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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2013 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD PRESENTED TO PHYLLIS LAMHUT

**Durham, NC, March 14, 2013** – The American Dance Festival (ADF) will award the **2013 Balasaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching** to celebrated educator and mentor **Phyllis Lamhut**. Ms. Lamhut will be presented with the award in a special ceremony on **Friday, June 14, 2013 at 7:00pm in White Lecture Hall** on Duke University's East Campus.

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

For over four decades Phyllis Lamhut has remained dedicated to teaching the exploration of motion and kinetic expression to students throughout the world. Her zeal for the art form and continued commitment to teaching the principles of choreography have earned her critical acclaim, and she is a widely sought after teacher and mentor for both students and emerging choreographers.

“From her stunning work as a performer with the Nikolais and Murray Louis companies, to directing her own company, to mentoring young artists, Phyllis Lamhut has been an inspiration to many. Her dedication to teaching the craft of choreography and her insightful vision, guidance, and support to future dance artists have made her an outstanding choice for this prestigious award,” said ADF Co-Dean Gerri Houlihan.

Ms. Lamhut received her professional training in dance technique, improvisation, choreography, percussion, notation, and stagecraft from Alwin Nikolais and later went on to perform as a principal dancer with the Nikolais Dance Theatre for twenty years.

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Her training led her to create her own company where her choreography was set on numerous companies including the Limon Dance Company, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, and the Theatre Ballet of Canada, among many others. As a leading mentor for young professional choreographers, she has worked as a Choreography Advisor/Editor for the Joyce Soho Residency Program, and has directed the National Canadian Composer/Choreographer Seminar, the National Association of Regional Ballet Craft of Choreography Conference, and the Carlyle Project “New Impulses” choreography workshop. Ms. Lamhut presently teaches Principles of Dance Composition and Motional Research at New York University Tisch School of the Arts and continues mentoring professional choreographers.

Past recipients of the Chair include Pearl Primus, Daniel Nagrin, Betty Jones, Bella Lewitzky, Anna Halprin, Donald McKayle, Bessie Schönberg, Matt Mattox, Pauline Koner, 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, Yang Meiqi, Donna Faye Burchfield, and Ana Marie Forsythe.

Performances during the ADF’s 80th anniversary season will be presented June 13-July 27, 2013 at the Durham Performing Arts Center and Duke University’s Reynolds Industries Theater. For detailed information about ADF’s programs, please visit [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).

**About ADF:**

*Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, ADF remains an international magnet for choreographers, dancers, teachers, students, critics, musicians, and scholars to learn and create in a supportive environment. 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. ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for 80 years. [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).*

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