

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FORMER PAUL TAYLOR DANCE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ROBERT YESSELMAN PASSES AWAY**

**NEW YORK, June 16, 2016** – The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation (PTDF) sadly announces the passing of former Executive Director Robert Yesselman on June 1, 2016.

An inspired Executive Director, Bob led the Foundation from February 1976 until October 1990. His leadership was marked by a period of outstanding creativity and growth. *Arden Court*, *Sunset*, *Last Look*, *Brandenburgs* and *Speaking in Tongues*, among many others were all created during his tenure.

His support for Paul Taylor never waned and he expanded his vision and leadership throughout the dance world in his years after Paul Taylor.

The Taylor organization and the world of dance have lost a great advocate.

**The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation, Inc.**

The Paul Taylor Dance foundation supports the Paul Taylor Dance Company and Taylor 2. Since its founding in 1954, the Company has performed in and continues to perform in more than 524 cities in 64 nations. Taylor 2, established in 1993, teaches, provides community outreach and ensures that Mr. Taylor's dances can be seen in smaller venues that are unable to accommodate the larger Company. Mr. Taylor has choreographed 144 dances – many of which have attained iconic status – and continues to create two dances each year. His celebrated autobiography, *Private Domain*, was published in 1987, and he was the subject of the 1998 Oscar-nominated feature-length documentary, "Dancemaker." A book of essays mostly for fun called *Facts and Fancies* was written by Mr. Taylor in 2013. Among the many accolades he has received are the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts.

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