

**FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**GROUNDBREAKING CANADIAN ENSEMBLE COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD  
MAKES ITS JACOB'S PILLOW DEBUT JULY 19-23**

June 30, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Montréal-based Compagnie Marie Chouinard makes its Jacob's Pillow debut in the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 19-23. Described by *The New York Times* as a “hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” company director Marie Chouinard has been pioneering avant garde choreography that pushes the boundaries of on-stage performance since the late 1970s. The program includes *24 Preludes by Chopin*, a series of vignettes laced together by Chopin's iconic piano refrains and set to live piano accompaniment, and *HENRI MICHAUX: MOUVEMENTS*, inspired by the ink drawings and poems of the French/Belgian poet and visual artist.

“There is no movement vocabulary quite like the language of Marie Chouinard: technically rigorous and exacting, unrestrained in its emotional expressiveness, and unabashed in its intent to push boundaries. I am excited to have Pillow audiences discover Chouinard and her groundbreaking work,” says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

In *24 Preludes by Chopin*, Chouinard uses the 24 Preludes from Frédéric Chopin's “Opus 28” as the work's main source of inspiration. Playing with structure, Chouinard parallels dance composition with music composition by matching solos, duets, trios, and group choreographic movements to the strength, subtly, and rawness of their classical music counterpart. Accompanied by live piano, 10 dynamic dancers perform in daring costumes designed by L Vandal, the women in translucent leotards and the men in mesh shorts. This work was created for the TanzWochen Wien Festival in Vienna, Austria and premiered on July 30, 1999. Since then, *24 Preludes by Chopin* has been consistently lauded as “one of [Chouinard's] most refreshing and inventive works” (Michael Crabb, *National Post*, Toronto), and praised as a “product of a fully matured choreographic imagination” (Deborah Jowitt, *The Village Voice*).

The program continues with *HENRI MICHAUX: MOUVEMENTS*, an inventive work based off the 64 pages of ink drawings, 15-page poem, and afterword of *Mouvements* (1951) by French/Belgian poet and visual artist Henri Michaux. Dancers dressed head-to-toe in black morph and distort their bodies to recreate the abstract shapes as ink drawings are projected in the background, allowing the audience to simultaneously take in the movement and Michaux's score. Poetry read in French by dancer Carol Prieur and an electronic sound score by Canadian electroacoustic composer Louis Dufort complete the interpretation. *HENRI MICHAUX: MOUVEMENTS* premiered at ImPulsTanz at the Vienna International Dance Festival in August 2011 and since has been praised as “fun, imaginative, and utterly captivating” (*The Chronicle Herald*, Canada). Choreography, artistic direction, lighting, set design, costumes, and hairstyles are notably all created by Chouinard herself.

**About Compagnie Marie Chouinard**

Marie Chouinard is a Canadian contemporary dancer, choreographer, and director who has created more than 50 solo and group works. She is the Executive and Artistic Director of Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Founding Chair of the Prix de la Danse de Montréal, an Associate Dance Artist of Canada's National Arts Centre, and Director of Dance at the Venice Biennale. She has won several awards for her contribution to the arts, including the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts (Canada, 2016), the Positano Prize “Choreographer of the year” (Italy, 2016), the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime

Achievement (Canada, 2016), the title of Chevalier of the Ordre national du Québec (2015), the Prix Denise-Pelletier (Quebec, 2010), the title of Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France, 2009), the title of Officer of the Order of Canada (2007), and a New York Dance and Performance (“Bessie”) Award (New York, 2000).

Compagnie Marie Chouinard was founded in 1990 as a platform for Chouinard’s daring choreographic work. The company’s mission explores a multitude of projects and protean creations in which choreography is explored through various media: installation, performance, film, photography, drawing, writing, and application.

### **Performance & Ticket Details**

**Compagnie Marie Chouinard at Jacob’s Pillow**

**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 19-July 23**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:00pm**

**Sunday at 2:00pm (no Saturday matinee)**

**\$69, \$59, \$39**

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.

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.

### **ALSO THIS WEEK**

**Delicious Movement Workshop with Eiko Otake**

**Tuesday, July 18, 6pm**

**Bakalar Studio**

Festival Artist Eiko Otake hosts two Delicious Movement Workshops designed for all people who love to move or want to love to move with delicious feelings. The exercises employ images, body articulation, floor work, and largely slow movement. \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card.

**Aakash Odedra in *Rising***

**June 19-23, Doris Duke Theatre**

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

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

“Simply breathtaking” (*The Globe and Mail*) British artist Aakash Odedra takes the stage in the captivating solo *Rising* with choreography from acclaimed international artists Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Russell Maliphant, and Odedra himself. Tickets start at \$25.

**Eiko Otakes’s *A Body at the Pillow***

**Jacob’s Pillow Grounds**

**Saturday, July 22 at 12pm, 2pm, 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 (*The New York Times*).

**Inside/Out Performance Series: James Whiteside Presents**

**Wednesday, July 19, 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

In the premiere of his new production company “James Whiteside Presents,” Whiteside, a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, brings *5 Dances*, a collection of works in varied styles that he has created over the years. He will perform with American Ballet Theatre soloist Cassandra Trenary, with narration by actor/show maker Jack Ferver. Pillow audiences may remember Whiteside and Trenary from their performances as part of

Daniil Simkin's *INTENSIO* in 2015. This program consists of *Zero Hour*, set to Vivaldi's classic "Winter" and originally co-choreographed by Whiteside and Melissa. Hough; *On the Water*, a pas de deux to Schubert's "Auf Dem Wasser zu Singen"; and *You Rascal You*, a solo to Louis Armstrong's song of the same name and a murder mystery of a jazz dance; among other works

**Class with Inside/Out Artist: Lindy Hop with Caleb Teicher**

**Thursday, July 20, 4pm**

**Ruth St. Denis Studio**

Caleb Teicher, tap dance artist, teaches this lindy hop class for all experience levels. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Caleb Teicher & Company**

**Thursday, July 20 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Caleb Teicher & Company reinvents traditional American dance forms for contemporary contexts. The company's Inside/Out performance features *Meet Ella*, a male swing dance duet set to classic live recordings of Ella Fitzgerald. A 2011 Bessie Award Winner for Outstanding Individual Performance, one of *Dance Magazine's* 2012 "25 to Watch," and winner of "Best Emerging Choreographer" for *Dance Magazine's* 2016 Readers' Choice Awards, Teicher draws from his experience in concert dance, musical theater, and social dance. He has garnered acclaim for his work as a versatile performer, most notably as a member of Dorrance Dance and The Chase Brock Experience. Founded in 2012, his company explores a wide range of styles including tap dance, lindy hop, and vernacular jazz, creating works that celebrate a uniquely American physicality. Teicher is an alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow and the National Young Arts Foundation.

**PillowTalk: *A Body In Places***

**Friday, July 21 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Japanese performance artist Eiko has been pursuing this ambitious solo project throughout the world since 2014, sharing her experiences here with photographer William Johnston.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Samuel Samways**

**Friday, July 21 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

In February 2017, online participants voted among six dance companies to select the first-ever audience curated Inside/Out performance. Winner Samuel Samways is a Brazilian dancer and choreographer who has developed a unique contemporary social dance style, based on extreme connection between dancers and fusing techniques of Brazilian and Latin social dances, ballroom, contact improvisation, and contemporary dance. He has danced in numerous festivals and theaters in Brazil and abroad, such as Plataforma Rio 2012, Festival O Boticário na Dança, Festival Internacional De Dança do Recife, Holland Dance Fest, and the Joyce Theater. Samways has danced and choreographed for various companies, including Mimulus dance company, and is currently a resident and dance researcher at the Brazilian art institution Cefart.

**PillowTalk: *Artist Driven Archives***

**Saturday, July 22 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Jacob's Pillow Associate Archivist Patsy Gay is breaking new ground with David Gordon's archives while Alexis Moh is documenting Eiko; both join Norton Owen to explore new archival approaches.

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

**Saturday, July 22 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: Aakash Odedra**

**Sunday, July 2, 10am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Aakash Odedra leads a contemporary dance class. Beginning with a light warm up, he will focus on rhythm and breathing, building a steady pulse to then guide participants into learning movement from his repertory and building phrase work. The class will be intense and physical, but always fun. Class concludes with a cool down and opportunity for discussion. \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card.

**Delicious Movement Workshop with Eiko Otake**

**Sunday, July 23, 4pm**

**Sommers Studio**

Festival Artist Eiko Otake hosts two Delicious Movement Workshops designed for all people who love to move or want to love to move with delicious feelings. The exercises employ images, body articulation, floor work, and largely slow movement. \$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](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 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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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