



**Ruth Day, Memory for Movement Lab
and
Cognitive-Scientist-in-Residence**

EDUCATION / POSITIONS

Professor Ruth Day completed her Ph.D. in cognitive science at Stanford University and has been on the faculty at Stanford, Yale, and Duke Universities. She has also been a Visiting Scholar at Carnegie-Mellon University and a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. She has been at ADF for over 20 years, involved in both teaching and research. This year she is hosting the ADF Post-Performance Discussions.

TEACHING

Dr. Day directs the Memory for Movement Lab at both ADF and Duke, which includes both teaching and research. At Duke, she teaches courses in Cognition (perception, attention, memory, comprehension, problem solving), Everyday Cognition, Psychology of Language, and Great Ideas. She has taught Memory for Movement to dance students (at ADF, the National Museum of Dance, Hollins University), dance professionals (dance teachers, choreographers, critics, cultural editors), and dance audiences.

RESEARCH

The Memory for Movement Lab studies how dancers learn, remember, and perform dance. In the Audience Memory Program, it studies how audiences perceive, understand, and remember dance performances. This research uses a variety of methods, including surveys, lab experiments, structured class observation, cognitive interviews, an online Dance Perception Quiz, and post-performance Check-Ups. This work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, the North Carolina Arts Council, and other sources. Dr. Day also directs the Medical Cognition Lab at Duke, which studies how doctors and patients understand, remember, and use medical information.

COGNITION & DANCE

Ruth Day danced before she walked. At age 6, she became curious about why some dancers learn combinations quickly and easily while others take longer and struggle along the way, even though they possess good technical skills. After studying in various intensive dance programs and winning some competitions, she turned to study of the mind and pursued a career in cognitive science. While on the faculty at Yale, she resumed dance instruction with teachers from New York companies – and resumed her fascination with cognitive aspects of dance. ADF is an ideal place to study cognitive aspects of dance and help both dancers and audiences increase their abilities to perceive and remember this complex art form.