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JACOB'S PILLOW PRESENTS *KYLE AND CAMILLE* AS FESTIVAL FINALE**AN EXCLUSIVE, WORLD PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT****WITH CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHERS KYLE ABRAHAM AND CAMILLE A. BROWN**

August 17, 2011– (Becket, MA) Kyle Abraham and Camille A. Brown, two of New York's most talked-about choreographers and breakout hits of the 2010 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, return to the Pillow for an exclusive collaborative engagement August 24-28 in the Doris Duke Theatre. Both young, innovative, and highly-regarded artists in their own right, this event marks their inaugural choreographic and programmatic collaboration. Described as a "pixie-ish powerhouse with the determined air of a high priestess" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Brown pairs up with Abraham, a dancer of "equal parts power and grace" (Steve Sucato, *Dance Magazine*), in this unique and unparalleled program. They each perform with their own outstanding ensembles, Abraham.In.Motion and Camille A. Brown and Dancers, and then join forces for the world premiere of a collaborative duet, *How We Process*.

"I invited these two thrilling dancer-choreographers to create a show to premiere at the Pillow," comments Ella Baff, Executive and Artistic Director of Jacob's Pillow. "Kyle and Camille and their respective companies have performed here during the past several years and won audiences over with powerful dancing and smart choreography. I wanted to take things a step further, and thought it would be doubly rich to have these two stars-on-the-rise collaborate on a new, exclusive show."

Described as a "fabulous performer" by Wendy Perron, Editor-in-Chief of *Dance Magazine*, Camille A. Brown "turns sexy into funny and eccentric." The program opens with Brown's *Been There Done*

That, originally co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow and created in part through a Creative Development Residency at the Pillow 2010 (see below for more information on CDRs). A 1930s-style duet for Brown and dancer Juel D. Lane, jazz-era costumes highlight Brown's urban movement vocabulary as the dancers challenge the traditionally voiceless nature of dance performance. Through strong characterizations set to music by Nancy Wilson and The New York Allstars, the work transforms into a "virtuoso comic argument" (Leigh Witchel, *The New York Post*).

Kyle Abraham's *The Quiet Dance* exemplifies his "commanding presence onstage, silky smooth...transitions and impulses even when he's lashing his arms, whipping his legs around his body or convulsing his torso" (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*). A quartet echoes his movement accompanied by slow, jazzy piano music by Leonard Bernstein, demonstrating Abraham's "roomy and various...way with dance—elastic and electric, luxuriantly rippling, poetically arranged with moments of perfect stillness that arrive amid splashes of expression" (Eva Yaa Asantewaa, *Dance Magazine*).

Brown's *City of Rain* illustrates "a lovely lyricism" (Apollinaire Scherr, *The Financial Times*) with changing geometric lines amidst precise, eye-catching patterns and "an abundance of invention" (Kathleen O'Connell, *Dance View Times*). Set to Jonathan Melville Pratt's original driving piece for strings, the genuinely abstract *City of Rain* illustrates Brown's style which "communicates purposeful urgency as much as unbound exhilaration" (Jennifer Brewer, *The Portland Press Herald*).

Live! The Realest MC features excerpts from Abraham's new ensemble work, a re-imagined version of the story of Pinocchio in an urban setting. Inspired by the duality of Pinocchio's plight to be a "real boy," *Live!* delves into themes of gender, racial identity, community, and acceptance. Dressed in a blue track suit, Abraham seems to exemplify the stereotypical urban man, full of attitude and swagger. Hip hop, modern, and ballet fuse together in sections of incredibly fast movement juxtaposed with isolations, leaps, and twirls. Says Eva Yaa Asantewaa of *Dance Magazine* on Abraham's unique style, "His choreography wriggles energy through the body, stretches it, suspends it, unleashes it. Control alternates with abandon, infirmity with unbeatable vigor, abstraction with pinpoint-fine character drawing."

Camille A. Brown and her personality-packed ensemble also present excerpts from *Mr. Tol E. Rance*. In this new work, Brown and her dancers tell the stories of the first generations of African-American performers on Broadway. *Mr. Tol E. Rance* draws on the universal themes of personal identity and past struggles still present in current social dynamics. This highly collaborative work blends and contrasts contemporary and historical forms of dance – ragtime and hip hop, minstrelsy

and break dancing. The work features a narrative by J. Michael Kinsey, an original ragtime composition by Brandon McCune, an electronic hip-hop piece by Jonathan Melville Pratt, and animation by Isabella de Santos.

The program concludes with *How We Process*, a world premiere by Brown and Abraham, commissioned by the Pillow and created during a week-long Creative Development Residency at Jacob's Pillow during May of 2011. This new work features music by Shafiq Husayn, along with costume design by Kristi Wood and lighting by highly regarded designer Philip Treviño.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Artistic Director Kyle Abraham's **Abraham.In.Motion** is an ensemble of dancers from diverse personal and professional backgrounds, performing work rooted in his own life experiences. As a choreographer, Abraham uses his training in ballet, modern, and hip-hop dance as well as classical music to create investigations of human behavior and emotion through sleek, athletic movement. His work often focuses on provocative themes such as race, gender identity, and sexuality, and is often very personal in nature. *Amsterdam News* notes that "his esthetic is about art...and the result is that his work has a very strong identity and is not race dependent." Listed as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2009, Abraham has been heralded by *OUT Magazine* as one of the "best and brightest creative talents to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama." He previously performed at the Pillow as part of the Inside/Out performance series in 2009. Abraham presented the world premiere of his work *Op. 1*, co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow and created in part during a Pillow Creative Development Residency, in a varied contemporary program in the Doris Duke Theatre in 2010.

Called a "tour de force" and "magisterial" by *The New York Times*, **Camille A. Brown** has been commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street II, Urban Bush Women, Ailey II, Ballet Memphis, and Philadanco. Her work is characterized by shifting dynamics, play with levels, and particular attention to detailed movements of the hands. A former member of Ronald K. Brown/Evidence and one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2006, Brown was the first woman to win the Princess Grace Award for Choreography. She has also received a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a Presidential Scholarship in the Arts Award. Brown has performed several times at the Pillow: she appeared with Evidence in 2002 and 2005, and in a collaborative performance entitled *This Woman's Work* as part of the Inside/Out performance series in 2004. Her work *Girlz Verse 1* was commissioned by and premiered at Jacob's Pillow in 2010. Both Brown and Abraham participated in a Creative Development Residency at Jacob's Pillow in May of 2011.

The Creative Development Residency Program is part of Jacob's Pillow's longstanding core mission to support artists and their development; in fact, the Pillow was originally founded as an

artists' retreat. The program serves as a signature of the Pillow's artistic point of view and underscores its commitment to expand horizons, both of choreographers and audiences. During Creative Development Residencies, artists are invited to spend one to three weeks at the Pillow creating or rehearsing new work, with free housing for the company, unlimited use of studio space, and access to the Archives and other Pillow resources. In the quiet off-season atmosphere of Jacob's Pillow, the residencies are rare opportunities for artists to focus on the creative process without distraction. Each Creative Development Residency concludes with an invitation-only work-in-progress showing during which artists receive valuable creative feedback from audience members.

Kyle Abraham and Camille A. Brown will lead a free Master Class on Sunday, August 28 for intermediate and advanced dances ages 16 and older. Pre-registration is required; for more information, call 413.243.9919.

Please see below for a full listing of ticketed and free events for the week of August 24-28.

Performance and Ticket Information

Doris Duke Theatre

Wednesday, August 24 through Saturday, August 27 at 8:15pm

Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28 at 2:15pm

- **Free Pre-Show Talks** with Jacob's Pillow Scholars-in-Residence are offered on the Doris Duke Theatre porch 30 minutes before every performance.
- **Tickets \$ \$34.50-37.50.** Now on sale online at jacobspillow.org, via phone at 413.243.0745, or in person at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office.
- **Under 35 Fridays:** As part of the Pillow's younger audiences initiative, \$19 Under 35 tickets (for individuals 35 and younger) are available for the Friday evening performance of Kyle and Camille. Limit two (2) per person, must be under 35 to purchase, and must show valid I.D. when tickets are picked up. Under 35 ticket holders will also receive a Blue Q bonus bag.
- **Box Office hours:** Monday through Thursday 10am-6pm, Wednesday through Saturday 10am-8pm, and Sunday 12pm-5:30pm.

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.

Free Events at the Pillow August 24 – August 28

Free Inside/Out Performance - Urbanity Dance

Marcia & Seymour Simon Performance Space

Wednesday, August 24, 6:15pm

Alumna of The School at Jacob's Pillow Betsi Graves presents *Little Blue Dot*, exploring how the GPS separates us from others, and *Little Black Dress*, a young girl's coming-of-age story told through contemporary ballet.

Free PillowTalk Discussion - Mark Morris on Annie Leibovitz

Thursday, August 25, 5pm

The Mark Morris Dance Group's 30th anniversary provided the impetus for the current Annie Leibovitz exhibition, and here it all comes together. This candid conversation with Mark Morris himself will cover the working relationship of these two popular and provocative artists and consider the remarkable results.

Free Inside/Out Performance - CONTINUUM Contemporary/Ballet

Marcia & Seymour Simon Performance Space

Thursday, August 25, 6:15pm

The company presents its signature work, *The Four Seasons*, set to the classic Vivaldi music, in a ballet that surveys the passage of time and the feelings of each season.

Free Inside/Out Performance - John Heginbotham

Marcia & Seymour Simon Performance Space

Friday, August 26, 6:15pm

A dancer with Mark Morris Dance Group, Heginbotham presents a miniature dance battle set to techno beats in *throwaway*, and in *Closing Bell*, four dancers bounce and flow to a soundtrack reminiscent of a child's video game.

Free PillowTalk Discussion and Film Screening - Visualizing Music

Saturday, August 27, 4pm

Musicologist Daniel Callahan has created an extraordinary new film reconstruction of a work for Ted Shawn's Men Dancers, unseen in its original form for more than seventy years. Set to Dvořák's "New World Symphony," this film screening prompts a discussion of the relationship between music and dance.

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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