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**JONAH BOKAER CHOREOGRAPHY OPENS JACOB'S PILLOW
85TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON IN THE DORIS DUKE THEATRE, JUNE 21-25**

May 25, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Choreographer, dancer, and multimedia artist Jonah Bokaer will open Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival's 85th Anniversary Season in the Doris Duke Theatre, June 21-25. This aesthetically-refined, contemporary program includes Bokaer's newest work, *Rules Of The Game*, set to an original, first-time-dance score by ten-time GRAMMY Award-winning artist Pharrell Williams, arranged and co-composed by David Campbell, with playful and surprising architectural elements by visual artist Daniel Arsham, who celebrates a decade of collaborating with Bokaer. Celia Wren of *The Washington Post* calls Bokaer a "daring contemporary choreographer who's known for interdisciplinary experiments and especially for collapsing the distance between the dance and gallery/museum worlds."

"Jonah is a masterful choreographer, equally at home in the gallery or museum as he is on the concert stage," comments Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "He's highly skilled in how he thinks about the body moving through space, and how to integrate the visual. *Rules of the Game* is the stunning culmination of his collaboration with Daniel Arsham. In *OCCUPANT*, we'll have the opportunity to see the brilliance of Jonah, the dancer, which is how the Pillow first came to know him as a student at our School. He was the youngest dancer to ever join Merce Cunningham Dance Company, I wanted audiences to have the opportunity to see him interpret a very different work."

The dialogue between Tatge and Bokaer began around the *Rules Of The Game* premiere at the BAM Opera House in 2016. Bokaer recounts, "Pamela...chose to engage so thoughtfully with my work, as to conceive of a new programmatic combination. It was this approach which led my company to recombine this evening and its program specifically for Jacob's Pillow. As a childhood alum of The School, I hold Jacob's Pillow in my heart."

Rules Of The Game (2016), a work for eight dancers, is inspired in part by the 1921 Luigi Pirandello play of the same title, a landmark theatrical work about the relationship between authors, their characters, and the actors who portray those characters. The original symphonic score was co-composed by Pharrell Williams and composer and conductor David Campbell, who arranged it for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra--the stage work *Rules Of The Game* is the exclusive venue for which this recording can be experienced. The work is directed and choreographed by Bokaer, with scenography by Daniel Arsham. Siobhan Burke of *The New York Times* describes, "Mr. Arsham's striking, high-definition backdrop, a film featuring ceramic basketballs and classical busts that float through darkness like celestial bodies, colliding and shattering." Arsham had previously collaborated with the singer-songwriter, rapper, and producer Williams, but prior to this work, Williams had never collaborated on a dance or performance piece in this way.

The program also includes the trio *OCCUPANT*, preceded by a solo for Bokaer, *Study For Occupant*, both scenic collaborations with Daniel Arsham. Minimal and mesmerizing, these works were also inspired by a dramatic work for stage: in this case, a play by Edward Albee of the same name, whose limited-edition text was a gift from legendary artist Jasper Johns to Bokaer. *OCCUPANT* has been presented all over the world including The Fabric Workshop & Museum in Philadelphia; The Spoleto Festival in Italy; The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami; and the Monodramas Festival of Luxembourg. Multimedia collaborators for this work include scenographer Arsham, sound designer Jesse Stiles, dramaturg Gavin Kroeber, and composer Ryoji Ikeda (Dataplex). Inclusion of these works with *Rules Of The Game* results from a unique curatorial dialogue between Pamela Tatge and Jonah Bokaer.

New York-based Daniel Arsham is a celebrated contemporary visual artist; his work straddles art, architecture, and performance. He was the youngest artist invited to collaborate with choreographer Merce Cunningham, and realized one of the set designs for eyeSPACE in 2007. He is a graduate of The Cooper Union in New York City. In addition to Merce Cunningham (2007-2009) and Jonah Bokaer (2007-present), he has collaborated with artists such as Hedi Slimane, Robert Wilson, and Richard Chai. Architecture is a prevalent subject throughout his work; he draws inspiration from environments with eroded walls, stairs going nowhere, nature overriding structures, and works with a general sense of playfulness within existing architecture. Structural experiment, historical inquiry, and satirical wit are all combined in Arsham's ongoing interrogation of the real and the imagined. His work has been shown at MoMA PS1, Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art, The Athens Biennial, The New Museum in NYC, Le Carré d'Art de Nîmes, and other venues.

About Jonah Bokaer Choreography

Tunisian-American choreographer Jonah Bokaer has been active as a choreographer and exhibiting artist since 2002. The creator of 57 works in a wide variety of media (dances, videos, drawings, motion capture works, interactive installations, mobile applications, and film), Bokaer's work has been produced in venues around the world, including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, BAM Next Wave Festival, Festival d'Avignon, Spoleto Festival, La Triennale di Milano, and SOLUNA International Music & Arts Festival. Bokaer has performed at the Guggenheim Museum, MoMA PS1, and The New Museum in New York City. He was awarded a Young Leader of the French American Foundation, for founding Chez Bushwick in 2002 and co-founding Center for Performance Research (CPR) with John Jasperse in 2008. Bokaer has collaborated with artists including Lynda Benglis, Anne Carson, Merce Cunningham, Robert Gober, Anthony McCall, Tino Sehgal, Lee Ufan (Guggenheim Retrospective 2011), and Robert Wilson (2007-Present). As choreographer for Robert Wilson, he has completed six operas, including *Faust* (Polish National Opera), *Aida* (Teatro dell'Opera di Roma), and *On The Beach* (Baryshnikov Arts Center). Bokaer has collaborated with visual artist Daniel Arsham on nine full-length works since 2007. In 2015 he received the United States Artists Fellowship in Choreography (Ford Foundation), was named a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow in Choreography, and in 2016 won Italy's Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship, in the Visual Arts category. In 2016, he was confirmed as one of the Resident Fellows at NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Jonah Bokaer is an alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow; he participated in the Visions of Jazz Workshop in 1998. He performed at the 2003 Festival, with Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and his own works were presented in the Doris Duke Theatre at Festival 2011 and 2012.

Related videos on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Jonah Bokaer, *Why Patterns*, 2011: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jonah-bokaer/why-patterns/>

Jonah Bokaer, *Curtain*, 2012: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jonah-bokaer/curtain/>

Performance & Ticket Details

Jonah Bokaer Choreography at Jacob's Pillow

Doris Duke Theatre, June 21-25

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

A limited number of \$20 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, via phone at 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Miami City Ballet

June 21-25, Ted Shawn Theatre

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2pm**

Described as “bold, light, immediate, intensely musical” (Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*), Miami City Ballet opens the 85th Anniversary Season in its first Festival appearance since 1998. Works on the program exhibit the company’s wide range and prowess, including master choreographer George Balanchine’s exuberant 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 eerily melodious score and Peter Martins’s contrasting *Barber Violin Concerto*, a work for two couples: one classical ballet and the other modern dance. Tickets start at \$45.

Related video on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive: Miami City Ballet in *Square Dance* in 1989:
<http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/miami-city-ballet/square-dance/>

**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.

**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.

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.

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, denny/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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