



american dance festival

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW LEADERSHIP AND NEW HORIZONS FOR THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL

JODEE NIMERICHTER APPOINTED NEW DIRECTOR PRIOR TO 79TH SEASON

Durham, NC, January 5, 2012- The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** is pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Jodee Nimerichter** as the new Festival **Director**. Ms. Nimerichter served as Associate Director and Co-Director of the Festival since 2007, and becomes the first woman to direct the Festival solely in 43 years. Ms. Nimerichter is eager to continue the development of the Festival through many new exciting programs and the furthering of the ADF’s core mission.

“Jodee has the perfect background and skills to step into the position, held for 43 years by Charles L. Reinhart. Jodee worked directly with Charles and his late wife and Co-Director, Stephanie Reinhart, for many years and has established her own reputation, relationships, and expertise in the modern dance community,” said ADF Board Chair, Dr. Allen Roses. “The ADF is especially benefitted by Jodee living with her family in the Triangle community, while still maintaining close international relationships throughout the modern dance world.”

Ms. Nimerichter is excited to introduce several new initiatives and programs that will continue to inspire audiences and broaden the reach of both ADF and modern dance, while remaining true to the organization’s core mission.

“I have a deep passion for modern dance and feel absolutely honored to serve in the continuing development of this indigenous American art form,” said ADF Director, Jodee Nimerichter. “ADF’s role of nurturing and supporting numerous talented choreographers, dancers, teachers, and scholars over the last 79 years has made a profound impact on the dance field. I am looking forward to finding new and innovative ways to expand the Festival’s rich history of presenting the best of modern dance while always preserving and honoring its heritage.”

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Future plans include introducing audiences to more emerging, talented choreographers each year through new performance opportunities and summer residencies, increasing the Festival's programming outside of North Carolina, providing more opportunities for families and children to experience the Festival's programs through expanded year-round community outreach activities and affordable tickets, and engaging audiences at different points of entry through enhanced technology efforts.

Ms. Nimerichter has worked for the Festival for the past 20 years (with a brief hiatus in 1999 – 2002 to work in public television) in numerous capacities, beginning as an intern in 1992 after she discovered the ADF at the age of 16 when *The New York Times* critic Jack Anderson's book *The American Dance Festival* arrived at her parent's home in Denver, CO. What began with a book detailing the Festival's long history inspired a lifelong passion and dedication to serving the modern dance art form. Following her internship she continued on as the assistant to Charles and Stephanie Reinhart, and later became the Director of International Programs, where she helped further the ADF's mission to advance modern dance on an international platform by managing several dance festivals and exchange programs in over 20 countries.

In 1997 she worked as the associate producer of the ADF's Emmy Award-Winning Series *Free to Dance*, a documentary that honored the African American presence in modern dance, and ten years later, in 2007, she produced the ADF's *Dancing in the Light* program for PBS that showcased six historic works by African American choreographers including Katherine Dunham, Talley Beatty, and Bill T. Jones. Ms. Nimerichter went on to work for New York's Thirteen/WNET as a production member of the *Great Performances: Dance in America* series from 1999-2003 and in 2003 returned to the ADF at the request of Mr. Reinhart to serve as Associate Director. She also currently serves on several Boards of Directors and is a Hubsite for the National Dance Project.

About ADF:

Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, the ADF remains an international magnet for choreographers, dancers, teachers, students, critics, musicians, and scholars to learn and create in a supportive environment. The ADF's wide range of programs includes performances, artist services, humanities projects, publications, community outreach, educational programs and classes, archives, media projects, and national and international projects. The ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 78 years. www.americandancefestival.org.

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