

## EMBASSY OF FRANCE – PRESS RELEASE

# France Awards *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* to Dudley Andrew, Ella Baff and RoseLee Goldberg

**New York, December 12**—On Monday, December 10, Kareen Rispal, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of France, conferred upon Dudley Andrew, Ella Baff, and RoseLee Goldberg the French Order of Arts and Letters, in recognition of their contribution to the arts, and to the promotion of French culture in particular.

Dudley Andrew has led a distinguished career as a professor and writer passionate about French Cinema, Literature and Philosophy. After several years as a Professor of Critical Studies and the Director of the Institute for Cinema and Culture at the University of Iowa, he became a Professor of Film and Comparative Literature at Yale in 2000. Throughout his career, his contribution to scholarly reflection on cinema has been exceptionally profound, and his writings on Deleuze, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre have introduced their thinking on cinema to the U.S. Mr. Andrew, with his determination to see French cinema make inroads in the United States, is also one of the French Cultural Services' most active partners.

Early on, Ella Baff, convinced that art can better society, initiated innovative arts programs for disadvantaged groups, such as the disabled and juvenile offenders. In 1981, she became Program Director for Cal Performances at UC-Berkeley. In this role, she set out to bring a wider range of experience to her audiences, introducing them to many international works. Having long felt an affinity for France (“a place that enjoys irony and frisson”), she has a keen appreciation for French choreographers and dance groups, such as Marcel Marceau, Maguy Marin, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Kafig, and Aurelia Thierree... As the Executive Director of the Jacob's Pillow Festival since 1997, Ms. Baff has led America's oldest dance festival with a sure, practical hand and an ambitious vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On her watch, the festival has been an outstanding success.

RoseLee Goldberg is one of the most innovative art historians, curators and critics working today. As the Director of the Royal College of Art Gallery in London, she soon began bringing contemporary performance to wider audiences. After a stint teaching at Berlitz in Paris, Ms. Goldberg moved to New York where she became the curator of The Kitchen, making it one of the foremost multi-media venues worldwide. Her passion for cutting-edge performance art culminated in 2004 with the creation of PERFORMA. This arts organization and its biennial festival dedicated to live performance has exceeded all expectations and become the city's newest and most original event, introducing works from all around the world—including many from France—to U.S. audiences. An accomplished author, RoseLee Goldberg has several books and numerous articles to her credit, including *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present* (published in 1979), which has become the key text for teaching performance in universities and has been translated into more than 7 languages.

The *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* (Order of the Arts and Letters) was created in 1957 to recognize eminent artists and writers, as well as individuals who have contributed to the recognition of French culture in the world. The Order is given out twice annually to only a few hundred people worldwide. Several Americans have received the award, including Paul Auster, Ornette Coleman, Agnes Gund, Marilyn Horne, Jim Jarmusch, Richard Meier, Robert Paxton, Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Uma Thurman.

### ***For more information:***

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