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**DANCING IN THE STREETS ANNOUNCES TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP  
SIMON DOVE WILL BE THE EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
As of January 1, 2016**

Bronx, NY (9/9/15)—Dancing in the Streets is thrilled to announce that Simon Dove, a visionary arts leader, will take the organization's helm on January 1, 2016. Dove will succeed Aviva Davidson, who is retiring at the end of this year after 17 years as Dancing in the Streets' Executive and Artistic Director. Dove will continue and build upon Dancing in the Streets' Bronx-based programming, including the *South Bronx Culture Trail* in collaboration with Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education and *Make Mott Haven* in partnership with Casita Maria, SoBRO, NYCHA, and The Ghetto Film School. In addition, he will develop new projects through local and international collaborations that aspire to engender artistic exploration, deepen community engagement, stimulate cross-cultural dialogue, and broaden the platform for urban culture and for Dancing in the Streets.

"The Board of Directors is excited to support Simon as we enter a new phase in the organization's proud history of creating free adventurous performances in unexpected places," said Carl Stoll, Dancing in the Streets' board president. "As a social activist, arts impresario and innovator, Simon has an impressive track record of building deep, meaningful connections among artists, communities and a broad public, jointly exploring the role of arts and creative expression in the development of a healthy, vital society. We are grateful to Aviva Davidson for being a passionate steward for Dancing in the Streets, always bringing her powerful commitment to the potential of dance to build bridges, blur boundaries and celebrate the rich cultural contributions of the Bronx and many other New York City communities. She leaves the organization with so many strong partnerships and assets in place."

"This leadership position at *Dancing in the Streets* is immensely exciting," said Simon Dove. "The organization has an impeccable history of creating compelling performance work in vibrant community settings around New York City, as well as providing important platforms for many of the city's own Urban art forms. I look forward to broadening and deepening this work; developing new projects that can engage the diversity of New York's communities, further artists' creative practices in community contexts, and showcase the power, vitality and importance of urban cultures."

"Simon Dove is ideally suited to lead Dancing in the Streets towards its next stage of growth," said Aviva Davidson. "He has an expansive vision that combines a deep commitment to public art, urban dance, and meaningful community engagement. With his experience and vast network, I believe that he will make a significant contribution towards legitimizing and promoting street culture, and expanding Dancing in the Streets' impact in the Bronx and on the NYC, national, and international art worlds. And, besides, he is a pleasure to work with. Simon has an open and generous mind and is motivated by a profound spirit of inquiry."

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## ABOUT DANCING IN THE STREET

**Dancing in the Streets** was founded in 1984 by Elise Bernhardt. For the past 31 years, the organization has produced and presented over 500 FREE public performances by over 300 contemporary artists, including site-specific productions at spectacular urban sites by Meredith Monk, Ann Carlson, Eiko & Koma, Joanna Haigood, Steve Koplowitz, Tere O'Connor, Elizabeth Streb, and many others. In its early years, Dancing in the Streets fostered site-specific work as a public art form across New York City, the U.S. and overseas. Since 2001, the organization has become an urban pioneer, producing dance performances in unknown sites throughout the NYC metropolitan area, including the massive Port Authority Grain Terminal in Red Hook, the Tobacco Warehouse in Brooklyn Bridge Park, Fort Jay on Governors Island, Hangar B at Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field, and on the streets of the South Bronx.

In 1992, Dancing in the Streets began the 19-year Red Hook Initiative that included free public performances, including three site-specific productions, and community and educational programs developed in partnership with local arts, education, and community organizations. Since moving to the South Bronx in 2011, Dancing in the Streets produced multiple performances highlighting Bronx culture, including two large-scale productions by Joanna Haigood: the Bessie Award-winning *Paseo* with Latin music greats, such as Bobby Sanabria and Orlando Marin; and *The Bronx Revolution and the Birth of Hip Hop*, with *Kwikstep* and *Rokafella* and hip hop pioneers GrandWizzard Theodore, Grandmaster Caz, and Melle Mel. In 2014, Dancing in the Streets was invited by the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group on creating and running *It's Showtime NYC*, a new initiative that offers performance and professional development opportunities for street and subway dancers as a legal alternative to dancing on the subways.

## ABOUT SIMON DOVE

**Simon Dove** is an experienced arts leader, curator and educator, and currently co-curator of *Crossing the Line*, the annual trans-disciplinary fall festival in New York City. He was Professor of Practice and Director of the School of Dance at Arizona State University from 2007 to 2012. Simon Dove was Artistic and Executive Director of *Springdance*, the international festival of new developments in dance and performance in the Netherlands from 2000 to 2007. Prior to that he ran one of the first National Dance Agencies in the U.K, the Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds, was the founder and Artistic Director of *Vivarta* – the first contemporary South Asian performance festival in the U.K. He contributed to national dance policy development with the Arts Council of Great Britain, and programmed an innovative arts centre in London. He has also written for the Performance and South Asian press, devised and presented a series for BBC Radio 3 on Dance and Music, and extensively mentored students and professional artists from many countries in developing their creative practice.

### DANCING IN THE STREETS

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