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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL 2019

Week 5 Features the Return of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, the Footprints Program Performed by ADF Students at UNC Wilmington's Lumina Festival and Page Auditorium, ADF's hOt sUmMeR pOP uPs! with Choreography by Mark Dendy, Free ADF School Tours, and Summer Camps and Classes at ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios

Durham, NC, July 2, 2019—The American Dance Festival (ADF) continues its summer offerings with the return of **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** in an evening of repertory works. ADF's **Footprints** program presenting work by legendary choreographers Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor will be performed at UNC Wilmington's Lumina Festival and at Duke University's Page Auditorium. **ADF's hOt sUmMeR pOP uPs! with choreography by Mark Dendy, ADF's Movies by Movers, ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios summer camps and classes, ADF Ruby Fridays, and FREE tours of the ADF school** will continue throughout the season.

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

Tuesday, July 16-Thursday, July 18, 8:00pm

Reynolds Industries Theater

The mission of A.I.M, under the artistic direction of choreographer Kyle Abraham, is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded in Abraham's artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, the goal of the movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The company will present *Show Pony*, an energetic work choreographed by Kyle Abraham for Tamisha Guy and Marcella Lewis (Princess Grace Award Recipients 2016 and 2018, respectively), *state*, a new trio created by the "marvelously daring" choreographer Andrea Miller (Deborah Jowitz), and *INDY*, a new work that marks the first full-length solo choreographed and performed by Kyle Abraham in nearly a decade. The company will also present *Meditation: A Silent Prayer*, an ensemble work featuring voice-over recording by Carrie Mae Weems and visual artwork by Titus Kaphar, and *Drive*, a high energy, propulsive work set to thumping club beats.

Post-performance discussion is Tuesday, July 16.

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Footprints**Saturday, July 13, 7:30pm****UNC Wilmington, Kenan Auditorium****and****Friday, July 19, 8:00pm****Saturday, July 20, 7:00pm****Page Auditorium*****Featuring works by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor!***

Footprints delivers an outstanding presentation of three modern dance classics, performed with impeccable technique and infectious energy by ADF students. Martha Graham's *Dark Meadow Suite* is made up of highlights from a much longer work by Martha Graham, *Dark Meadow*, which premiered in 1946. The suite, created in 2016, is designed to feature the exceptional choreography that Graham created for the ensemble of dancers in *Dark Meadow*. Both the unison dancing and the partnering have been recognized as some of Graham's most architectural, ritualistic, and profound creations. They are clearly inspired by Graham's love of the rituals of the natives of the American Southwest and Mexico, which she observed as a young woman. Merce Cunningham's *How to Pass, Kick, Fall and Run* has an athletic theme, without any specific references to games. The choreography keeps the dancers constantly in motion, never staying in a given place for very long, with two or three things simultaneously occurring on stage at all times. An esplanade is an outdoor place to walk; Paul Taylor, inspired by the sight of a girl running to catch a bus, created the masterwork *Esplanade* based on pedestrian movement. If contemporaries Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg could use ordinary "found objects" like Coke bottles and American flags in their art, Taylor would use such "found movements" as standing, walking, running, sliding, and falling.

Post-performance discussion is Friday, July 19.

FESTIVAL EXTRAS**ADF's hOt sUmMeR pOP uPs!****Choreography by Mark Dendy****Various Locations Throughout the Season****FREE!**

Join us for a BIG DANCE wild ride radio show mash up of summer hits that is a celebration of everything summer. Featuring all-time hits, Martha and the Vandella's "Dancing in the Street," Janis Joplin's "Summertime," and the quintessential classic "Wipeout!" in a sound score composed by Ken Ray Wilemon. All set to Rock Star Choreographer Mark Dendy's kinetic, physically explosive, and always socially relevant style. The ADF commissioned work will be performed by a young company of 10 dancers handpicked by Dendy for their unique talents. The dancers will receive full scholarships for the summer as part of ADF's long standing mission to help dancers make the transition into the professional dance world. How do you think Dendy got his start?

Check out up-to-date locations, dates, and times here <http://bit.ly/2KeSMa0>.

Paul Taylor Photo Exhibit**June 13-July 20****Reynolds Industries Theater**

A photo exhibit highlighting the life of the master choreographer Paul Taylor and his long relationship with ADF will hang in the lobby of Reynolds Industries Theater throughout the 2019 season.

ADF School Tours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

9:00-10:15am & 11:15am-12:30pm

June 24-July 16

FREE and open to the public!

Throughout the summer, ADF school tours offer individuals, families, and community groups an insider's perspective where you can experience the world-renowned ADF faculty, students, and musicians hard at work. These tours increase your understanding of modern dance and ADF, highlighting the history of the festival up to the present day. Schedule your tour today to observe art in action as well as obtain details about the 2019 season. For more information about tours contact Caitlyn Swett at caitlyn@americandancefestival.org or 919-684-6402.

Summer Classes and Dance Camps

June 3-July 28

ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios

ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios are dedicated to providing a sound scientific and aesthetic base for all ages and all levels of dance training, from beginning to professional. Our studios serve as a center for creative activity in which students learn in a welcoming and non-competitive environment from faculty who are experts in their fields. Our programs offer a variety of classes for the dancer and non-dancer alike, designed to strengthen the body, increase flexibility of movement, and foster an appreciation of dance.

Tickets for Reynolds Industries Theater and Page Auditorium

americandancefestival.org

Duke University Box Office

919-684-4444

Bryan University Center

Duke University West Campus

Tuesday-Friday 11:00am-6:00pm

The Duke box office will open one hour prior to event time.

**Promotional photographs and press reviews of performing companies
available upon request.**

About ADF:

Throughout its 86-year history, ADF has been a nationally recognized leader in our indigenous art form of modern dance. Generations of dancers and choreographers have come to ADF as students, taught as faculty, and created and performed work as professional artists. Each summer, ADF has been the beating heart of the dance world. The best companies in the world premiere work on ADF's stage, much of it commissioned by the festival. Other festivals and season programs are measured against ADF. Over 25,000 people see performances by more than 30 companies each season. The festival has commissioned 427 works and premiered 689 pieces including dances by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. Each summer at ADF, more than 300 students from some 25 countries and 42 states study with ADF's 50 faculty members. They come as kids in leotards with as many doubts as dreams. They leave as dancers and artists—and sometimes even new members of companies. Lives change in those 5½ sweaty weeks. Beyond the summer, ADF maintains year-round dance studios offering movement classes to over 650 participants, provides over 180 free classes to almost 4,000 local dancers, and offers choreographic residencies providing artists with the necessary space and time to create. americandancefestival.org.