

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IN FIRST-TIME CO-PRODUCTION WITH AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL,
PAUL TAYLOR AMERICAN MODERN DANCE
ADDS SPECIAL MARCH 19 PERFORMANCE TO 2017 SEASON**

**“ICONS: GRAHAM, CUNNINGHAM, TAYLOR”
MARKS FIRST TIME WORKS BY THESE GIANTS OF MODERN DANCE
SHARE A PROGRAM AT LINCOLN CENTER**

ALL SEATS AT SPECIAL LOW PRICES

New York, December 7, 2016 – A special performance co-produced by Paul Taylor American Modern Dance and the American Dance Festival (ADF) of Durham, NC will be added to PTAMD’s 2017 Season at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center on Sunday, March 19 at 6pm. Entitled **ICONS: Graham, Cunningham, Taylor**, the performance features the PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY in Martha Graham’s **Diversion of Angels** from 1948 and Paul Taylor’s **Promethean Fire** from 2002, and presents guest artists from France’s LYON OPERA BALLET, Artistic Director Yorgos Loukos, in Merce Cunningham’s **Summerspace** from 1958. All three works premiered at ADF. The performance marks the first time that works by these three giants of America’s homegrown art of modern dance will have shared a program at Lincoln Center, according to Paul Taylor Dance Foundation Executive Director John Tomlinson. Tickets range from \$10 to \$60, and tickets to a post-performance reception are \$50. Premium tickets at \$175 include the reception.

“Paul Taylor American Modern Dance has a mission to present great modern works of the past and present, and commission works by the next generation of modern choreographers,” said Mr. Tomlinson. “There is no better way to fulfill that mission than to present works by these iconic American choreographers in a season that includes a wealth of Taylor classics and premieres, and commissioned works by three of today’s most highly regarded choreographers.” The season features dances made through Taylor Company Commissions by Lila York (**Continuum**), Doug Elkins (**The Weight of Smoke**) and Larry Keigwin (**Rush Hour**). American Dance Festival Executive Director Jodee Nimerichter said, “ADF is pleased to spotlight its growing presence in New York City by co-presenting great dances by three trailblazing choreographers, at prices that enable all New York dance lovers to enjoy them.”

...Continued

Music for all three dances will be performed live by ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S conducted by long-time Taylor Music Director Donald York and renowned conductor Ted Sperling. Tickets are available through the David H. Koch Theater box office at 63rd Street and Columbus Avenue; by calling 212.496.0600, and at www.boxoffice.dance. PTAMD's 2017 season runs from March 8 through March 26, and orchestra seats from \$10 to \$175 are available for all performances.

Major funding provided by The SHS Foundation. Lincoln Center season made possible by Marjorie S. Isaac. Leadership support provided by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Support also provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Shubert Foundation. National tour supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

About Paul Taylor and PTAMD:

Paul Taylor is the greatest living pioneer of American modern dance, with 145 dances made since 1954 when he established the Paul Taylor Dance Company. He continues to offer cogent observations on life's complexities and society's thorniest issues through his dances. A virtuoso dancer for 20 years, Mr. Taylor turned exclusively to choreography in 1974; the dance that followed, *Esplanade*, was hailed an instant classic. His works are performed by the Taylor Company, Taylor 2 and ballet and modern dance companies the world over. In 2015 he established PAUL TAYLOR AMERICAN MODERN DANCE to bring to New York's Lincoln Center – in addition to his own repertoire – great dances of the past and present by other modern choreographers, and works by the next generation of choreographers creating directly on his Company. Works are performed to live music whenever so intended by the choreographer. A Kennedy Center honoree, Mr. Taylor is the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Dancemaker*, and author of the acclaimed autobiography, *Private Domain*.

About the Paul Taylor Dance Company:

The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. Since the Company's founding in 1954, it has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. The upcoming 2017 Lincoln Center season marks the Company's 63rd performing year. Mr. Taylor continues to create at least two new works annually for his 16-member Company. His autobiography, *Private Domain*, was published in 1987 and the Company was the subject of the documentary film *Dancemaker*, nominated for an Academy Award in 1999. A book of essays mostly for fun, *Facts and Fancies*, was written by Mr. Taylor in 2013. He has achieved countless accolades, including two of our nation's highest artistic distinctions: the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts.

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 83 years. americandancefestival.org.

About Lyon Opera Ballet:

Lyon Opera Ballet, with Artistic Director Yorgos Loukos, is a classically trained company focused on contemporary dance. The dancers, offered the chance to perform a diverse range of styles, are trained in the company in different dance techniques. Over the last twenty years, it has put together a large repertory (more than 100 works, half of which were world premieres) while seeking out choreographers who are encouraging the language, making it evolve, inventing its environment and its spatial relationships: the modern and post-modern Americans (Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, Bill T. Jones, Ralph Lemon), the movement writers (Jiří Kylián, Mats Ek, William Forsythe, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Sasha Waltz) and the explorers of new territories (Philippe Decouflé, Tânia Carvalho, Emanuel Gat, Benjamin Millepied, Mathilde Monnier, Système Castafiore), as well as the representatives of "young French dance" (Jérôme Bel, Alain Buffard, François Chaignaud and Cécilia Bengolea, Rachid Ouramdane, Christian Rizzo).

In a step towards the future, it encompasses other trends open to theatricality, such as the scathing rereading of several basic works (Cinderella or Coppelia as seen by Maguy Marin, *Romeo and Juliet* by Angelin Preljocaj and Nutcracker by Dominique Boivin). It may be said that, right now, the Lyon Opera Ballet is a reflection of the ever-changing nature of dance in the world.

#