



PRESS CONTACT

Sarah Tondu

tondu@americandancefestival.org

Office: 919-684-6402/Mobile: 919-270-9100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADF ANNOUNCES THE CANCELLATION OF ITS 2020 SEASON

- No Performances**
- No Summer Dance Intensive**
- No Pre-Professional Dance Intensive**
- No Dance Professional Workshops**

Durham, NC, March 31, 2020—The American Dance Festival (ADF) announced today that due to the current situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19) ADF will **cancel the 2020 season**.

"It is with incredible sadness that I share that we have made the important decision to cancel the 2020 ADF season. In caring for the well-being of our community, it feels like the only option, and we need to do it now because of all of the implications of waiting longer. We are heartbroken for the lost opportunities for all of the artists, teachers, musicians, students, audiences, staff, interns, and ADF fans.

I would like to acknowledge our incredible funders and patrons for their unwavering support, particularly in uncertain times like now, as well as the ADF staff who have worked tirelessly since the close of the 2019 season to plan electrifying performances, create stimulating educational opportunities for hundreds of exceptional dance students from around the world, and coordinate exhibits, discussions, and film screenings for the entire community.

As Durham's mayor Steve Schewel said, "Artists feed our souls." I know this to be true. I need art in my life and I'm guessing you do too. Rest assured that we will bring you world-class performances and educational programs as soon as it is safe to do so!" said Jodee Nimerichter, ADF Executive Director.

The ADF office is currently closed with staff working remotely. Check the website and our social media channels for up-to-date information. In an effort to deal with the financial repercussions of the cancellation, ADF is currently accepting donations at <https://www.americandancefestival.org/support/contribute/>.

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HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS

- Mrs. Laura Bush
- Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Mrs. George Bush (1925-2018)
- Mrs. Nancy Reagan (1921-2016)
- Mrs. Rosalynn Carter
- Mrs. Betty Ford (1918-2011)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Curt C. Myers, *Chairman*
- Jodee Nimerichter, *President*
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- Diane B. Linfors
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- Arthur H. Rogers III
- Judith Sagan

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Robby Barnett
- Brenda Brodie
- Ronald K. Brown
- Martha Clarke
- Laura Dean
- Mark Dendy
- Eiko and Koma
- Garth Fagan
- William Forsythe
- Anna Halprin
- Stuart Hodes
- Gerri Houlihan
- Dave Hurlbert
- Betty Jones
- Bill T. Jones
- Alex Katz
- Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker
- Lar Lubovitch
- Akaji Maro
- Meredith Monk
- Carman Moore
- Mark Morris
- Martha Myers, *Dean Emeritus*
- Ohad Naharin
- Stephen Petronio
- Jeannette Schlottmann Roosevelt
- Ted Rotante
- Yoko Shinfune
- Paul Taylor (1930-2018)
- Twyla Tharp
- Michael Tracy
- Doug Varone
- Shen Wei
- Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

- Jodee Nimerichter, *Executive Director*
- Leah Cox, *Dean*
- Ruth S. Day, *Cognitive Scientist in Residence*

Box 90772 | Durham, NC 27708
919.684.6402 | fax 919.684.5459
adf@americandancefestival.org

american dance festival.org

About ADF:

Throughout its 87-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 20 companies each season. The festival has commissioned 442 works and premiered over 700 pieces including dances by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. Each summer at ADF, more than 300 students from some 28 countries and 38 states study with ADF's 70 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.

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