



american dance festival

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DONNA FAYE BURCHFIELD TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL 2011 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Durham, NC, April 13, 2011 – The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** will award the **2011 Balasaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching** to Donna Faye Burchfield, former ADF Dean and Director of the Hollins University/American Dance Festival MFA program. A ceremony will occur on **Friday, June 10th at 4:00pm** in **White Lecture Hall** on Duke University’s West Campus. ADF Dean Emeritus Martha Myers will present the award.

Established by the ADF in 1991, the Balasaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching honors educators who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of dance. This award, endowed through a generous contribution from Luise Elcaness Scripps and with additional support by Walter Beinecke, the daughters of Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke, and the ADF, signifies the importance of honoring those who act to preserve dance history and tradition as well as cultivating the future of the art form.

As an innovator within the field, Donna Faye Burchfield’s outstanding career is marked by a passion and fervor to promote excellence in dance education and opportunities where dance and dancers can thrive. She first arrived at the ADF as a student in the summer of 1982 and spent the next 28 years helping build and nurture the vibrant community. As the ADF Dean, Burchfield worked tirelessly to keep the school’s curriculum at the forefront of modern dance, structuring an environment for students to develop their skills and creativity. In 2010 she was appointed Director for the School of Dance at The University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

In 1984, she was involved in the first ADF school recruiting efforts, visiting college/university and high school dance programs throughout the US and abroad. She went on to teach and direct the ADF’s Young Dancers School and serve as assistant to the Dean, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, Dean (2000-2010) and faculty member of the historic Six Week School. As Professor of Dance at Hollins University from 1993-2010, she developed and directed the Hollins University/American Dance Festival MFA program, the Post-Baccalaureate, and combined BA/BFA programs in collaboration with the ADF. In 2006, she was awarded the North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) Outstanding Teacher in Performance for contributions to the dance program at NCSA as well as the state of North Carolina.

Burchfield has served on a multitude of panels and organizations around the globe in support of dance and the arts throughout her career. At Hollins, she was awarded the Herta Freitag Distinguished Faculty award, and a distinguished service award in addition to numerous travel/

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research grants that helped to make possible the extensive study of dance in countries around the world, including Tunisia, Italy, China, Hong Kong, England, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Cuba. Through the ADF linkages she has taught in Moscow, Seoul, and Shanghai. Her works have been commissioned by The Mallarme Players, North Carolina State's Center Stage, Contemporary Dance Forth Worth, and New Works Project (TX).

Past recipients of the Chair include Pearl Primus, Daniel Nagrin, Betty Jones, Bella Lewitzky, Anna Halprin, Donald McKayle, Bessie Schönberg, Matt Mattox, Pauline Kroner, Viola Farber, Mary Anthony, Walter Nicks, Jane Dudley, Sophie Maslow, Pearl Lang, Martha Myers, Carmen de Lavallade, Gus Solomons, Jr., Gerri Houlihan, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Davis, Linda Tarnay, Douglas Nielsen, Dianne McIntyre, Carolyn Adams, Sharon Kinney, Ruth Andrien, and Yang Meiqi.

Performances during the ADF's 78th season will be presented at the Durham Performing Arts Center and Reynolds Industries Theater, as well as the Sarah P. Duke Gardens from June 9 – July 23. The 2011 Festival, entitled Something New, Something Treasured will celebrate the best in modern dance, both past and present. For detailed information about the 2011 Festival, the ADF School, community programs, and ticketing, please visit www.americandancefestival.org.

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 77 years. www.americandancefestival.org.