

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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85TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, JUNE 21-25**

May 25, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Miami City Ballet returns to Jacob's Pillow for the first time since 1998, to open the Festival's 85th Anniversary Season June 21-25, in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez, a former New York City Ballet principal dancer who later directed The George Balanchine Foundation, the company performs a program with a trio of works by master ballet choreographers,

"It was important for us to open the 85th Anniversary Festival with a premier American ballet company that is quite simply making great work right now under the stellar leadership of its Artistic Director, Lourdes Lopez," comments Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "It's been nearly 20 years since Pillow audiences have had the opportunity to see Miami City Ballet. Their rich programs will showcase the dancers' virtuosity and musicality. We're so excited to welcome them back!"

The company's Pillow program opens with *Allegro Brillante*, choreographed in 1956 by New York City Ballet co-founder George Balanchine. Balanchine once called the exuberant *Allegro Brillante* "everything I know about classical ballet in thirteen minutes." Danced to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 3, Op. 75," the ballet is one of Balanchine's most joyous, pure dance pieces, characterized by precise dancing and expansive romanticism. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Balanchine (1904-1983) is regarded as the foremost contemporary choreographer in the world of ballet. He co-founded NYCB with Lincoln Kirstein in 1948 and created more than 400 works in his lifetime.

Peter Martins's *Barber Violin Concerto* contrasts a classical couple with a bare-footed couple as the worlds of ballet and modern dance collide. Peter Martins, a Danish dancer, choreographer, and New York City Ballet Ballet Master in Chief since 1983, created this work to composer Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto, Opus 14." The ballet, which Martins choreographed for NYCB's American Music Festival in 1988, features one pair of classical dancers and one pair of modern dancers.

The program concludes with *Polyphonia*, choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon. Regarded as one of Wheeldon's breakthrough contemporary works, *Polyphonia*'s eight dancers perform to 10 piano pieces by Hungarian avant-garde composer György Ligeti, performed live. Wheeldon received the London Critics' Circle Award for best new ballet and an Olivier Award for best new dance production for *Polyphonia*. Born and raised in the U.K., Wheeldon danced with the Royal Ballet before joining New York City Ballet at the age of 19. He became NYCB's first resident choreographer in 2001 and has choreographed for Broadway, The Metropolitan Opera, and for the world's most prominent companies including The Royal Ballet, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, and The Joffrey Ballet.

Two company members will also perform *Carousel Pas de Deux* by Sir Kenneth MacMillan, June 17 at the Pillow's Season Opening Gala.

About Miami City Ballet

Founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and founding Artistic Director and ballet legend Edward Villella, Miami City Ballet is admired as one of the world's preeminent interpreters of the choreography of George Balanchine. Its repertory of 100 ballets, including twelve world premieres, was built upon the Balanchine repertory, style, and technique and then expanded to include beloved classical works of importance and exciting new choreography by contemporary and groundbreaking artists. MCB has toured

extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Its *Pillow* debut was in 1988, with an immediate return the following summer as well as in 1996 and 1998.

The company's 2016 debut at Lincoln Center was hailed by the press as a resounding success; *The New York Times*' Alastair Macaulay wrote "Of all the ballet troupes who have visited the Koch in recent years, none looks so truly and completely a company."

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez was recruited to direct the company in 2012. She is one of the few female artistic directors leading a major ballet company in the U.S. Born in Cuba, Lopez joined New York City Ballet in 1974, dancing for two ballet legends: Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. She eventually became a principal dancer in 1984 and retired from performing in 1997. After her retirement she became a journalist and a dance educator. She later joined The George Balanchine Foundation as Executive Director and co-founded Morphoses with Christopher Wheeldon in 2007. She was serving as the sole director of Morphoses when it made its *Pillow* debut in 2012.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Miami City Ballet, *Square Dance*, 1989: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/miami-city-ballet/square-dance/>

Performance & Ticket Details

Miami City Ballet at Jacob's Pillow

Ted Shawn Theatre, June 21-25

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2pm

\$78, \$65, \$45

A limited number of \$35 Under 35 tickets are available; adults ages 18-35 are eligible. One ticket per person; each guest must show valid I.D. when picking up tickets at Will Call.

Tickets are on sale now; online at jacobspillow.org, and via phone 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Jonah Bokaer Choreography

June 21-25, Doris Duke Theatre

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

Hailed as "a visionary investigator who has redefined visual art and dance" (*Vogue Italia*), choreographer, artist, and alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow Jonah Bokaer brings his sleek, elegant aesthetic to the Doris Duke Theatre. His largest production to date *Rules Of The Game* (2016) is set to an original score by GRAMMY Award-winning artist Pharrell Williams for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, co-composed by David Campbell, with set design by visual artist and frequent collaborator Daniel Arsham. The program will also include Bokaer's solo *Study for Occupant* (2012), and the trio work *OCCUPANT* (2013). Tickets start at \$25.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive: Jonah Bokaer in 2011 in *Why Patterns*:

<http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jonah-bokaer/why-patterns/>

Pilobolus

Inside/Out Performance Series, June 21-23

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 6:15pm

Free Event

Celebrating the power of Jacob's Pillow's pastoral setting, internationally acclaimed dance company Pilobolus will premiere a new work commissioned specifically for the Pillow's iconic outdoor Inside/Out Stage, set against the Berkshire hills. The world premiere will kick off the Festival's free 2017 Inside/Out Performance Series with an extended three-day run. "Pilobolus has always made our work in a rural environment, often looking to nature

as a guiding reference for our imagination. That connection makes this commission a fitting way to commemorate the history of Pilobolus at the Pillow on the occasion of its 85th Anniversary,” says Pilobolus Executive Producer Itamar Kubovy.

Related video on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive: Pilobolus in *Ocellus* in 1985:
<http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/pilobolus/ocellus/>

Class with Inside/Out Artist: Artists of Pilobolus

Thursday, June 22, 3:30pm

Ruth St. Denis Studio

The artists of legendary company Pilobolus explore new ways of moving in this class. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org.

PillowTalk: *Liz Lerman: Dance For Our Time*

Friday, June 23 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

Free Event

2017 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award winner and trailblazing choreographer Liz Lerman considers dance to be a vehicle for insight and understanding, and she shares her vision in this intimate conversation.

PillowTalk: *Pilobolus: Then & Now*

Saturday, June 24 at 4pm

Blake’s Barn

Free Event

Internationally acclaimed Pilobolus made its Jacob’s Pillow debut in 1974 and has a deep Pillow history. The company returns this season with a new work commissioned especially for Inside/Out, which will be presented for three performances June 21-23. This talk explores the commission and other notable ventures.

Sunday Master Class with Festival Artist: Jonah Bokaer Choreography

Sunday, June 25, 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Jonah Bokaer Choreography will teach a 90-minute master class open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and over. Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org. Quiet observation is welcome; \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob’s Pillow Ballet Program

Saturday, June 24 at 6:15pm

Free Event

Dancers of The School’s Ballet Program are pre-professionals, apprentices, trainees, and early career professionals with leading ballet companies from around the world. They perform solos, pas de deux, and ensemble variations from classical ballets as well as a new work created on them for the 85th Anniversary Gala by choreographer Bruce Wells. Directed by acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and mentor Anna-Marie Holmes, the dancers have been coached by Arlene Minkhorst, Director of Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and Sharon Story, Ballet Mistress and Dean of the Centre for Dance Education at Atlanta Ballet, with class accompaniment by pianist John Sauer and Program Music Director Ramona Pansegrau. Dancers attend all Festival events, including weekly career-building interactions with Festival Ted Shawn Theatre and Doris Duke Theatre performers.

FESTIVAL 2017 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES – ONGOING

The following exhibits and offerings are free and open to the public June 19 through August 27, 2017.

JACOB’S PILLOW JUMPS

Blake’s Barn

Open Wednesday-Saturday noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sunday-Tuesday noon to 5pm

Free Offering

Celebrating 85 Jacob's Pillow seasons, this exclusive new collection of original images connects today's artists with the pioneering dancers of yesteryear. From John Lindquist's iconic photos of the Men Dancers to Christopher Duggan's current season image of Camille A. Brown—with scores of others in between—these dancers truly soar.

INSIDE THE DANCER'S ART

Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby

Open Wednesday-Sunday, noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm)

Free Offering

In her thirty-year career of photographing and interviewing veteran and emerging dancers, Rose Eichenbaum has elicited eloquent, poetic, and insightful descriptions of the inner world of the dancer's life and art. This exhibit encompasses highlights from her new book for Wesleyan University Press, *Inside the Dancer's Art*, including many Jacob's Pillow images.

MAIRA KALMAN'S PRINCIPLES OF UNCERTAINTY

Doris Duke Theatre Lobby

Open Wednesday-Sunday, noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm)

Free Offering

In tandem with her Dance Heginbotham collaboration, *The Principles of Uncertainty*, premiering at the Pillow August 23-27, one-of-a-kind artist and author Maira Kalman shares some favorite images in this exhibition, created especially for Jacob's Pillow. Both whimsical and brilliant, Kalman's work explores the intersections of dance, life, and art in unexpected ways.

JACOB'S PILLOW ARCHIVES/NORTON OWEN READING ROOM

Blake's Barn

Open daily, Wednesday-Saturday noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sunday-Tuesday noon to 5pm

Free Offering

This newly-expanded informal library and reading room allows impromptu visitors to view videos, browse through books, access the Pillow's computer catalog, or peruse permanent collections of Pillow programs and photographs from the Pillow's Archives. The Norton Owen Reading Room also features recent donations and more archival treasures from the Stephan Driscoll Collection. Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive, available on a popular touch-screen kiosk in the Reading Room, provides instant access to rare film clips ranging from the present day back to the 1930s.

ONLINE EXHIBIT: JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE INTERACTIVE

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org

This ever-expanding website allows new dance lovers and aficionados to enjoy highlights from the past 84 seasons of Pillow performances, anytime and anywhere. Discover video excerpts from artists including Savion Glover, Martha Graham Dance Company, Carmen de Lavallade, Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Michelle Dorrance, and Pillow founder Ted Shawn and his Men Dancers, among countless others. A recent expansion features a series of multimedia essays from renowned dance scholars on three distinct themes: Tap, Women in Dance, and Dance of the African Diaspora. This newly-launched editorial platform features more than 30 essays on topics richly archived and relevant to conversations surrounding today's dance field. Each essay includes archival materials of various media, including video interviews with artists, scans of original printed programs, photographs, and rare performance excerpts, resulting in an expert-led tour through the extensive Archives.

FESTIVAL 2017 COMMUNITY CLASSES – ONGOING

Morning Classes

Ruth St. Denis Studio

June 5-August 25, Monday-Friday at 8am

Open to all experience levels, Jacob's Pillow Morning Classes take place each weekday morning in the historic Ruth St. Denis Studio on the Jacob's Pillow grounds. The class schedule includes Pilates with Pilates Certified instructor Sean P. Gallagher on Mondays; African Dance with Marilyn Sylla and live drumming by Jamemurrell

Stanley on Tuesdays; Ballet with Ian Spencer Bell and Sharon MacDonald on Wednesdays; Zumba with Ilana Siegal on Thursdays; and Modern with varied Guest Artists including Paul Dennis, Ryoko Kudo, and Adam H. Weinert on Fridays. Other guest artists to be announced. All participants must be age 16 and over; \$10 per class or \$55 for a 6-class card. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian signature on a liability waiver.

Families Dance Together

Bakalar Studio

July 7-August 18, Fridays at 5pm

Led by Pillow Artist-Educator Jeff Bliss, this intergenerational class is a unique opportunity for children and adults to experience the joy of creating simple dances together. Families Dance Together is for children ages 5-18, accompanied by an adult. Participants under 18 years require a parent/guardian signature on liability waiver. Classes are \$5 per adult and \$1 per child. *Families Dance Together is a Jacob's Pillow/Becket Arts Center collaboration. Call 413.623.6635 to pre-register.*

TALKS, TOURS, OBSERVATION – ONGOING

Pre-Show Talks

30 minutes prior to every performance

Free Offering

Pillow Scholars offer helpful insight prior to every performance; located in Blake's Barn for Ted Shawn Theatre shows and on the Doris Duke Theatre porch for Duke shows.

Post-Show Talks

Thursday and Friday, immediately following the performance

Free Offering

Pillow Scholars moderate entertaining and informative discussions with dancers, directors, and choreographers; offered Fridays for Ted Shawn Theatre performances and Thursdays for Doris Duke Theatre performances.

Observe Dancers of The School

Monday-Saturday, check jacobspillow.org or onsite signage for specific times

Sommers Studio

Free Offering

Festival visitors are welcome to observe dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow in classes and rehearsals.

Guided Tours

Thursday and Saturday at 5:30pm

Free Offering

Visitors can learn about the history and legends of Jacob's Pillow, a National Historic Landmark, on guided tours of the grounds. Self-guided tour maps are also available in the Welcome Center.

Jacob's Pillow Year Round

Beyond its summer festival, Jacob's Pillow is an active year-round organization. Through **Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion®**, a nationally-recognized program, Artist Educators work with Berkshire County teachers and students grades K-12 to transform curricula such as biology, literature, and history into kinesthetic and creative learning experiences. 2016-2017 Curriculum in Motion® residencies are taking place at Conte Community School, Becket Washington Elementary, and Monument Mountain Regional High School. **Creative Development Residencies** take place at the Pillow throughout the year. Dance artists are invited to live and work at Jacob's Pillow for one to three-week residencies and during that time they are given a stipend, housing, and unlimited access to rehearsal space, the Archives, and staff support. During the 2016-2017 season, Netta Yerushalmy, Ephrat Asherie & Ehud Asherie, Marsha Parrilla, Ronald K. Brown & Arturo O'Farrill, David Dorfman, dendy/Donovan projects, Camille A. Brown, Joanna Kotze, and John Heginbotham & Maira Kalman are all participating in Pillow Creative Development Residencies. The annual \$25,000 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award supports visionary dance artists and choreographers with a residency, performance at the Season Opening Gala, among other engagements. **Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive** (<http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/>) is the Pillow's online platform for videos and digital dance resources and remains active every day of the year, encompassing a wide range of Festival artists and video content from the 1930s to 2016 with new content added each month. The Jacob's

Pillow **Intern Program** is also active year-round, offering hands-on work experience to college students and recent graduates seeking a deeper education within arts administration and production. At the same time, **The School at Jacob's Pillow** is hosting international auditions and workshops and planning its national audition tour, which will kick off in January in Miami. The School at Jacob's Pillow is a leading center for professional advancement; each year thousands of dancers audition and apply and only 100 are selected to participate in one of four programs in Ballet, Contemporary, Tap, and Musical Theatre Dance. The international students of The School are immersed in Festival life as they take class, attend seminars, and learn classic and new dance work from today's greatest choreographers, mentors, directors, musicians, and Broadway performers.

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. 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. On March 2, 2011, President Barack 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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