

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**JUNE 18: JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL SEASON OPENING GALA
WELCOMING NEW DIRECTOR PAMELA TATGE**

**GALA PROGRAM INCLUDES ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET, DORRANCE DANCE, AND
2016 JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE AWARD RECIPIENT CAMILLE A. BROWN**

What: Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2016 will officially commence with its 84th Season Opening Gala on Saturday, June 18, welcoming new Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. Tatge officially began her tenure on April 18; the Gala will be her first major Pillow event.

The 2016 Season Opening Gala Co-Chairs are Joan Hunter and Sienna Patti.

A cocktail reception will kick off the event, along with an exclusive preview of the exhibition *Lois Greenfield: Moving Still*, celebrating the recent work of a singular artist who has defined dance photography for decades.

The Gala performance in the historic Ted Shawn Theatre will feature a variety of extraordinary artists and choreographers, as well as a world premiere choreographed by former Boston Ballet principal dancer Yury Yanowsky, performed by the Ballet Program of The School at Jacob's Pillow. The Gala program will also include the thrillingly talented dancers of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in a pas de deux from Gerald Arpino's flirtatious *Light Rain*. MacArthur "Genius" Award and 2013 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient Michelle Dorrance will perform an excerpt of *ETM: Double Down* with her company Dorrance Dance. The evening will also include outdoor pop-up performances by Bridgman | Packer Dance in *TRUCK*, an unconventional fusion of dance and video projection.

In its 10th anniversary year, the prestigious 2016 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award will be presented by new Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge to Camille A. Brown, artistic director of Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Brown and Astaire Award recipient Catherine "Cat" Foster will perform a duet from Brown's newest acclaimed work *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, which will appear in the 2017 Festival. The Jacob's Pillow Dance Award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted cash prize, a Creative Development Residency at the Pillow, an upcoming Festival engagement, and the Award itself created for the Pillow by noted Berkshire-based artist Tom Patti.

The Gala performance will be followed by live and silent auctions, a three-course dinner by Max Ultimate of Boston, and dancing with jazz, swing, and soul band Bev Rohlehr and the Colbys, as well as DJ BFG.

Silent auction items include Broadway tickets, season-long reserved seating for Inside/Out performances, a photo session with Festival photographer Christopher

Baggage, original artworks, as well as other one-of-a-kind experiences tailor-made for dance aficionados.

When: Saturday, June 18 at 5pm

Tickets and Tables: Tickets and tables are available now. Silver level tickets are \$375 with tables at \$3,500; Gold level tickets are \$575 with tables at \$5,500; Platinum level tickets are \$775 with tables at \$7,500; Diamond level tickets are \$1,000 with tables at \$10,000. Order online at jacobspillow.org or call 413.243.9919 x126 to place your order by phone. For questions, please email Leslie Appleget at lappleget@jacobspillow.org.

Where: Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA.

ABOUT: Jacob's Pillow, celebrating its 84th Festival in 2016, is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, 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 Musical Theatre Dance, as well as an Intern Program in various disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production. The Pillow's extensive Archives, open year-round to the public, chronicle more than a century of dance in photographs, programs, books, costumes, audiotapes, and videos. Year-round Community Programs enrich the lives of children and adults through public classes, residencies in area schools, and an extensive schedule of 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 curricula such as biology, literature, and history into kinesthetic and creative learning experiences. Creative Development Residencies, in which dance companies are invited to live and work at the Pillow and enjoy unlimited studio time; choreography commissions; and the annual \$25,000 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award all support visionary dance artists and choreographers. The Pillow's digital initiatives are 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 social media. An important part of the Pillow's digital presence, Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive is a curated online video collection of dance highlights from 1933 to today. 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, making the Pillow the first dance presenting organization to receive this prestigious award. For more information, visit www.jacobspillow.org.

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