



american *dance* festival

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2014 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD PRESENTED TO IRENE DOWD

**Durham, NC, January 23, 2014** – The American Dance Festival (ADF) will award the **2014 Balasaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching** to celebrated educator **Irene Dowd** in a special ceremony on **Sunday, June 15 at 3:00pm in Baldwin Auditorium on the campus of Duke University.**

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 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.

Ms. Dowd earned a BA in philosophy from Vassar College. Subsequently, she studied dance and choreography at the Juilliard School from 1968 to 1970, where she performed under the direction of Anna Sokolow and José Limón. At the Juilliard School, she studied with and assisted Dr. Lulu E. Sweigard from 1968 to 1974. Simultaneously, she studied anatomy and neuro-anatomy through the School of General Studies at Columbia University's Presbyterian Medical School. She has taught at Teachers College, Columbia University and Wesleyan University and has been a guest teacher at many universities and dance institutions throughout the US, Canada, and Europe. She is currently on the faculty of The Juilliard School and Hollins University. Ms. Dowd is the choreographer, director, and editor of a video-film series and is the author of numerous articles as well as the book, *Taking Root to Fly*.

“I am delighted that Irene Dowd will be receiving the teaching award this summer. Irene has worked tirelessly behind the scenes of so many dance programs. Through her research, she has opened a window of possibility for us in the training of dancers and the study of dance science. Her ideas have expanded our understanding and furthered the way we approach dance training in the field,” said ADF Dean Gerri Houlihan.

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Ms. Dowd has maintained a practice in kinesthetic anatomy and neuromuscular re-education for 45 years in NYC and has choreographed for Peggy Baker, Margie Gillis and other solo dancers. Her choreographic material and work is now taught in schools and dance companies schools and dance companies across the US, Canada, and Europe.

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, Ana Marie Forsythe, and Phyllis Lamhut.

Performances during ADF’s 2014 season will be presented June 12 to July 26 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, educational programs and classes, community outreach, national and international projects, archives, humanities projects, publications, and media projects. ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 80 years. [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).*

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