

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2007

***Katherine Dunham and Lincoln Kirstein: American Critics and Creators
33rd Annual Dance Critics Association Conference***

PRESS RELEASE:

Dance Critics Association Honors David Vaughan as 2007 Senior Critic

What: David Vaughan honored as Dance Critic Association's 2007 Senior Critic
Choreographer Merce Cunningham to make the introduction.

When: June 17, 2007, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Dance New Amsterdam, 280 Broadway (entrance on Chambers)
New York, NY 10007

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(Phone number is not for publication.)

New York, NY: The **Dance Critics Association (DCA)** is thrilled to announce that critic, scholar, biographer, Cunningham Foundation archivist, and performer **David Vaughan** will be honored at the DCA's annual June conference as the organization's **2007 Senior Critic**. Choreographer **Merce Cunningham** is scheduled to introduce him.

Mr. Vaughan will address the conference on June 17. The title of his speech —“Commence to Dancing” — is derived from a song in the Laurel and Hardy movie *Way Out West*. A longtime cabaret performer in a duo with the late Al Carmines, Mr. Vaughan may also sing a little in the course of his presentation. During the 2002 Lincoln Center Festival presentation of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Mr. Vaughan joined Mr. Cunningham as a reader in the company revival of *How to Pass, Kick, Fall and Run* (1965).

David Vaughan is the author of two biographies that have become standard references for dance critics and historians: *Frederick Ashton and His Ballets* (revised edition, Dance Books, 1999) and *Merce Cunningham: Fifty Years* (Aperture, 1997). He was a member of the editorial board of the *International Encyclopedia of Dance* (Oxford, 1998) and is a frequent contributor to such publications as *The Dancing Times*, *Ballet Review*, *Dance Now*, and www.danceviewtimes.com. At the “Dancing in the Millennium” conference in Washington, D.C., in July 2000, he received the 2000 Congress on Research in Dance (CORD) Award for Outstanding Leadership in Dance Research. In September 2001, he received a New York Dance and Performance Award (“Bessie”) for sustained achievement.

Educated at Raynes Park County School, London, and Wadham College, Oxford, in his native England, Mr. Vaughan studied dance in London with Marie Rambert and Audrey de Vos. In 1950, he emigrated to the United States for further studies at the School of American Ballet in New York, where his teachers included Anatole Oboukhoff; among his other New York teachers were Antony Tudor, Merce Cunningham, and Richard Thomas. Mr. Vaughan has danced, sung, acted, and choreographed in London, Paris, and New York (both on and off Broadway) and in American regional theaters. He has appeared on film and television and with ballet and modern dance companies, as well as in cabaret.

Previous recipients honored by DCA as Senior Critic are: **Clive Barnes** (2001), **Doris Hering** (2002), **Francis Mason** (2003), **Marcia B. Siegel** (2004), **Rita Felciano** (2005), and **Deborah Jowitt** (2006).

The Dance Critics Association—the professional organization for dance critics and journalists—was founded in 1974 and has an active membership from across North America and overseas. For further information on the DCA or to register for the conference, visit www.dancecritics.com.