



Graham Lustig
Artistic Director

Graham Lustig, an award winning, internationally recognized choreographer and teacher whose ballets have been performed on four continents, was named Artistic Director of the American Repertory Ballet and ARB's Princeton Ballet School in June 1999.

Since joining American Repertory Ballet Mr. Lustig has set his productions of *Cinderella*, *Borderlines*, *Uncertain Steps*, *The Shrew*, *Cadenza*, *Pas De Pizazz*, and *Paramour* for the company. He has also created four original works for the company, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Silkscreens*, *VISTA* and *Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker*.

His recent U.S. work includes *Stardust* to music by Mozart for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City, and his full-length *Peter Pan* was given its first US premiere by the Fort Worth Dallas Ballet Company with a commissioned score by Stewart Wallace.

Born in London, Mr. Lustig received his dance training at the Royal Ballet School. After graduation, he joined the Dutch National Ballet where he performed numerous leading roles. One of his first choreographed pieces, *Thanatos Instinct*, earned him a Dutch Ministry of Culture Award.

In 1980, he joined the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet (later to become the Birmingham Royal Ballet) where he danced as Principal Character Artist. During that time, he created four works for the company's repertoire, including *Inscape* (1990), for which he received the prestigious Laurence Olivier nomination. He also co-founded the independent company, Dance Advance, dedicated to new small-scale dance works and participated in a variety of educational and outreach projects organized by the Royal Opera House Educational Unit.

In 1987, he was awarded a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship enabling him to visit a variety of American dance companies over a ten-week period. He later returned to the States for summer residencies at the Carlisle Project's Choreography Program. Other dance companies quickly recognized his unique gift for choreography and began offering him commissions.

In 1989, he created the full-length *Peter Pan* for the Scottish Ballet. His work, *Across the Sky*, for the National Youth Dance Theatre, won third prize at the Cologne Choreographic Competition. He later created a series of works for Introdans, a contemporary Dutch company, including *Evening* (1989), *Asabiyya* (1991), *George's Day Out* (1992), and *Transit* (1993). His 1992 creation, *The Shrew*, received a Dutch Choreographic Award nomination.

In 1991, Mr. Lustig decided to focus primarily on choreography and dance education rather than performance. Sought after by companies as diverse as Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet West, Singapore Dance Theatre, Chautauqua Dance Festival, Hong Kong Ballet and the Sacramento Ballet, his choreographic style is not easily categorized. His repertoire ranges from the tongue-in-cheek sophistication of *Paramour*, inspired by the writings of Anais Nin, to the wildly imaginative, dramatically costumed *Pomp*, created for North Carolina Dance Theatre. Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* shared these words about his work, *Evening*: "The choreography is never less than eye-riveting: a fine ballet resonating with life's solitude." *The Washington Post* raved that his piece "*Transit* is, in short, a thoroughly bracing, absorbing and challenging new work."

The Washington Ballet chose him as its distinguished Choreographer-in-Residence in 1993. During his three-year tenure, he choreographed *Hearts of Light* (1994) and his works, *Evening* and *Transit* were performed at the Joyce Theatre in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and on tour. Among his numerous memorable creations is his 1996 modern retelling of *Cinderella* set to the Prokofiev music for the Singapore Dance Theatre, and *Medrano*, based on Picasso paintings of circus acrobats for American Ballet Theatre.

He has also worked in film and theatre through his collaboration with Christopher Nupen on the biographical film, *Tchaikovsky's Women*, as well as his involvement with the award-winning production about Isadora Duncan, *When She Danced*, for London's West End.

Mr. Lustig currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert McGee Foundation whose mission is to support the new choreographic projects of today's emerging choreographers. In 2003, Mr. Lustig was named as a charter member of the Artists Council for Americans for the Arts in Washington, DC. He was also asked to serve as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, 2003 Dance Grants and Policy panel.