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**PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY RETURNS  
TO JACOB'S PILLOW FOR SEVEN PERFORMANCES**

June 22, 2017 – (Becket, MA) 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 seven-performance 85th Anniversary Season engagement, July 12-16 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Led by the vision of renowned modern dance choreographer Paul Taylor, the company made its Pillow debut in 1964 and is widely regarded as one of the finest modern dance companies in the world. The program will feature a roster of classic works, including *Airs*, *Syzygy*, and the exuberant and romantic *Esplanade*, set to two Johann Sebastian Bach concertos.

“How can we have our 85th Anniversary without this iconic master of American dance?” said Jacob’s Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. “We are excited to welcome Paul Taylor Dance Company back with a program that includes three works seen in four of the five decades of Taylor at the Pillow—every decade except for the 1960s, when the company made its debut here. Personally, I saw *Esplanade* at the Kennedy Center when I was thirteen years old; it was the very first contemporary dance work that I ever saw. The celebration of pedestrian movement and the exhilaration and joy that the dancers experienced showed me the potential of this form to viscerally connect with an audience. I never forgot that performance and I’m pleased to be able to share it with new audiences and Paul Taylor fans alike, at the Pillow.”

*Esplanade*, created in 1975, is one of Taylor’s most beloved and critically-acclaimed works. Taylor, inspired by the sight of a girl running to catch a bus, created a masterwork based on pedestrian movement: standing, walking, running, sliding, and falling. Arlene Croce, writing for *The New Yorker*, commented “The dancers, crashing wave upon wave into those falls, have a happy insane spirit that recalls a unique moment in American life – the time we did the school play or we were ready to drown at a swimming meet. The last time most of us were happy in that way.”

Taylor choreographed *Airs* in 1978; the dancers’ movements and spatial patterns suggest gusts, eddies, and an inevitable flow of energy from shape to shape and from dancer to dancer. Danced to a score by G.F. Handel, the classicism, formality, and lyricism of *Airs* gives the work a balletic feel. Since its creation, *Airs* has been performed by many premier ballet companies around the world, including the Royal Danish Ballet, Ballet Rambert, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. Alan M. Kriegsman wrote in *The Washington Post*, “*Airs* is a new and distinctive vintage, of mellowness and classic finish that give it a sublime autumnal glow. Incredibly diversified and complex. The whole work is a treasure.” *Airs* was performed at the Pillow in 1982.

*Syzygy* (1987) is danced to a commissioned score by Donald York, a longtime musical director, conductor, pianist, composer, and arranger for the company. In astronomy, a “syzygy” is a straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system. In Taylor’s whirlwind work, dancers hurtle across the stage like celestial bodies orbiting and eclipsing each other. *Syzygy* is “A full-throttle exercise in physicality, loose-limbed and speedy... It simply continues to increase its velocity, its sense of elfin delight, as the dance goes by” (Barry Johnson, *The Oregonian*).

The Pillow has added a Thursday matinee performance to the engagement to meet high demand, and will host a Paul Taylor-focused PillowTalk on Saturday, July 15. Longtime Jacob’s Pillow Scholar-in-Residence

Suzanne Carbonneau is writing an authorized biography of Paul Taylor, and she will be giving Pre-Show Talks prior to every performance during the company's engagement.

### **Jacob's Pillow Connections**

Paul Taylor Dance Company has a deep Pillow history, making its 17th appearance this season, though the company has not performed at the Festival since 2007. The first time Paul Taylor performed at the Pillow was in 1954 while he was a member of Pearl Lang's company. Lang was on the Pillow faculty that summer, and her dancers were in residence for a period of time to create new works. The Paul Taylor Dance Company made its Pillow debut in 1964, with Twyla Tharp making her first professional appearances as a member of the company. The company would not return until 1978, but the gaps between the 14 engagements from 1980 to 2007 were brief (1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, and 2007).

Taylor's *Fiends Angelical* was commissioned and premiered at the Pillow in 2000, and the 2007 *De Sueños* was co-commissioned by Irene Hunter in honor of the Pillow's 75th anniversary and presented just after its premiere at American Dance Festival. Other Pillow "firsts" include the fact that Paul Taylor was the first choreographer to be the subject of a workshop in The School at Jacob's Pillow, with three-week programs in 1982 and 1983, and a two-week program in 1996. Taylor's second company, known as Taylor 2, made its world debut at the Pillow in 1993 and returned for a residency in 1996. Paul Taylor gave his first exhibition as a visual artist at Jacob's Pillow in 2000, showing his collages of found objects in a show entitled *Assemblages*. That same summer, in honor of Taylor's 70th birthday, the main company appeared in the Ted Shawn Theatre for a weeklong engagement while Taylor 2 was in the Duke Theatre, marking the first and only time that both theaters were given over to the same choreographer.

In addition to the training programs devoted solely to Taylor's work, his technique and repertory have figured prominently in other seasons. From 1991 through 1995, it was part of each and every summer curriculum at The School at Jacob's Pillow, as well as in 1999, 2000, and 2006. Another link is provided by more than a dozen alumni of The School who have gone on to dance with the Taylor Company, including Joe Bowie, Constance DiNapoli, Susan Dodge, Christopher Gillis, David Grenke, Elizabeth Keen, Linda Kent, Maureen Mansfield, Molly Moore, Tom Patrick, Sandra Stone, Julie Tice, and Victoria Uris.

### **Related Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive Videos**

Paul Taylor Dance Company in *Airs* (1982): <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/paul-taylor-dance-company/airs/>

Paul Taylor Dance Company in *Company B* (2000): <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/paul-taylor-dance-company/company-b/>

### **About Paul Taylor and PTAMD**

Paul Taylor is widely acknowledged as the greatest living pioneer of American modern dance, with 146 dances made since 1954 when he established the Paul Taylor Dance Company. He continues to offer cogent observations on life's complexities and society's thorniest issues through his dances. A virtuoso dancer for 20 years with Martha Graham Dance Company, New York City Ballet, and his own company, Taylor turned exclusively to choreography in 1974; the dance that followed, *Esplanade*, was hailed an instant classic. His works are performed by the Taylor Company, Taylor 2, and ballet and modern dance companies the world over. In 2015 he established Paul Taylor American Modern Dance to bring to New York's Lincoln Center—in addition to his own repertoire—great dances of the past and present by other modern choreographers, and works by the next generation of choreographers creating directly on his company. Works are performed to live music whenever so intended by the choreographer.

### **About Paul Taylor Dance Company**

The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. Since the company's founding in 1954, it has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. The upcoming 2018 Lincoln Center season marks the company's 64th performing year. Taylor continues to create at least two new works annually for his 17-member company. His autobiography, *Private Domain*, was published in 1987 and the company was the subject of the documentary film *Dancemaker*, nominated for an

Academy Award in 1999. A book of essays mostly for fun, *Facts and Fancies*, was written by Taylor in 2013. He has achieved countless accolades, including two of the United States's highest artistic distinctions: the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts.

### **Performance & Ticket Details**

**Paul Taylor Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow**

**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 12-16**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm**

**Thursday, 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](http://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**

**Roy Assaf Dance**

**Doris Duke Theatre, July 12-16**

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

**Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm**

Based in Israel, Roy Assaf Dance makes its U.S. debut in a program of clever and heartfelt works. A rising choreographic star, Assaf has been commissioned by companies across the globe including Batsheva Dance Company, The Royal Swedish Ballet, National Dance Company Wales, and LA Dance Project. The program opens with Assaf's quiet, embracing duet *Six Years Later* which is praised for its "beauty, nuances, and intricate, astute movements" (Ora Brafman, *Jerusalem Post*), and closes with his powerful all-male trio *The Hill*, inspired by veterans' experiences and based on the Hebrew song "Givat Hatachmoshet". Tickets start at \$25.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Adam H. Weinert**

**Wednesday, July 12 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Following the critically-acclaimed premiere of *MONUMENT* at Festival 2016, dancer/choreographer Adam H. Weinert returns with *Dance of The Ages*, an epic ensemble work created by Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn in 1938 and not seen since his company's final season nearly 80 years ago. Shawn considered *Dance of the Ages* to be the summit of his achievements as a choreographer; it was the first evening-length modern dance ever presented, and one of the last creations he built for The Men Dancers. Weinert, an alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow and former Pillow research fellow, and his ensemble will present a work-in-progress showing of *Dance of the Ages*, reconstructed for the Inside/Out Stage in honor of the Pillow's 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Class with Inside/Out Artist: Isadora Duncan Technique with Catherine Gallant**

**Thursday, July 13, 4pm**

**Ruth St. Denis Studio**

Catherine Gallant, the director and co-founder of Dances by Isadora, shares Duncan technique. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$10 per person. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Dances by Isadora**

**Thursday, July 13 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Dances by Isadora (based in NYC and Boston) has been sharing the work of modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan since 1986. As no films or notation of her dances were made until long after her death in 1927, Duncan's choreography has been preserved through the teaching of one generation of Duncan dancers to the next. Duncan, considered the "mother of modern dance," was a revolutionary. Her free and natural movement style was in direct opposition to the rigid ballet technique of her time; she felt that nature was the source of

movement and was inspired by the ancient Greeks, the music of classical composers, the wind, and the sea. This program will feature historic work by Duncan including *Nocturne* and *Bacchanal* as well as *Allegretto*, with choreography by Catherine Gallant, the director and co-founder of Dances by Isadora, inspired by Duncan's 1908 work to the music of Beethoven.

**PillowTalk: Anniversary Celebration**

**Friday, July 14 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

The Pillow presented its first performance 84 years ago today; an occasion marked in this talk by individuals furthering the work of Festival founder Ted Shawn: dancer/choreographer Adam Weinert, author and educator Paul Scolieri, and Jacob's Pillow Director of Preservation Norton Owen.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: The New York Korean Performing Arts Center, Inc.**

**Friday, July 14 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

**Live Music**

Sounds of Korea is part of the New York-based Korean Performing Arts Center (KPAC), consisting of a dance troupe, an instrumental chamber ensemble, and a percussion ensemble. Korean performance tradition includes a wide range of styles and settings, such as classical court music, theatrical masked dance, popular storytelling songs, narrative vocal arts, percussion, and solo instrumental folk genres. The group's artistic emphasis is on the subtle grace and beauty found in Korean traditional dances in which the dancers with powerful, yet delicate, gestures and movements reveal a unique aesthetic beauty. The dance troupe was founded by Sue Yeon Park in 1993, and has maintained an active schedule over the past 20 years, performing prestigious national museums and festival stages, including Lincoln Center, introducing Korean music and dance to a wide array of audiences of diverse cultural backgrounds.

**PillowTalk: Paul Taylor at the Pillow**

**Saturday, July 15 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Modern dance legend Paul Taylor made his Pillow debut in 1954 and his company returns to the Ted Shawn Theatre July 12-16 for its 17<sup>th</sup> engagement. In this PillowTalk, critics and longtime observers reflect on his colorful past and new directions.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program**

**Saturday, July 15 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Dancers of the Contemporary Program present a work-in-progress created on them during their first week of study at The School at Jacob's Pillow. Guest choreographer Marguerite Donlon, critically acclaimed worldwide for her innovative works, is artistic director of the international dance festival n.o.w. dance saar and the youth project "iMove." Under the direction of master teacher and choreographer Milton Myers, program dancers also study with ballet mentor Charla Genn, School alumna Aya Kaneko, former Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and NDT dancer Mario Alberto Zambrano, and longtime Music Director John Levis. 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: Roy Assaf Dance**

**Sunday, July 16, 10am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Artists of Roy Assaf Dance teach a 90-minute master class open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and over. Pre-registration is required at [jacobsillow.org](http://jacobsillow.org). Quiet observation is welcome; \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card.

**Delicious Movement Workshops with Eiko Otake**  
**Tuesday, July 18 at 6pm and Sunday, July 23 at 4pm**

Festival artist Eiko Otake hosts two two-hour workshops for all people who love to move or who want to love to move with delicious feelings. Open to all experience levels ages 16+, \$15/class. Pre-registration required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**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](http://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](http://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 have all participated 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** hosts international auditions and workshops. 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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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