



american dance festival

PRESS CONTACT

National Press Representative: Lisa Labrado
llabrado@americandancefestival.org
Direct: 646-214-5812/Mobile: 917-399-5120

North Carolina Press Representative: Sarah Tondu
tondu@americandancefestival.org
Office: 919-684-6402/Mobile: 919-270-9100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZVI GOTHEINER, JAMES SUTTON, AND JACLYNN VILLAMIL
TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL
2015 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Durham, NC, December 10, 2014–The American Dance Festival (ADF) will award the
2015 Balaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching
jointly to Zvi Gotheiner, James Sutton, and Jaclynn Villamil. A ceremony will take place on
Friday, June 12, 2015 on the campus of Duke University, time and location TBA.

The Balaraswati/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.

“All three honorees have endeared themselves to a generation of dancers, training legions of
students and helping professional dancers enhance their technique and performance skills through
a classical approach to movement,” said ADF Dean Gerri Houlihan.

Zvi Gotheiner was born and raised in Israel and began his artistic career as a gifted violinist. He
began dancing at 17 and soon after formed his first performance group. He came to New York in
1978 on a dance scholarship from the American-Israeli Cultural Foundation and went on to dance
with the Joyce Trisler Dance Company, Feld Ballets/NY, and the Batsheva Dance Company. He
founded ZviDance in 1989. Mr. Gotheiner is a recipient of two New York Foundation for the
Arts choreography fellowships and the National Arts Club Weisberg Award. Mr. Gotheiner is
also known for his internationally acclaimed teaching method, inspired by the work of
Maggie Black, under whom he studied for many years. Combining different traditions of
ballet, with emphasis on placement and movement efficiency, this method is respectful of
the human body and the specific needs and abilities of each individual. ZviDance
performed at ADF in 2008 and will return to the ADF stage in 2015.

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Box 90772 | Durham, NC 27708
919.684.6402 | fax 919.684.5459
adf@americandancefestival.org

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**James Sutton** was an Associate Arts Professor in Dance at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University for fourteen years and is currently Ballet Master and Resident Choreographer for New York Theatre Ballet. He is a frequent guest instructor around the US and has taught on the faculties of Connecticut College, Southern Methodist University, the University of Michigan, and for thirteen summers at ADF. Mr. Sutton was formerly the ballet master for Ballet Hispanico, and, for five years, company teacher for the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Internationally, he has been a guest teacher at the Maly (now Mikhailovsky) Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Taipei, Taiwan, Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia, and the Cullberg Ballet and Balett Akademien in Stockholm, Sweden, among other venues across Europe and Asia. He was an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and teacher at the Juilliard School in New York. As a performer, he appeared as principal dancer with Houston Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, and DANCERS. Mr. Sutton was formerly the Associate Director of the Kathryn Posin Modern Dance Company and founded his own company in New York in 1983. He currently works in communications for the Brooklyn Academy of Music and is a contributing writer for *Ballet Review*.

**Jaclynn Villamil** has taught contemporary ballet for thirty-seven years. Current or former members of prominent dance companies have attended her classes. She has also taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, Ohio University, Connecticut College, Montclair State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Ms. Villamil was a full-time faculty member at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts from 1996 to 2012 and served as director and ballet mistress of the Second Avenue Dance Company, comprised of each year's MFA and BFA graduating class. She was on the faculty at ADF for ten years as a ballet teacher and Laban Movement Analysis educator from 1983 to 1998 and taught for the Dance Professionals Workshop in 1999 and 2000. Beyond her work with dancers, she was a faculty member from 1994 to 1998 at the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center under the direction of Richard Digby Day of Britain's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Her work with actors involves teaching Laban theory and applying these principles to scene work. As a performer, Ms. Villamil appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in summer stock, opera, light opera, on television, and in the contemporary dance field. She was awarded choreography fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Creative Artists Public Service in New York State in 1979-80 for her work with the Theatre Dance Collection, a contemporary company she co-founded in 1972. She was appointed a Dance Panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts from 2001 to 2005. Ms. Villamil worked as an Editor/Advisor for the Joyce Theater Choreography Program in 2002-2003 and was a founding board member of Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE.

Reflecting on this year's award recipients, ADF Associate Dean Leah Cox commented, "Together, Zvi Gotheiner, Jim Sutton, and Jackie Villamil form a glorious ballet pas de trois of exceptional teachers."

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, Phyllis Lamhut, and Irene Dowd.

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 81 years. [www.americandancefestival.org](http://www.americandancefestival.org).*