



Bates Dance Festival

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Bates Dance Festival director receives Outstanding Service Award from National High School Dance Festival

LEWISTON, Maine -- The longtime director of the Bates Dance Festival, Laura Faure, received the National High School Dance Festival's Outstanding Service Award in a ceremony at the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh on March 3. The award was presented during the NHSDF's biennial conference.

Faure has served as the director of the Bates festival and lecturer in the arts at Bates College since 1988. She has developed the festival into an internationally acclaimed contemporary dance program known for artistic excellence, curatorial vision and commitment to building community through dance.

A former dancer, choreographer and teacher with 35 years of experience in the field, Portland resident Faure is also a freelance arts manager and consultant specializing in the performing arts.

She has been a project coordinator, consultant and evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and other arts agencies and foundations, as well as for individual artists and arts groups.

She is a founding member of The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium and has been developing cross-cultural exchanges with artists from across the globe since 1994.

The NHSDF, now in its 27th year, brings together more than 1,200 high school dancers from 79 schools across the U.S. and abroad. Students perform original works, take classes and gain professional exposure.

An important component of NHSDF is the scholarship audition attended by recruiters from some 70 university and summer dance programs at such institutions as The Juilliard School, the California Institute of the Arts and Ohio State University. Over the past 20 years the Bates Dance Festival has recruited and provided scholarships to more than 400 gifted students through the NHSDF audition.

More information about the Bates Dance Festival is available at www.batesdancefestival.org.

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