



PRESS CONTACT

National Press Representative: Lisa Labrado
lisa@labradopr.com
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

**THE AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL CONTINUES ITS 84TH SEASON
AND 40TH YEAR IN NORTH CAROLINA
FEATURING THE BEST IN MODERN DANCE**

Featuring the Debut of Seattle-Based Cherdonna, the Returns of Beth Gill and Pilobolus, the Annual ADF Musicians Concert, the Screening of the Documentary Film *Bobbi Jene*, Community Gaga Classes With Saar Harari, Saturday Children's Matinee, and the Start of Free ADF School Tours.

Durham, NC, June 13, 2017—The American Dance Festival's (ADF) 84th season and 40th year in North Carolina continues with the ADF debut of **Cherdonna** on Saturday, June 24 at 1:00pm at Living Arts Collective. New York-based artist **Beth Gill** returns with the ADF-commissioned *Brand New Sidewalk* on Wednesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 29 at 8:00pm at Reynolds Industries Theater. Crowd favorite **Pilobolus** returns with their latest ADF-commissioned work *Coal* featuring Abigail Washburn and banjo legend Béla Fleck on Friday, June 30 at 8:00pm and Saturday, July 1 at 7:00pm at the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC). The **Saturday Children's Matinee Series** kicks off with **Pilobolus** on Saturday, July 1 at 1:00pm at DPAC. The talented **ADF musicians** take the stage in their annual concert Sunday, July 2 at 7:00pm at Baldwin Auditorium on Duke's east campus. **Full Frame Documentary Film Festival** and **American Dance Festival's Movies by Movers** will co-present the documentary *Bobbi Jene* on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00pm at Full Frame Theater @ American Tobacco. **Community Gaga classes** will take place at ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios Sunday, June 25 and Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00pm and a **special FREE Gaga class for non-dancers** will be offered Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30pm at the Levin Jewish Community Center. **FREE ADF School Tours** begin June 26 and go through July 21 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at 9:15am and 11:15am.

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

americandancefestival.org

Cherdonna

Living Arts Collective

Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 | 1:00pm and 7:00pm

Monday, June 26 and Tuesday, June 27 | 7:00pm

ADF Debut!

ADF, in association with Living Arts Collective, presents *Clock that Mug or Dusted*, part two of a three-part suite—one great, bright, brittle all togetherness—a glorious, hilarious, and, yes, messy, homage to feminist performance artists, from Anna Halprin to Janine Antoni, and their focus on the body as a canvas for social change, rebellion, community, and personal expansion brought to you by beloved drag/dance bio-fem icon Cherdonna Shinatra.

This performance contains nudity and adult subject matter.

The presentation of one great, bright, brittle all togetherness by Jody Kuehner is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Beth Gill

Reynolds Industries Theater

Wednesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 29 | 8:00pm

ADF Commission!

Known for her exacting rigor and mesmerizing precision, “Bessie” award winner Beth Gill makes choreography that is spare yet playful, stark yet beautiful. *In Brand New Sidewalk*, Gill teams up with composer Jon Moniaci and lighting designer Thomas Dunn to create a sparse and elegant diptych born of questioning the value of formalism in dance. This evocative new piece for four dancers explores themes of alienation, erasure, fantasy, and power through the lens of abstraction.

Brand New Sidewalk is commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works. *Brand New Sidewalk* is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by The Yard in partnership with Walker Art Center, American Dance Festival, and NPN. For more information: www.npnweb.org

Pilobolus

Durham Performing Arts Center

Friday, June 30 | 8:00pm

Saturday, July 1 | 7:00pm

Children's Matinee, Saturday, July 1 | 1:00pm

ADF Commission!

Festival favorite Pilobolus returns! *On the Nature of Things* explores the birth of desire and its intertwined connection to shame and revenge. *Rushes* was the first of Pilobolus's International Collaborators Projects and is the result of Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak's collaboration with Pilobolus Artistic Director Robby Barnett and the company. Penn & Teller, team with Pilobolus to create the

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ultimate piece of gripping, do-not-try-this-at-home choreography in *[esc]*. Finally, the company will present the world premiere of *Coal*, a new ADF-commissioned collaboration with Abigail Washburn and 16-time Grammy Award winning banjo legend Béla Fleck.

This performance contains nudity.

Coal is commissioned by ADF with support from the SHS Foundation and the Reinhart Fund.

Musicians Concert

Baldwin Auditorium at Duke University

Sunday, July 2 | 7:00pm

Each summer the virtuosic musicians of the ADF school take center stage for an evening featuring an immense range of musical styles that will get you moving. Come experience the extraordinary talent that inspires the ADF faculty and students throughout the summer.

FESTIVAL EXTRAS

Screening of *Bobbi Jene*

Full Frame Theater @ American Tobacco

Thursday, June 22, 2017 | 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm

FREE (ticket required)

After a decade of stardom in Israel, American dancer Bobbi Jene Smith decides to leave behind her prominent position at the world-famous Batsheva Dance Company, as well as the love of her life, to return to the US to create her own boundary breaking performances. Tracking the personal and professional challenges that await her, Elvira Lind's film lovingly and intimately documents the dilemmas and inevitable consequences of ambition. Observing the artist in both private and public settings, the film moves between uninhibited scenes of life at home, grueling rehearsals, and Bobbi Jene's revealing choreography. Baring her body, her new work explores both the physical and emotional complexities of female sexuality. *Bobbi Jene* delves into what it takes for a woman to gain her own independence in the extremely competitive world of dance and to find self-fulfillment in the process.

This film contains nudity and adult subject matter.

This event is **free**, but you must reserve a ticket via Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/2sXB6DV>. Please see Eventbrite page for ticket sale dates and times, directions, and parking fees.

This event is part of the Road Show Summer Series presented by Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc. and the American Tobacco Campus. The screening of Bobbi Jene is co-presented by Full Frame Documentary Film Festival and American Dance Festival's Movies by Movers.

Community Gaga Classes with Saar Harari

Sunday, June 25 | 7:00pm at ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios (for dancers) \$15

Tuesday, June 27 | 6:30pm at the Levin Jewish Community Center (for non-dancers) FREE

Wednesday, June 28 | 7:00pm at ADF's Samuel H. Scripps Studios (for dancers) \$15

Taught by artistic director of LeeSaar The Company, Saar Harari, Gaga is a new way of gaining knowledge and self-awareness through your body. Gaga provides a framework for discovering and strengthening your body and adding flexibility, stamina, and agility while lightening the senses and imagination. Gaga raises awareness of physical weaknesses, awakens numb areas, exposes physical fixations, and offers ways for their elimination. The work improves instinctive movement and connects conscious and unconscious movement, and it allows for an experience of freedom and pleasure in a simple way, in a pleasant space, in comfortable clothes, accompanied by music, each person with himself and others. Minimum age for all three classes is 16.

Tours of the ADF School

June 26-July 21 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at 9:15am and 11:15am

Afternoon tours are available upon request.

Free and open to the public!

Take a FREE tour and experience the ADF school! Throughout the summer, tours offer individuals, families, and community groups an insider's perspective where you can experience the world-renowned ADF faculty, students, and musicians hard at work. Tours of the school increase your understanding of modern dance and ADF. The tours highlight the history of the festival up to the present day. Tours are led by Director of ADF School Tours, Joseph Fedrowitz, ADF staff, and other long-time ADF supporters, giving visitors the chance to observe art in action as well as obtain details about the 2017 season. Tours usually last 1-2 hours. Please call 919-684-6402 or email tours@americandancefestival.org to make your reservation.

Tickets for DPAC

americandancefestival.org

Durham Performing Arts Center Ticket Center, The American Tobacco District

919-680-2787

123 Vivian St.

Durham, NC 27701

Monday-Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

The DPAC box office will open three hours prior to event time.

Tickets for Reynolds Industries Theater, PSI Theatre at The Durham Arts Council, The Nasher Museum at Duke University, Sheaffer Theater, Baldwin Auditorium, Living Arts Collective, and the Carr Studio at Durham School of the Arts

americandancefestival.org

Duke University Box Office

919-684-4444

Bryan University Center

Duke University West Campus

Tuesday-Friday 11:00am-6:00pm

The Duke box office will open one hour prior to event time.

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**Promotional photographs and press reviews of performing companies
available upon request.**

About ADF:

Throughout its 84-year history, ADF has been a nationally recognized leader in our indigenous art form of modern dance. Generations of dancers and choreographers have come to ADF as students, taught as faculty, and created and performed work as professional artists. Each summer, ADF has been the beating heart of the dance world. The best companies in the world premiere work on ADF's stage, much of it commissioned by the festival. Other festivals and season programs are measured against ADF. Over 26,000 people see performances by more than 20 companies each season. The festival has commissioned 418 works and premiered 681 pieces including dances by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. Each summer at ADF, more than 420 students from some 20 countries and 40 states study with ADF's 70 faculty members. They come as kids in leotards with as many doubts as dreams. They leave as dancers and artists—and sometimes even new members of companies. Lives change in those 6 sweaty weeks. Beyond the summer, ADF maintains year-round dance studios offering movement classes to over 770 participants, provides over 190 free classes to more than 3,200 local dancers, and offers choreographic residencies providing artists with the necessary space and time to create. americandancefestival.org.