



american dance festival

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ANNE TERESA DE KEERSMAEKER TO RECEIVE THE 2011 SAMUEL H. SCRIPPS/AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL AWARD

Durham, NC, April 6, 2011 -- The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** will award Belgium's distinguished choreographer, director, and filmmaker **Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker** with the **2011 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement**. This most prestigious annual award for modern dance choreographers includes a \$50,000 prize, the largest monetary award given for lifetime achievement.

Established in 1981 by Samuel H. Scripps and the ADF, the annual award honors choreographers who have dedicated their lives and talent to the creation of modern dance. It will be presented to Ms. De Keersmaeker by Stuart Hodes, former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company and partner of Martha Graham, in a special ceremony on Saturday, June 11th at 8:00pm at Reynolds Industries Theater prior to her company's performance of *Rosas danst Rosas*. The company will make its ADF debut at Reynolds Industries Theater from June 10-12.

Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker has been heralded as one of the most original and profoundly influential choreographers working today. Throughout her 30-year career she has developed a unique and ingenious movement vocabulary found within choreography that examines the intersection between form, structure and emotion. Her vast career includes collaborations with artists of music, theatre, opera, film, and visual art and has garnered critical acclaim and a passionate following both in Europe and the United States.

Originally a musician, De Keersmaeker studied both dance and music at MUDRA in Brussels before moving to New York to focus her dance studies at the Tisch School of the Arts in 1981. It was at Tisch that she first encountered American artists who greatly influenced her work. After returning to Europe, De Keersmaeker established her company, Rosas, in 1983 and created their first company work, *Rosas danst Rosas*. Choreographed with original compositions by Thierry De Mey and Peter Vermeersh, *Rosas danst Rosas* quickly brought De Keersmaeker and her company great international success.

De Keersmaeker and Rosas were invited to become the resident choreographer and company of Théâtre Royal De La Monnaie, Belgium's national opera house in 1992. It was here that she continued to investigate the special relationship between movement and music, which has become a constant in De Keersmaeker's work. In 1995, after moving to Brussels, she established the Performing Arts Research and Training School (P.A.R.T.S.) in association with La Monnaie, a three-year curriculum that trains students in all major dance techniques, as well as music and theatre. In more recent

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years De Keersmeaker has explored the interactions between movement and text through some of her most famous works including *Just Before* (1997), *I said I* (1999), *Quartett* (1999), and *In Real Time* (2000). Her works have been presented throughout Europe and the US and have won many awards.

Past recipients of the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award include Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Hanya Holm, Alwin Nikolais, Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Erick Hawkins, Twyla Tharp, Anna Sokolow, Donald McKayle, Talley Beatty, Trisha Brown, Meredith Monk, Anna Halprin, Fayard and Harold Nicholas, Pina Bausch, Pilobolus Dance Theatre, Garth Fagan, Maguy Marin, Eiko and Koma, Bill T. Jones, Murray Louis, Mark Morris, Laura Dean, Ohad Naharin, Martha Clarke, and posthumously in honor of Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, José Limón, Pearl Primus, and Helen Tamiris.

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.