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[awood@jacobspillow.org](mailto:awood@jacobspillow.org)**JACOB'S PILLOW ENTERS 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH A RENEWED FOCUS ON COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION**

May 18, 2017 – (Becket, MA) The 2017 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, celebrating the organization's 85th Anniversary Season, is the first programmed exclusively by new Director Pamela Tatge. In addition to exciting programming featuring world premieres, commissions, site-specific work, international artists, live music, and Pillow-exclusive engagements, Jacob's Pillow has a renewed approach to year-round collaboration with and investment in the Berkshire County-area community.

Tatge has deep experience in creating engaging, educational, and inclusive arts programming, having spent 16 years as Director of the Center for the Arts at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, overseeing robust programming in music, dance, theater, and visual arts. As part of this role, she led the development of the university's Green Street Arts Center, a community arts center established in 2005 to serve as an anchor to revitalization efforts in Middletown's North End. Tatge joined Jacob's Pillow in April 2016; later that year the Pillow created a new department dedicated to Community Engagement, and has recently invested in numerous new events and programs.

"Jacob's Pillow's future success depends, in part, on the strength of its civic leadership and its relationship to Berkshire region," says Tatge. "We have created a multi-layered program to engage our region's audiences in dance, while at the same time experimenting with ways to remove barriers to engaging local audiences here at the Pillow. It is our hope that Pillow Pop-Ups, community dances, and participatory workshops will bring the community-building power of dance into our region in new and transformative ways."

**New community engagement initiatives** include the following events and programs:

- A Pillow-curated dance series presented at every Third Thursday street festival in Pittsfield, May through September, with performances by Ephrat Asherie Dance, Throwdown Dance Collective, Eiko Otake, Stilo Dance, and the Akwaaba Traditional African Drum & Dance Ensemble.
- A May 13 Latin Dance Party with members of Ballet Hispanico at Shire City Sanctuary in Pittsfield. Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro led a Latin dance class followed by an evening of social dance with live music by Latin band Los Hacheros.

- A showing of *Mr. Gaga* at the Berkshire International Film Festival, introduced by Pillow Director Pamela Tatge, June 4 at 11:30am, Triplex Cinema. The film will also be shown at Jacob's Pillow, July 23 at 4:30pm.
- A pre-Festival Community Day, on June 10, noon–3pm. Community Day is a family-friendly afternoon of free dance classes taught by local and regional dance artists; dance-themed children's activities and tours; and performances on the Inside/Out stage by Berkshire County and regional studios and companies.
  - Participating ensembles include The Hatchery/School of Contemporary Dance and Thought (Northampton); The Funkbox Studio (Pittsfield); Berkshire Pulse (Housatonic); Limon Repertory performed by Ryoko Kudo (Otis); The Moving Company (Great Barrington); Terpsichore Irish Step Dance Company (Pittsfield); Moving Arts Exchange (Great Barrington); Barbie Diewald Choreography (Northampton); Berkshire Choreography Project (Great Barrington); and WOFA Dance and Drumming Ensemble of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (South Hadley).
- A team of teens from the Housatonic-based "Greenagers" program will work with the Pillow's Facilities department to rehabilitate the Pillow's Wetlands Trail.
- A free community engagement residency in Pittsfield with Camille A. Brown & Dancers, June 26-30. The residency will include a series of workshops and events for youth, teens, and adults to engage with artists Francine E. Ott, Maria Monge, and Camille A. Brown in social dance practices, with a focus on engaging the local African American community, especially young women of color from the city of Pittsfield.
- Participation in the Lift Ev'ry Voice Bi-Annual Festival, a celebration of African-American culture and heritage in the Berkshires, through many Festival events, including performances by Camille A. Brown & Dancers (Aug 9-13) and a Lift Ev'ry Voice Day at the Pillow visit on August 12, including an African American History Tour led by Director of Preservation Norton Owen, a picnic lunch, and attendance of Camille A. Brown & Dancers' *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*.
- Programs designed to engage and support local veterans, tied to works performed this season by Jessica Lang Dance and Roy Assaf Dance, both presenting dances inspired by veterans' experiences.
- A partnership with Tanglewood Music Center, whereby Tanglewood Fellows and alumni will be providing the music accompaniment for performances by Jessica Lang Dance, July 5-9.
- In a co-presentation by Jacob's Pillow and The Clark Art Institute, the Trisha Brown Dance Company will present *In Plain Site* on the Clark's grounds in Williamstown on Sunday, August 13 at 1pm and 4pm. This event is free but reservations will be required; ticketing begins on June 1 at [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu).
- Free Fun Friday, August 11 beginning at 3pm, a family-friendly afternoon of free dance games, special Kids Tour, classes, free outdoor performance, and more. Funded by the Highland Street Foundation.

The 85th Anniversary Season also offers a range of **special engagements** taking place outside of the Pillow's traditional theatre spaces. Three presentations will be created in conversation

with its iconic natural setting, including a commissioned world premiere created by Pilobolus, kicking off the outdoor Inside/Out Performance Series with an extended three-day run, June 21-23. Japanese artist Eiko Otake's site-specific *A Body at the Pillow* will take place across the grounds with three performances on Saturday, July 22; while her longtime partner, Koma, will present his solo work, *The Ghost Festival*, an interactive visual art installation presented on the Pillow grounds in post-show performances August 9-11.

A variety of **community events and classes** will complement these presentations, including:

- On July 17, The Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, will host a free performance and artist talk with Eiko Otake addressing her process and the environmental issues present in her work *A Body in Fukushima*.
- Eiko will perform at the Third Thursday celebration in Pittsfield on July 20.
- *A Body in Fukushima*, a photo exhibition of William Johnston's images of Eiko Otake, will also be displayed in several North Street (Pittsfield, Mass.) window fronts July 1-31.
  - The Brotherhood Building Window, 141 North Street
  - Paul Graubard Studio Window, 141 North Street
  - Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, 1 Wendell Avenue
- The free exhibit *A Body in Fukushima*, will be presented on the Doris Duke Theatre Porch (at Jacob's Pillow), July 5-30.
  - Historian/photographer William Johnston captured these unforgettably powerful images of Eiko Otake in Fukushima, Japan, in 2014 and 2016 after an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdowns hit the area. The photographs capture Eiko's response to these events as well as the evolving landscape over their three visits.
- *A Body at the Pillow* will be performed on the Jacob's Pillow grounds in Becket, Mass. Saturday, July 22 at 12pm, 2pm, and 5pm.
  - 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. 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" in her performances (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*). Tickets are \$18, general admission.
- Delicious Movement Workshops will be offered at Jacob's Pillow, Tuesday, July 18 at 6pm and Sunday, July 23 at 4pm
  - Eiko Otake hosts two, two-hour workshops for all people who love to move or who want to love to move "with delicious feelings." The workshops are emphatically noncompetitive and appropriate to all levels of training and ability. Open to all experience levels, ages 16+, \$15/class

During the Festival, **dance classes** that engage all bodies and ages will be offered, from beginner through advanced level dancers, ages 5 to adult, and are open to observers. Offerings range from free Community Day workshops to Sunday Master Classes, all-levels weekday

morning classes, a Families Dance Together partnership with Becket Arts Center, and opportunities to dance with and learn from artists performing as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series (nominal fees to participate). Visit [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org) for additional details.

- Morning Classes, Monday-Friday, June 5-August 25, 8-9am, weekly classes in Pilates, African Dance, Ballet, Zumba, and Modern, ages 16+, \$10/class
- Classes with Inside/Out Artists, select Thursdays, 4-5pm, ages 12+, \$10/class
- Sunday Master Classes, June 25-August 27, 10-11:30am, ages 16+, \$15/class
- Families Dance Together, Fridays, July 7-August 18, 5-6pm, ages 5-adults, in partnership with the Becket Arts Center, \$5 adult/\$1 child
- Community Tap Class led by visiting artist Sam Weber on Sunday, July 2.
- Free Fun Friday, August 11, free community classes to be announced.
- Dog Dance, Saturday, August 26, 11am, a workshop for people and their dogs, led by Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Artist of Dance Exchange. Free, with a suggested donation to the Berkshire Humane Society.
- Day at the Pillow Visits serve regional community groups interested in learning about Jacob's Pillow while enjoying a tailored experience. Go on a guided tour, observe class at The School, see a free performance, and visit the Pillow Archives. Free or nominal fee is charged for classes and direct interaction with artistic or program staff. During Festival 2017, Jacob's Pillow will work with Pittsfield Public Schools hosting students and teachers for Day at the Pillow visits.
- Continuing partnership with Days in the Arts Program (DARTS), Wednesdays, June 28-August 16, an arts education program led by the Boston Symphony Orchestra whereby over 400 Massachusetts middle school students, nominated by their classroom teachers, have the opportunity to participate in a weeklong camp which explores the arts through workshops in Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Theatre, Dance, and Visual Art. Each week a different group from across the state visits Jacob's Pillow to experience dance and learn about the Pillow's history. DARTS is celebrating 49 years and has partnered with the Pillow since its inception in 1968. The group takes a tour of the Pillow grounds, participates in a dance class, have a picnic dinner, and then attend the evening's Inside/Out performance.

### ***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 will take 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 will all participate 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 (JPDI)** is the Pillow's online platform for videos and digital dance resources and remains active every day of the year. JPDI (<http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/>) includes 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 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 [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

Less than three hours from New York City and Boston, **the Berkshires** offers culture and adventure year-round. The surrounding mountains provide plenty of opportunity for outdoor excursions in all seasons while world class culture and entertainment, along with a deeply rooted food culture and an array of lodging options amidst picturesque towns, set this region apart. For more info visit [berkshires.org](http://berkshires.org).

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