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**A JAZZ HAPPENING BRINGS
BROADWAY PIZAZZ TO THE BERKSHIRES**

**A ONE-NIGHT-ONLY
BENEFIT FOR THE SCHOOL AT JACOB'S PILLOW**

August 16, 2011 (Becket, MA) – The fifth annual *A Jazz Happening* will take place this week in the Ted Shawn Theatre at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival on August 21 at 8pm. This one-night-only benefit event celebrates the enduring style of jazz and musical theatre dance as participants from The School's Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program perform alongside an exciting lineup of guest Broadway stars. All proceeds from this event support The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the United States.

This year's 24 Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program participants hail from Argentina, Japan, Norway, France, Italy, and Sweden with current artistic affiliations ranging from The Royal Swedish Ballet School and Bårdar Akademiet, to New York University Tisch School of the Arts and Steps on Broadway. *A Jazz Happening* is the culmination of three weeks of rigorous dance and vocal training under the direction of Program Director Chet Walker, conceiver of the Tony Award-winning hit *Fosse*.

***A Jazz Happening* guest performers to date include** Trent Kowalik (*Billy Elliot*), Dana Moore (*Fosse*), and Andy Gale (*Les Miserables*). Trent Kowalik is famous for his lead role as Billy in *Billy Elliot: The Musical* in London and opening night on Broadway. In 2009, at age fourteen, Kowalik received a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical, The Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award, The Astaire Award, The Theatre World Award, and the Theater

Fans Choice Award. Broadway veteran and longtime faculty member of The School at Jacob's Pillow, Dana Moore has performed in numerous shows across Broadway and the world, including *A Chorus Line* (Sheila), *The Will Rogers Follies* (Z's Favorite), *Sweet Charity* (the Ponytail Girl), *Singin' in the Rain*, *Fosse*, and *Dangerous Games*. Andy Gale, an original cast member of the first national tour of *Les Miserables*, has performed in the international tour of *The Secret Garden*, the national tour of *CATS*, and on Broadway in *Rags*. Gale is also renowned for his work as a director, including staging the Australian premiere of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

Talented alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow Caleb Teicher and Emanuel Abruzzo are also featured as guest performers. Caleb Teicher is an outstanding tap dancer, choreographer, founding member of Dorrance Dance, and a 2011 Bessie Nominee for Outstanding Individual Performance. Emanuel Abruzzo, Assistant to Program Director Chet Walker, is currently a member of WALKERDANCE and performed at Jacob's Pillow with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo in 2010. He has also performed with Julio Bocca's Ballet Sub-16, Les Ballets Grandiva, Baardar Danseteater, Cuba Ballet Rosario, and Compañía Internacional de Teatro Musica.

Longtime Broadway performers, choreographers, and directors Bill Hastings, Brad Musgrove, Patricia Wilcox, and Chet Walker have choreographed original numbers for this year's *A Jazz Happening*. Bill Hastings is a veteran artist who has appeared in over fifty musicals and plays on Broadway and in national touring productions such as *A Chorus Line*, and has choreographed for more than forty productions for European, Japanese, and United States venues. Brad Musgrove has appeared in the original casts of three Tony Award-winning shows including *The Producers*, *Fosse*, and *La Cage aux Folles*, as well as in productions of *42nd Street* in Paris and Vienna, *Cats* in Hamburg, and *Anything Goes* in Berlin. Patricia Wilcox is on faculty at Steps on Broadway, and her choreographic and performance work spans concerts, musicals, plays, television, opera, motion capture, ice dance teams, and the Olympics.

Ric Ryder, Vocal Coach for the Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program, also performs. Ryder has appeared in *Grease*, *The Music Man*, and *Blood Brothers* on Broadway and is an active voice-over talent for TV, radio, and film. *A Jazz Happening* also features a live jazz band led by Rick Hip-Flores, Music Director for the Program, with drummer Aaron Russell who was the

percussionist on the U.S national tours of Broadway musical *Evita* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The 2011 *A Jazz Happening* program is dedicated to Tony Stevens, a choreographer, director, dancer, and Pillow faculty member who recently passed away. A beloved Broadway performer, Steven's late night recorded talk sessions were used by choreographer and director Michael Bennett to create the Pulitzer Prize-winning phenomenon *A Chorus Line*. Stevens was a faculty/guest artist choreographer for The School at Jacob's Pillow in 1999 and 2001, in addition to teaching the master class for The School's New York City auditions.

This year marks **Chet Walker's** twelfth year as Director of The School at Jacob's Pillow's Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program and fifth year directing *A Jazz Happening*. Walker has performed on Broadway since the age of sixteen, appearing most prominently in the Bob Fosse musicals *The Pajama Game*, *Pippin*, *Dancin'*, and *Sweet Charity*. An international director and choreographer, his nonprofit jazz dance company WALKERDANCE performed at the Pillow in 1999, 2001, and 2004. He conceived the choreographic collaboration *The Seven Deadly Sins*, which premiered at the Pillow in 2001. This spring, his company participated in a Creative Development Residency at Jacob's Pillow to work on *The Jack Cole Project*. Over the past year Walker created *La Cage aux Folles* in Brazil, *Jazz On Jazz* in Norway, and *Triumph* at the Las Vegas Hilton. He also served on the jury for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts YoungArts Week in Miami and Expression '11 in Florence, Italy, and led residencies at the University of Tulsa and in Houston. Walker has served as a Cultural Envoy for the U.S. State Department Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs in Serbia and Italy.

Proceeds from ticket sales for ***A Jazz Happening*** will support programs of The School at Jacob's Pillow. The School was established in 1934, just one year after the Festival itself, when Ted Shawn began teaching classes with his company of Men Dancers. Shawn's comprehensive educational approach in creating The School arose from his full embrace of all dance forms and continues to this day, through four professional advancement programs which include Ballet, Contemporary, Cultural Traditions, and Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance.

The School at Jacob's Pillow prepares pre-professional and professional dancers for the demands of a dance career. The curriculum offers conservatory-style training led by acclaimed faculty members six days a week. Dancers also prepare work for weekly showings for the

Inside/Out performance series every Saturday evening at 6:15pm and special events such as the Season Opening Gala and *A Jazz Happening*.

The School's curriculum also includes the opportunity to watch rehearsals and performances of professional dance companies performing at the Festival, attend PillowTalks given by the field's leading artists, authors, and scholars, and study in the Pillows' extensive Archives of videos, books, photographs, and other materials. Students learn career-building strategies, performance skills, and the history of their particular field while also deepening their personal artistry. More than 3,500 dancers audition across the U.S. and Europe, with only 100 dancers accepted to The School each year. Over half of these students require and receive scholarships made possible in part by benefit events, such as *A Jazz Happening*.

Alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow include MacArthur "Genius" Grant-winner Meredith Monk; Artistic Director of the Royal Danish Ballet and former New York City Ballet principal dancer Nikolaj Hübbe, who served as a faculty member for the 2008 Ballet Program; and *So You Think You Can Dance* judge and choreographer Mia Michaels. Alumni are frequently seen performing and choreographing at Jacob's Pillow, on Broadway, in films, and with leading dance and touring companies worldwide, including American Ballet Theatre, Batsheva, Het Nationale Ballet, Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris Dance Group, Munich Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza, San Francisco Ballet, Twyla Tharp, Trisha Brown Dance Company, and Cirque du Soleil.

For more information on The School at Jacob's Pillow Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance Program and Jacob's Pillow, visit jacobspillow.org.

Performance and Ticket Information

Ted Shawn Theatre

Sunday, August 21, 8pm

- Tickets are \$75 or \$100. \$100 tickets include a post-show reception catered by DreamAway Lodge with the evening's performers. All proceeds benefit The School at Jacob's Pillow. Tickets now on sale online at jacobspillow.org, via phone at 413.243.0745 or in person at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office.
- Box Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 10am-6pm, Wednesday through Saturday 10am-8pm, and Sunday 11am-5:00pm.

Pillow Members receive exclusive benefits. To become a Member call 413.243.9919 x125.

Jacob's Pillow is located at 358 George Carter Road in Becket, MA, 01223 (10 minutes east on Route 20 from Mass Pike Exit 2). The Jacob's Pillow campus and theaters are handicapped-accessible.

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 28, 2011, support for Jacob's Pillow has been provided by:

Foundations: The American-Scandinavian Foundation; 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; Bessie Pappas Charitable Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Frances Alexander Family Fund; Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; Harkness Foundation for Dance; Jerome Robbins Foundation; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; 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; The Marshall Frankel Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; The National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NDP is supported by lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation, and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust); Neal Rantoul Foundation; The New York Community Trust - Wallace Special Projects Fund; The O'Neill Foundation; Princeton University; The Prospect Hill Foundation; Québec Delegation to New England; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; The Royal Norwegian Consulate General, New York; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; Spingold Foundation, Inc.; The Thompson Family Foundation; and The T. Backer Fund. **Government:** The Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a Program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council; Mass Humanities, State-based Affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Pittsfield Cultural Council. **Corporate:** ALEX®, Berkshire Bank; Clark and Green; Cranwell; Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation; LEGO Children's Fund; The Pilgrim Inn; Super 8 Motel Lee; and Wheatleigh. Funding for Inside/Out has been provided, in part, by Greylock Federal Credit Union, The Legacy Banks Foundation, and The TD Charitable Foundation. **Endowment:** The Barrington Foundation, Inc.; The William Randolph Hearst Foundation; The Leir Charitable Foundations, In Memory of Henry J. Leir; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Onota Foundation; The Prospect Hill Foundation; *Talented Students in the Arts Initiative*, a collaboration of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Surdna Foundation; and Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Jacob's Pillow is also grateful to its Members and Business Alliance for their ongoing support.

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