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ANNOUNCING FIVE FESTIVAL 2017 ARTISTS**

November 15, 2016 – (Becket, MA) Following the record-breaking success of Festival 2016 and in the midst of a robust artist residency season, Jacob's Pillow Dance is planning its momentous 85th Anniversary Festival. In advance of its full season announcement in December, the Pillow reveals five artists being presented during Festival 2017: powerhouse ballet company Miami City Ballet will kick off the 85th Anniversary Season in the Ted Shawn Theatre; legendary modern dance ensemble Paul Taylor Dance Company will return to the Pillow with a program of audience favorites; UK-based artist Aakash Odedra will perform the enchanting solo *Rising* with choreography from a roster of acclaimed international artists; 2016 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient Camille A. Brown and her company Camille A. Brown & Dancers will perform her newest work *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*; and Japanese-born artist Eiko Otake will create and perform a site-specific piece during a limited engagement on the Pillow grounds.

"We are thrilled to offer a sneak peek of what's to come in the 85th Anniversary Season," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge, who joined the organization in April of 2016. "The Pillow tradition continues in presenting the leading dance artists from the U.S. and abroad, as well as important performances that occur in conversation with the Pillow's remarkable physical site."

Described as "bold, light, immediate, intensely musical" (Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*), **Miami City Ballet** opens the 85th Anniversary Season in the Ted Shawn Theatre, June 21-25. The works on the program exhibit the company's wide range and prowess, including master choreographer George Balanchine's challenging and technically precise *Allegro Brillante* set to Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky's energetic "Third Piano Concerto No. 3". The program also includes Tony Award-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon's elegant *Polyphonia*, danced to György Ligeti's complex and dissonant score. Other works to be announced.

Often lauded for its “youth, vitality, good cheer and a sense of adventure” (Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*), **Paul Taylor Dance Company** returns to the Pillow for a special 85th Anniversary Season engagement in the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 12-16. Led by the vision of renowned modern dance choreographer Paul Taylor, the company has performed at the world’s leading venues, and is a Berkshires audience favorite with their Pillow debut in 1964 and annual performances at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in nearby Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The company’s program at the Pillow will feature a roster of classic works, including the exuberant and romantic *Esplanade*, set to two Johann Sebastian Bach concertos. Other works to be announced.

“Simply breathtaking” (Paula Citron, *The Globe and Mail*) British artist **Aakash Odedra** makes his Pillow debut with his captivating solo work *Rising* in the Doris Duke Theatre, July 19-23. A contemporary dancer with roots in the classical Indian dance styles of Kathak and Bharatnatyam, Odedra is known for his mesmerizing agility and “ecstatic joy in dancing” (Brian Seibert, *The New York Times*). His work *Rising* features his own choreography and work from acclaimed international artists: British choreographer Akram Khan, recipient of the International Society of the Performing Arts Distinguished Artist Award; 2014 Laurence Olivier Award recipient Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui of Belgium; and Sadler’s Wells Associate Artist Russell Maliphant of the UK.

Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award recipient Camille A. Brown and her company, **Camille A. Brown & Dancers**, will present her evening-length work New York Dance and Performance (“Bessie”) nominated *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* in the Ted Shawn Theatre, August 9-13. Set to live music, the work explores childhood innocence and the maturation of the Black female through “a common language formed from play, musicality, and empathy” (Eva Yaa Asantewaa, *Time Out New York*). “A storyteller with many stories to tell” (Janine Parker, *The Boston Globe*), Brown is a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow, 2014 Bessie Award recipient, 2015 USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, 2015 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, 2015 TED Fellow, a four-time Princess Grace Award recipient, and a three-time recipient of New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project support, among many other accolades.

In an exclusive one-day-only engagement, Japanese-born artist **Eiko Otake** will perform *A Body at the Pillow*, a site-specific solo performance on the historic grounds of Jacob’s Pillow on Saturday, July 22. The work is the newest installment of Eiko’s *A Body in Places* series, which includes performances in train stations, warehouses, and libraries, as well as the irradiated Fukushima, Japan. Praised for her “unassailable intensity”, Eiko is able to “radiate both frailty and abandon” (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*) in her performances. Eiko's appearances at

the Pillow as Eiko & Koma date back to the early 1990s. Their work has been presented at prestigious venues including The Joyce Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and a month-long living exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. In addition to her Anonymous was a Woman Award, Eiko's solo work at Danspace Project's PLATFORM received a special citation at the 2016 New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards.

ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW: Jacob's Pillow, celebrating its 85th Festival in 2017, 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. 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 Pillow's rare and extensive Archives and other Pillow resources. In the beautiful, retreat-like atmosphere of the Pillow, the Creative Development Residencies are rare opportunities for artists to focus on the creative process without distraction. Notable artists who have created or premiered dances at the Pillow include choreographers Antony Tudor, Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, Donald McKayle, Kevin McKenzie, Twyla Tharp, Ralph Lemon, Susan Marshall, Trisha Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Wally Cardona, Andrea Miller, and Trey McIntyre; performed by artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carmen de Lavallade, Mark Morris, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Edward Villella, Rasta Thomas, and hundreds of others. 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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