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**Riolt Dance NY Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center
Tuesday, Nov. 17**

For immediate release:

Nov. 5, 2015



Mesa, AZ – Founded in 1994, RIOULT Dance NY fast became an established name in modern dance with reputation for presenting the sensual, articulate, and exquisitely musical works of Pascal Riolt. The dance company will perform at Mesa Arts Center Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling (480)-644-6500.

A former principal with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Riolt is celebrated for his bold and unexpected interpretations of great musical scores. Since starting his own company, Riolt has dedicated his energies to developing his own choreographic style and nurturing a robust ensemble of dancers. Of his work, *Black Diamond*, Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* wrote, "...he has met the challenge of comparison with George Balanchine."

A former track and field athlete in France, Riolt came to the United States on a fellowship from the French Ministry of Culture to study modern dance in 1981. After performing with the companies of May O'Donnell and Paul Sanasardo he was invited to join the Martha Graham Dance Company. He interpreted many of the most prestigious roles in the Graham repertory as a principal dancer, and in 1990, Ms. Graham created the central role (Death Figure) in her ballet *Eye of the Goddess* for him. Riolt performed opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov and Joyce Herring in *El Penitente* and was featured in two television specials: "Martha Graham in Japan" and "Five Dances by Martha Graham," filmed at the Paris Opera.

Riolt's works have been commissioned by the American Dance Festival; Cal Performances Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA; the Ballet du Nord in Roubaix, France; the Geneva Ballet, Switzerland; The Orchestra of St. Luke's; the Gordon & Harriet Greenfield Foundation; the Grand Marnier Foundation; the Théâtre de Saint Quentin en Yvelines France; Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA; and Marymount Manhattan College; among others. He is a two-time recipient of the Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography.

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).