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**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL WELCOMES CAMP BROADWAY
FOUNDED BY BROADWAY ICON IDINA MENZEL**

**GROUP WILL SEE THE WORK OF MODERN DANCE PIONEER TRISHA BROWN
AND LEARN ABOUT THE PILLOW'S LONGSTANDING CONNECTIONS
TO BROADWAY, JAZZ DANCE, AND MUSICAL THEATRE**

August 12, 2011 – (Becket, MA) This week, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival will host thirty-one young girls from Camp BroaderWay, founded by Broadway icon Idina Menzel, for a group visit. This educational outing will include a Trisha Brown Dance Company performance, a guided tour of the Pillow's National Historic Landmark site, observation of The School at Jacob's Pillow Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program students and faculty in class and rehearsals, and access to a number of free talks and art and photography exhibits. This visit is a unique opportunity for the campers to learn about the intersection of dance and musical theatre, and to experience the work of modern dance pioneer Trisha Brown and her legendary dance company.

A Broader Way Foundation was established in 2010 by husband-and-wife team Idina Menzel (*RENT*, *Wicked*) and Taye Diggs (*RENT*, *Private Practice*) as a means of supporting young people in the arts. The organization sponsors camp programs, theatre workshops, and educational programming and offers scholarships and opportunities for young people to experience professional performances. In 2011, they also founded Camp BroaderWay which welcomes young girls from underserved metro New York communities to a 10-day performing arts camp, run by Menzel and a team of Broadway artists, such as Jeanine Tesori (*Shrek the Musical*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*), the 2011 Creative Director. Thirty-one girls, all entering 7th grade, are currently attending camp in the Berkshires.

Pillow Connections: Broadway and Beyond

Jacob's Pillow is known as a mecca of dance in the United States. Broadway legends such as Jack Cole, Agnes de Mille, and Jerome Robbins were involved at the Pillow early in their careers, and genre-crossing artists such as Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharp, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mark Morris, Savion Glover, Bill Irwin, and Bill T. Jones have had significant involvements over the years. Additionally, countless Broadway gypsies, Tony Award-winners, and theatre

choreographers have studied at The School at Jacob's Pillow. The Pillow's all-inclusive philosophy positions ballet, modern, tap, and all other forms of dance on equal footing.

The School at Jacob's Pillow **Jazz/ Musical Theatre Dance Program** is directed by Artistic Director of WALKERDANCE and *Fosse* conceiver Chet Walker. Along with a number of veteran Broadway artist such as Bill Hastings and current Broadway performers such as Brad Musgrove, artist faculty create original works on students and coach dancers in movement and vocal performance skills. Daily classes include dance technique in a variety of forms along with group and private vocal training sessions with Broadway performers Ric Ryder and Teri Ralston. Afternoon and evening dance rehearsals are held in collaboration with professional musicians, and seminars in audition and career-building are led by artist faculty. Excerpts of work learned each week are performed alongside a live band August 6, 13, and 20 as part of the Inside/Out performance series.

2011 marks the 5th anniversary celebration of *A Jazz Happening*. Established in 2007 as a benefit event for The School at Jacob's Pillow, *A Jazz Happening* highlights students of the Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program after three weeks of intense study and preparation. They perform alongside award-winning guest celebrities and a live band in an evening of works directed by Chet Walker. Every year, one to two accomplished alumni of The School are invited to return as guest performers in *A Jazz Happening*. This year's alumni guests include 2010 Tap and Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program alumnus Caleb Teicher, a 2011 Bessie Nominee for Outstanding Individual Performance, and Emanuel Abruzzo, performer with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and WALKERDANCE. Proceeds benefit The School at Jacob's Pillow.

About Camp BroaderWay: A BroaderWay Foundation was established in 2010 by Idina Menzel and Taye Diggs as a means of supporting young people in the arts. A BroaderWay sponsors camp programs, theater workshops, innovative educational programming and offers scholarships and opportunities to experience professional performances.

In 2011, Camp BroaderWay welcomes young girls from underserved metro New York communities to a 10-day performing arts camp, run by Idina Menzel and a team of acclaimed professional Broadway artists, such as Jeanine Tesori, the 2011 Camp BroaderWay Creative Director. Camp BroaderWay's focus is self-expression, empowerment, leadership development, and traditional camp fun. The summer program will culminate with an original camper-created performance on a New York City stage.

Jacob's Pillow, celebrating its 79th anniversary in 2011, is a National Historic Landmark and home to America's longest running international dance festival. The **Festival** includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and 300 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, exhibits, and events. **The School at Jacob's Pillow**, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S., encompasses the diverse disciplines of Ballet, Cultural Traditions, Contemporary, and Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance, as well as an Intern Program in various departments of arts administration and production. The Pillow's extensive **Archives**, open year-round to the public, chronicle more than 80 years of dance in photographs, programs, books, costumes, audiotapes, and video. Year-round **Community Programs** enrich the lives of children and adults through public classes, residencies in area schools, and more than 200 free public events. Through *Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion®*, a

nationally-recognized program, artist-educators work with Berkshire County teachers and students grades K-12, transforming existing curricula such as biology, literature, and history into kinesthetic and creative learning experiences. Choreography commissions; **Creative Development Residencies**, in which dance companies are invited to live and work at the Pillow and enjoy unlimited studio time; and the annual \$25,000 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award all support visionary choreographers. **Virtual Pillow** is aimed at expanding global audiences for dance and offers the opportunity to experience dance and Jacob's Pillow from anywhere in the world via online interactive exhibits, global video networks, and mobile social media. As part of the Virtual Pillow initiative, **Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive**, an online video collection of dance highlights from 1937 through 2010, is a new resource with a curated selection of videos by artists who have performed at Jacob's Pillow over the past seven decades. On March 2, 2011, President Obama honored Jacob's Pillow with a National Medal of Arts, the highest arts award given by the United States Government. Jacob's Pillow is the first dance presenting organization to receive this prestigious award.

As of July 31, 2011, support for Jacob's Pillow has been provided by: Arch W. Shaw Foundation; Asian Cultural Council; The Barrington Foundation; Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation through the Berkshire Hills Fund for Excellence and The Central Berkshire Fund; Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; Frances Alexander Family Fund; The Marshall Frankel Foundation; Harkness Foundation for Dance; Korean Cultural Service, New York; The Kresge Foundation; *Leading for the Future Initiative*, a program of the Nonprofit Finance Fund, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; The Leir Charitable Foundations, In Memory of Henry J. Leir; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York; The National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts; The New York Community Trust -Wallace Special Projects Fund; Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York; Bessie Pappas Charitable Foundation; Princeton University; The Prospect Hill Foundation; Neal Rantoul Foundation; Jerome Robbins Foundation; The SHS Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; Spingold Foundation, Inc.; The Thompson Family Foundation; and The T. Backer Fund; Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; MassDevelopment; National Endowment for the Arts; Pittsfield Cultural Council. ALEX®; Berkshire Bank; Cranwell Resort and Spa; Greylock Federal Credit Union; Legacy Banks Foundation; LEGO Children's Fund; The Pilgrim Inn; Super 8 Motel Lee; TD Bank Charitable Foundation; and Wheatleigh. Jacob's Pillow is also grateful to its Members and Business Alliance for their ongoing support.

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