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**Dance Magazine Awards Announces Esteemed Honorees for 2019**

*Tickets on Sale for 62nd Annual Event Taking Place at Ailey Citigroup Theater on  
December 9th 2019*

**(New York, NY), October 9th, 2019-** Dance Media Foundation, (<https://www.dancemediafoundation.org/>), in conjunction with Dance Magazine, announced today the honorees for their 62nd annual Dance Magazine Awards 2019. The esteemed event will take place in NYC on December 9th, 2019, from 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, located at 405 West 55th Street. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$75 for general admission and go up to \$1,000 for the Visionary ticket, which provides access to an unforgettable evening filled with a deluxe champagne pre-party at 7 pm, choice of seating, after-party access, photo opportunities with awardees and more. A tradition dating back to 1954, the Dance Magazine Awards have long celebrated living legends who've made a lasting impact on dance. These days, they go even further with a recently added Chairman's Award for distinctive leaders behind the scenes and the Harkness Promise Awards, a grant for innovative young choreographers that is funded by net proceeds from the Dance Magazine Awards ceremony.

“We are exceptionally excited to award this year's list of honorees for their historic work and tremendous talents,” states Frederic Seegal, CEO/Chairman of Dance Media. “We love the fact that in recent years deserving dance names are becoming more and more mainstream, thus providing a much-needed spotlight on the arts in general. It has also allowed us to raise the bar for the Dance Magazine Awards and

bring them to a much wider audience.”

Previous award ceremonies have included superstar names such as 2015 awardee Misty Copeland who provided opening remarks in 2018, along with awardees Ronald K. Brown, Lourdes Lopez (presented by Darren Walker), Crystal Pite, Nigel Redden, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tommy Tune, Alvin Ailey, Wendy Whelan, Ohad Naharin, Philip Glass, Chita Rivera, Fred Astaire, Bob Fosse, and more. The 2019 Dance Magazine Awards will honor:

**Sara Mearns:** Ever since Sara Mearns performed her first Odette/Odile at age 19, it was clear she was destined to become one of New York City Ballet's stars. Renowned for her monumental attack and powerful risk-taking on stage, she has stretched the limits of movement in classic Balanchine and Robbins works, and become a high-velocity muse to choreographers like Justin Peck and Alexei Ratmansky. She's also expanded beyond the ballet world: She's taken on classic modern techniques like Cunningham and Duncan; created new work with everyone from downtown dancemaker Jodi Melnick to hip-hop duo Wang Ramirez, and tried her hand at musical theater with a starring role in *I Married an Angel*, choreographed by her husband, Joshua Bergasse.

**David Gordon and Valda Setterfield:** “Witty” maybe dance critics' favorite word to describe David Gordon and Valda Setterfield. The pioneering director and dancer are renowned for the poignant humor of their work together—his uncanny sense of irony has found the ideal vehicle in her straitlaced, British facade. Former participants in Judson Dance Theater, they have led multifaceted careers both together and on their own. As much a playwright as a choreographer, Gordon has deftly used text, gesture and repetition in lauded works for his own Pick Up Performance Co(s) as well companies like American Ballet Theatre. Setterfield, who was a standout performer in Merce Cunningham Dance Company, has brought her elegant presence to everything from Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* to a recent gender-bending *Lear*.

**Angel Corella:** As a star of American Ballet Theatre, Angel Corella performed with such crisp, precise virtuosity that he regularly brought audiences to their feet.

From 2008 to 2014, he directed Barcelona Ballet in his native Spain. Today he's back in the U.S. as artistic director of Pennsylvania Ballet, where he's expanded the repertory to include everything from Trisha Brown's *O złożony / O composite* to new work by Andrea Miller, while never losing the troupe's historic Balanchine base.

**Masazumi Chaya:** If Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has had a behind-the-scenes secret sauce for the past two and a half decades, it's Masazumi Chaya. He began dancing with the company in 1972, directly under Alvin Ailey himself, and was appointed associate artistic director by Judith Jamison in 1991. In this role, he's served as an invaluable connection to the past and an exceptional resource for the dancers and artistic team alike. Feeling that it's time to pass along the baton, he recently announced he will be stepping down in January, handing his current role to longtime dancer Matthew Rushing.

**Chairman's Award: Linda Shelton:** Our 2019 Chairman's Award goes to Linda Shelton, executive director of New York City's The Joyce Theater and Foundation. Over the course of her career, Shelton has been a role model for so many women who dream of becoming leaders in the dance field. A former company manager for The Joffrey Ballet and tour planner for Bolshoi Ballet, she has also been a National Endowment of the Arts panelist, a Dance/USA and Dance/NYC board member and a Benois de le Danse judge.

**Harkness Promise Awards: Bobbi Jene Smith and Caleb Teicher:** The Harkness Promise Awards, which offer a grant and rehearsal space for innovative young choreographers, will go to Bobbi Jene Smith and Caleb Teicher. This award, conferred in partnership with the Harkness Foundation for Dance, is funded by net proceeds from the Dance Magazine Awards ceremony.

For more information on the Dance Magazine Awards or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.dancemediafoundation.org/>. For sponsorship opportunities, media access, or interviews, please contact BPM-PR Firm at [mtatum@bpm-prfirm.com](mailto:mtatum@bpm-prfirm.com) or call 1.877.841.7244.

## **ABOUT DANCE MAGAZINE**

*Dance Magazine* was first published in June 1927 under the name *The American Dancer*. Produced by a Hollywood-based team of editors under the leadership of Ruth Eleanor Howard, it cost a quarter and was dedicated to readers who “love the dance.” In the 1920s and 30s, the magazine offered monthly news of the changing dance world in Europe and America. Today, under editor Jennifer Stahl, the magazine reaches dance students, dance professionals and dance lovers around world with its monthly print edition and its website. Written by accomplished journalists and active dancers, *Dance Magazine* tells the stories behind the most exciting dance artists working today and keeps readers up to date with news on the buzziest projects in the field. *Dance Magazine* is owned by Dance Media, which also publishes *Dance Spirit*, *Pointe*, *Dance Teacher*, *The Dance Edit* and *Dance Business Weekly*. For more information, visit [dancemagazine.com](http://dancemagazine.com).

## **ABOUT THE HARKNESS FOUNDATION FOR DANCE**

The Harkness Foundation for Dance is a private grant-making foundation dedicated to invigorating and supporting the dance art-form, predominantly in New York City. Since 1959, the Harkness name has been synonymous with dance philanthropy. The Foundation carries forward the lifelong dedication to the dance art form of the great American dance patron Rebekah Harkness. Over many decades, this support has taken the form of funding, rehearsal and theater space, technical assistance, and guidance—an unrivaled legacy that has touched countless dance artists and companies in all dance styles and genres. With a broad focus that spans dance creation, presentation, education, medicine and other vital services to the dance field, from 1986 to the present the Harkness Foundation has contributed over \$30 million to more than 590 organizations across the industry. For more information: [harknessfoundation.org](http://harknessfoundation.org)