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**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE AND MASS MoCA CO-PRESENT
BILL T. JONES AND OKWUI OKPOKWASILI IN RESPONSE TO NICK CAVE'S *UNTIL*
MARCH 4 AND APRIL 7 AT MASS MoCA**

January 30, 2017 – (North Adams, MA) Cultural partners Jacob's Pillow Dance and MASS MoCA present two solo works created in response to and performed within Nick Cave's monumental exhibition *Until*, currently installed in MASS MoCA's largest gallery. Iconic choreographer and Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient Bill T. Jones will perform on March 4 at 8pm; choreographer, writer, actress, and New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award recipient Okwui Okpokwasili will perform on April 7 at 8pm. Co-presentations by Jacob's Pillow Dance and MASS MoCA are made possible by the Irene Hunter Fund for Dance.

"When I first heard about Nick Cave taking over Building 5 with *Until*, I immediately thought of Bill and what it would be like to have him perform in that world," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "I'm also excited to introduce Berkshire audiences to Okwui Okpokwasili, and her stunning movement and text-based work. Both of these artists will give us singular perspectives on the issues raised in this groundbreaking exhibition."

"Nick and Bill T. have been speaking for years about finding a way to work together," remarks MASS MoCA Curator Denise Markonish. "We're thrilled that *Until* gives them this opportunity—and to our friends at Jacob's Pillow for helping us bring these two artists together."

Lauded for his "transcendent artistry" (Wyatt Mason, *The New York Times*), master choreographer and performer Bill T. Jones is the director of New York Live Arts and was named "An Irreplaceable Dance Treasure" by the Dance Heritage Coalition in 2000. Actor, dancer, choreographer, and writer Okwui Okpokwasili is praised for her kinesthetically powerful and "ruthlessly clean and clever" (Helen Shaw, *TimeOut New York*) work. Each artist will perform a world premiere, solo work in dialogue with Cave's *Until*, taking place within the exhibit in Building 5 at MASS MoCA.

In the sweeping exhibition *Until*—a play on the phrase "innocent until proven guilty," or in this case "guilty until proven innocent"—Cave addresses issues of gun violence, gun control policy, race relations, and gender politics in today's America. Sprawling throughout the massive Building 5 space, the exhibition is comprised of 16,000 wind spinners; millions of plastic pony

beads; thousands of ceramic birds, fruits, and animals; 13 gilded pigs; more than 10 miles of crystals; 24 chandeliers; 1 crocodile; and 17 cast-iron lawn jockeys. Noted as Cave's largest, most political, and most personal work to date—and drawing record crowds since its October 16 opening—the exhibition is intended as both art and stage. Dancers, singer-songwriters, pop artists, poets, and composers of world renown have been invited to perform in the space, which has welcomed and continues to host community events, including panel discussions, forums, theater, music making, and other forms of creative public debate and engagement.

CONNECTIONS

Bill T. Jones holds a long and rich history with Jacob's Pillow Dance and MASS MoCA. Jones' company Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company made its Pillow debut in 1989 and performed most recently in 2012. Jones has been performing at MASS MoCA since 1999, including 2004 co-presentation with Jacob's Pillow. In addition to receiving the 2010 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, Jones has participated in the Pillow's Creative Development Residency Program. Jones also narrated the Jacob's Pillow documentary, *Never Stand Still*, released in 2012. Most recently Jones took part in Nick Cave's *Convening* at MASS MoCA, when cross-disciplinary performance artists came together to reflect on and begin cultivating a performative response to Cave's exhibition.

ABOUT NICK CAVE

Born in Fulton, Missouri and currently based in Chicago, Nick Cave is an American fabric sculptor, dancer, performance artist, and director of the graduate fashion program at School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Cave is best known for his "Soundsuits"—surreally majestic objects blending fashion and sculpture—that originated as metaphorical suits of armor in response to the Rodney King beatings which have evolved into vehicles for empowerment. Cave regularly performs in the sculptures himself, and works with choreographers, dancers, and amateur performers to produce lavish community celebrations in untraditional venues for art. The "Soundsuits" are also displayed in exhibitions as static sculptures, arranged as groups of figures in formation that are striking in their diversity and powerful stance. Cave's sculptures also include non-figurative assemblages, intricate accumulations of found objects that project out from the wall, and installations enveloping entire rooms.

Cave's awards and residencies include the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2008), Artadia Award (2006), Joyce Award (2006), Creative Capital Grant (2004, 2002), and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2001). Cave has had major exhibitions at Cranbrook Art Museum (2015); Saint Louis Art Museum (2014-15); ICA Boston (2014); Denver Art Museum (2013); Fabric Workshop and Museum (2011-12); Seattle Art Museum (2011); and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (2009), among others. Cave holds a MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from Kansas City Art Institute.

ABOUT BILL T. JONES

Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient Bill T. Jones is a master choreographer, dancer, theater director and writer, and has received major honors ranging from a 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award to Kennedy Center Honors in 2010. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2009. His ventures into Broadway theater resulted in a 2010 Tony Award for Best Choreography in the critically acclaimed *FELA!*, which was co-conceived, co-written, directed and choreographed by Mr. Jones. He also earned a 2007 Tony Award for Best Choreography in

Spring Awakening as well as an Obie Award for the show's 2006 off-Broadway run. His choreography for the off-Broadway production of *The Seven* earned him a 2006 Lucille Lortel Award.

In addition to creating more than 140 works for his own company, Jones has been commissioned to create dances for several modern and ballet companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Boston Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, and Berlin Opera Ballet, among others. Jones directed and performed in a collaborative work with Toni Morrison and Max Roach, "Degga" (1995), at Alice Tully Hall, which was commissioned by the Lincoln Center's Serious Fun Festival. His collaboration with Jessye Norman, "How! Do! We! Do!" (1999), premiered at New York's City Center. In 2010, Jones was named executive artistic director of New York Live Arts formed by a merger of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and Dance Theater Workshop.

ABOUT OKWUI OKPOKWASILI

Okwui Okpokwasili is a writer, performer, and choreographer. In partnership with collaborator Peter Born, Okpokwasili creates multidisciplinary projects that are raw, intimate experiences. As a performer, Okpokwasili frequently collaborates with director and choreographer Ralph Lemon, including *Come Home, Charley Patton* (2006), for which she won a "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Performer; *How Can You Stay in the House All Day and Not Go Anywhere?* (2010), a duet performed at the Museum of Modern Art as part of On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century (2011); and *Scaffold Room* (2014). Okpokwasili has appeared as an actor in many productions including Richard Maxwell's *Cowboys and Indians* (1999), Richard Foreman's *Maria del Bosco* (2001), Kristin Marting's *Sounding* (2009), *Joan Dark* (2009), Young Jean Lee's *Lear* (2010), Nora Chipaumire's *Miriam* (2012), and Julie Taymor's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013). Film credits include *The Interpreter* (2005), *The Hoax* (2006), *I Am Legend* (2007), Knut Åsdam's *Abyss* (2010), and *Malorie's Final Score* (2013).

Okpokwasili's *pent up: a revenge dance* (2008) premiered at Performance Space 122 and received a 2010 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Production. An immersive installation version of the work was featured in the 2008 Prelude Festival. Her FCA-supported *Bronx Gothic* received a 2014 "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Production, and continues to tour nationally and internationally. An early iteration of FCA-supported *Poor People's TV Room* was presented by the Lincoln Center in the David Rubenstein Atrium in 2014.

Okpokwasili has received awards from The French American Cultural Exchange, a Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography Choreographic Fellowship (2012), a New York Foundation for the Arts' Fellowship in Choreography (2013), and was an artist-in-residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Okpokwasili received her B.A. from Yale University in 1996.

The Irene Hunter Fund for Dance

Through the financial support of the Irene Hunter Fund for Dance, Jacob's Pillow Dance and MASS MoCA continue to co-present performing arts programming, a partnership established before the museum was opened in 1999. The Pillow played a pivotal role in establishing MASS MoCA as a performing arts presenter, and sponsored events at the museum site as early as 1995. In the spirit of deep collaboration, this partnership creates opportunities for visual and

performing artists by encouraging cross-disciplinary experimentation; cultivates new dance audiences in the Berkshires by presenting innovative, high-quality performances; and expands the public's understanding of the creative process. Past co-presentations include Kyle Abraham/Abraham.in.Motion., Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, STREB, MOMIX, DanceBrazil, Stephen Petronio Company, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Armitage Gone! Dance, Cuba's Los Muñequitos de Matanzas, Chunky Move, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Shen Wei Dance Arts, KEIGWIN + COMPANY, Kimberly Bartosik, Katie Workum, ZviDance, and Richard Move

Performance and Ticket Information

Bill T. Jones*: Saturday, March 4 at 8pm; Building 5 at MASS MoCA.

Okwui Okpokwasili: Saturday, April 7 at 8pm; Building 5 at MASS MoCA.

*This performance is currently sold out. To be placed on a waiting list, please call 413.662.2111 x1.

Ticket prices:

\$30 General Admission, \$20 Students, \$5 MASS MoCA members

To order tickets: 413.662.2111 x1 or massmoca.org

MASS MoCA is located at 1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA 01247.

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.

ABOUT MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making, displaying, and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. MASS MoCA will nearly double its gallery space in spring 2017, with artist partnerships that include Laurie Anderson, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, Jenny Holzer, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and James Turrell.

Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under through May 21, 2017. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally, spring – fall. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Hours

11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays

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