The choreographer William Forsythe will join the University of Southern California’s Glorya Kaufman School of Dance as a professor in fall 2015, the university announced on Wednesday. The American-born Mr. Forsythe, who has lived in Germany for most of his career and currently heads his own troupe, the Forsythe Company, is widely recognized as one of the most important choreographers working today, with an influence that spans the worlds of ballet and contemporary dance.

Mr. Forsythe, 64, has long been interested in teaching, creating “Improvisation Technologies,” an instructional CD-ROM, in 1999, and Synchronous Objects, a computer program that functions as an analytic tool for looking at dance pieces, at Ohio State University in 2009. He also taught at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts and initiated an educational project in Rio de Janeiro for children from the favelas.

The Kaufman School of Dance, founded in 2012 with a gift from the philanthropist Glorya Kaufman, is still under construction and will comprise a 55,000-square-foot complex of studios and lecture halls; the first Bachelor of Fine Arts dance majors will begin at the same time as Mr. Forsythe, who will spend six to eight weeks a year at the university.

He will teach the new undergraduates as well as graduate students from the university’s International Artist Fellows program, focusing on choreographic process and composition. In a telephone interview, he said that he was also excited by the potential for cross-disciplinary collaboration with the university’s schools of
music and cinema, and its Brain and Creativity Institute. The University of Southern California plans to establish a choreographic institute in the coming years, with Mr. Forsythe as its artistic adviser.

“Throughout his career, he has worked closely with composers, architects, philosophers, digital animators and sport scientists. Our strengths as a university match his strengths as an artist, and we are thrilled for him to join our faculty,” Robert Cutietta, dean of the Kaufman School, said in a news release. Mr. Cutietta appointed Mr. Forsythe together with the vice dean and director of the school, Jodie Gates, a former dancer with Mr. Forsythe’s Ballet Frankfurt.

Mr. Forsythe said that he was planning to spend more time in the United States beginning in late 2015, with a new director appointed to determine the artistic direction of the company he currently runs. “It will be a new company within the existing infrastructure,” he said. “I will be there to help the transition, but also have the chance to take on new projects.”