbert is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a classical pianist and composer. He was a class pianist for Alexandra Danilova, Leon Danelian, Patricia Wilde, Ballet Arts, and the American Ballet Theatre School. He later served as Principal Pianist for the San Francisco Ballet, working with choreographers Michael Smuin and Lew Christensen. Mr. Hurlbert is an associate board member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, a founding member of the New Orleans Dance Alliance, and former head of the dance nominating committee for New Orleans' Foundation for Entertainment Development and Education's "Tribute to the Classical Arts Awards."

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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