

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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THE FESTIVAL'S FIRST WORK COMMISSIONED BY DIRECTOR PAMELA TATGE, JULY 26–30**

July 11, 2017 — (Becket, MA) Ballet Hispánico brings a wide-ranging program to the Pillow's 85th Anniversary Season, performing in the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 26–30. "For more than 40 years, Ballet Hispánico has represented the ever-changing diversity of our nation's Latino culture through dance performances by some of our country's most accomplished technical contemporary dancers," writes Rafa Carvajal of *Wire Magazine*, and this program is no different. Returning for their first performance at the Festival since 2009, Ballet Hispánico presents choreography by Artistic Director and CEO Eduardo Vilaro, Spanish dancer and choreographer Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, and a Jacob's Pillow commission by Colombian-Belgian choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

"I am delighted to welcome Ballet Hispánico back to the Festival. Under the leadership of Eduardo Vilaro, this vibrant company brings a program of powerhouse works. After great success as one of the faculty members of The School at Jacob's Pillow just last summer, it was logical to work with Annabelle Lopez Ochoa on this special commission, *Línea Recta*, which riffs on the power and sexuality in Flamenco," says Jacob's Pillow Director, Pamela Tatge.

Opening the program is *El Beso*, choreographed by award-winning Spanish choreographer Gustavo Ramírez Sansano. Premiered in April 2014 at The Joyce Theater, this dance highlights the dynamic dancers in a witty perspective on the nature of a kiss, with physicality and choreography that reflect the emotions behind this pedestrian gesture. *El Beso* "toys with variations on the kiss — romantic, platonic, relished, relinquished, dodged — has its share of cute, gimmicky fun. But it is also full of bold, astute, unexpected choices" (Siobhan Burke, *The New York Times*). Venezuelan fashion designer Angel Sanchez highlights Sansano's movement invention with pleated, billowing, and asymmetrical garments. During Sansano's professional dance career, he performed with companies including Nederlands Dans Theater and in works by choreographers such as Jiří Kylián and Ohad Naharin. Sansano was Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago, Illinois from 2009–2012.

The Jacob's Pillow-commissioned work, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Línea Recta*, follows in the program. *Línea Recta* deepens this contemporary ballet company's qualitative range through an investigation of flamenco dance, challenging Ballet Hispánico's vocabulary and style. *Línea Recta* premiered in November of 2016 at the Apollo Theater in New York City. While respecting flamenco dance, Lopez Ochoa showcases an interesting and mysterious aspect of the form: the absence of physical partnering. Specifically made for Ballet Hispánico, these dancers are highlighted in explosive movement, created from ideas of partnership. *Línea Recta*, meaning "straight line," translates flamenco shapes and gestures into partnering and male/female group sections within clean and strong dancing of a mixture of styles. Through her exploration of artistic and physical potential, Lopez Ochoa "deconstructs flamenco imagery — the swishing of the bata de cola's long, ruffled train, the hyped-up representations of gender" (Marina Harss, *The New York Times*). Bold red flamenco dresses and fans strengthen the thematic tone of *Línea Recta*. This fiery dance is performed alongside live flamenco guitar and percussion played by jazz musician Eric Vaarzon Morel. For Lopez Ochoa, working with Ballet Hispánico fosters awareness of her cultural heritage in her choreographic process. She "credits the Hispánico dancers with awakening her to a dormant aspect of her identity... 'for a long time I ignored the fact that I'm Latin. Working with Ballet Hispánico allowed me to be Colombian'" (Marina Harss, *The New York Times*). One of

today's most in-demand contemporary ballet choreographers, Lopez Ochoa's dances have been presented by more than 40 dance companies worldwide including New York City Ballet, The Washington Ballet, English National Ballet, and BalletX. She embraces her choreographic versatility by also creating works for theater, opera, and musicals.

Danzón, "an electrifying tribute to Cuban music and dance" (Eduardo Vilaro), closes Ballet Hispánico's program. Choreographed by the company's Artistic Director, this dance premiered in December 2009 and is a contemporary take on the piece's namesake. The official musical genre and dance of Cuba, "The Danzón" evolved from Haitian contradance. Vilaro cultivates the essence of this cultural form through light hearted movement built into duets and group sections. "The dancers, with their supple backs, effortless turns and perfectly pointed bare feet made it feel like a luxury" (Rebecca Ritzel, *The Washington Post*). While staying within a cheerful physicality, *Danzón* morphs in quality from high-energy jumps and floorwork to luxurious and romantic ballroom-like partnering. Vilaro's adaption of this iconic social dance represents a virtuosic and contemporary celebration of music and movement.

About Ballet Hispánico

Formed in 1970, Ballet Hispánico has grown into a diverse repertory company, dance school, and community organization. This established group of company dancers has performed for over three million people, spanning 11 countries and three continents. Its physical vocabulary explores the diversity of Latino culture by merging classical, Latin, and contemporary dance through athleticism, passion, and theatricality. The dancers represent a variety of national and international artists, hailing from Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Nevada, Cuba, Spain, and Mexico. Ballet Hispánico's repertory consists of works by prominent and emerging dance makers from countries including Venezuela, Cuba, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. Vilaro encourages a rich cultural exchange and artistic growth through this curated repertory. He notes "the choreographers are bringing their culture with them; they don't need to put a stamp on it that says 'Latino' or wrap it in some kind of iconography." Ballet Hispánico and its connecting School of Dance are based in New York City and are important facets of the area's education community.

Before founding Ballet Hispánico, Venezuelan-born Tina Ramirez danced with the Federico Rey Dance Company and in the Broadway productions *Kismet* and *Lute Song*. In 1970, Ramirez founded Ballet Hispánico and served as the company's Artistic Director until 2009. Ramirez has received the 2005 National Medal of Arts, the Dance Magazine Award, the Hispanic Heritage Award for Education, Capezio Dance Award, NYS Governor's Arts Award, and the NYC Mayor's Award of Honor for Arts & Culture, and many other recognitions for her work.

In August 2009, Tina Ramirez, handed over her position as Artistic Director of Ballet Hispánico to former company dancer Eduardo Vilaro, who has been leading the company ever since. Vilaro is a first generation Cuban-American who founded Luna Negra Dance Theater in 1999. His choreographic viewpoints focus on showcasing Latino cultures through their spiritual, sensual, and historical value systems. Vilaro's deep experience with community outreach and dance education has helped him authentically continue Ballet Hispánico's important lineage. Now with eight years under his belt as Artistic Director, "the look and trajectory of Ballet Hispánico today truly represents Vilaro's vision" (Charmaine Patricia Warren, *New York New Amsterdam News*)

Pillow Connections

Ballet Hispánico has performed at the Festival in 1984, 1998, and 2009; and was co-presented by the Pillow at MASS MoCA in 2006. the company's founder, Tina Ramirez, danced at the Pillow in 1948 with the Federico Rey Dance Company. Annabelle Lopez Ochoa choreographed a world premiere on the Contemporary Program of The School at Jacob's Pillow for the 2016 Jacob's Pillow Season Opening Gala; her works have also been performed at the Pillow by Pacific Northwest Ballet, BODYTRAFFIC, Les Ballets de Montreal, and others. In addition, company dancer Christopher Bloom trained at The School at Jacob's Pillow in both the Ballet and Contemporary Dance Programs, as did company dancer Nathaniel Hunt within the Pillow's

Contemporary Program. Prior to this season's opening, the Jacob's Pillow hosted a "Latin Dance Party with Ballet Hispánico" on May 13 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro taught a Latin dance lesson with live music by Brooklyn-based Latin band Los Hacheros.

Related Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive Resources

Eduardo Vilaro's former company, Luna Negra Dance Theater, performed *Bate* (2005) by Fernando Melo at Jacob's Pillow in July 2012:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/luna-negra-dance-theater/bate/>

Ballet Hispánico in *Tito on Timbales* (2009): <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/ballet-hispanico/tito-on-timbales/>

Jacob's Pillow Scholar-in-Residence Maura Keefe featured Lopez Ochoa in her series of essays focused on women in dance: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/annabelle-lopez-ochoa/>

Performance & Ticket Details

Ballet Hispánico at Jacob's Pillow

Ted Shawn Theatre, July 26–30

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.

\$10 Youth Tickets, for ages 17 and under, are available for purchase when bought in a 1-1 ratio with an adult ticket. Other discounts are available.

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

Ate9 dANCE cOMPANY

Doris Duke Theatre, July 26–30

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

Led by "choreography's It girl" (*The Los Angeles Times*) Danielle Agami, the Los Angeles-based Ate9 dANCEcOMPANY brings the mesmerizing intensity of Gaga movement to the intimate Doris Duke Theatre. A former company member and rehearsal director of Ohad Naharin's world-renowned Batsheva Dance Company, the work of Israeli-born Agami is athletic, direct, and intelligent. The program includes *Exhibit B*, exposing the challenges the Israeli conflict brings to daily life and set to Omid Walizadeh's hip-hop and Iranian music score, and excerpts from *vickie*, choreographed by Agami and danced to music by Wilco drummer Glenn Kotche.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Good Foot Dance Company

Wednesday, July 26 at 6:15pm

Free Event

Good Foot Dance Company, hailing from West Virginia, is known for high-energy, fast-paced footwork, as they explore the complex cultural beginnings of American vernacular dance from Appalachian flatfooting to tap to contemporary urban dance. By remixing traditional dance and music and bringing a critical and historical inquiry to the shared history of American dance cultures, they raise questions about connectivity, continuity,

and social responsibility. Co-founders and dancers Matthew Olwell and Emily Oleson are alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Gemma Bond Dance

Thursday, July 27 at 6:15pm

Free Event

Making waves as a budding female choreographer—rare in the ballet world—Gemma Bond is a corps de ballet member of American Ballet Theatre. Since 2010, she has created three new ballets for ABT's Choreographic Institute, as well as various new works for New York Theatre Ballet, Intermezzo Ballet Company, and the Hartt School; most recently, Atlanta Ballet commissioned the world premiere of *Denouement*. She has received a fellowship grant from The New York Choreographic Institute and is the two-time awardee of a grant from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. She will debut at the Joyce Theater in July 2017 with a program that includes two new works. Her Inside/Out program includes *Depuis Le Jour*, a fluid pas de deux, danced to an aria by French composer Gustave Charpentier, and *Then and Again*, an ensemble work for Alfredo Piatti's solo cello piece "Twelve Caprices." Calvin Royal III, an American Ballet Theatre corps de ballet dancer and alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow, will perform with the ensemble.

PillowTalk: Curating Performance

Friday, July 28 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

Free Event

Dance is increasingly finding its way into museums in all sorts of exciting new ways; the trend is explored by some of those who are closely involved in this movement.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Ologunde

Friday, July 28 at 6:15pm

Free Event

The US-based Ologunde ensemble celebrates the rich Afro-Brazilian culture of Salvador Bahia, Brazil through a diverse repertoire of music, dance and martial arts. Comprised of artists living in the U.S. and Brazil, the ensemble is under the direction of master percussionist Dendê Macêdo. The troupe performs a diverse repertoire which includes the rituals associated with *candomblé*, a synthesis of the Yoruba and Catholic religions; the *capoeira* martial arts dance; *maculêlê*, a warrior dance which utilizes sticks and machetes and was originally created in the sugarcane fields by slaves; and the exhilarating *samba de roda*, which can be traced back to the *semba* of Angola.

PillowTalk: Focus on Vision '22

Saturday, July 29 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

Free Event

A new plan for the Pillow culminates in 2022. Director Pamela Tatge details her goals in an ambitious blueprint known as Vision '22.

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

Saturday, July 29 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: Ate9dANCEcOMPANY

Sunday, July 30 at 10am–11:30am

Doris Duke Theatre

\$15/class or \$80/6-Class Card

(\$10 per class for dance teachers with appropriate I.D.)

Danielle Agami, founder of Ate9 dANCE cOMPANY, leads a Gaga master class guiding participants through this distinctive technique. Gaga is a way of gaining knowledge and self-awareness through the body. It provides a framework for discovering and strengthening the body and adding flexibility, stamina, and agility while lightening the senses and imagination. The work improves instinctive movement and connects conscious and unconscious movement, and it allows for an experience of freedom and pleasure in a simple way. Open to intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+; closed to observers. Please wear comfortable clothes to move in, socks or bare feet are fine.

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–Saturday, noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm)

and Sunday–Tuesday, noon to 5pm

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–Saturday, noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm)

and Sunday–Tuesday, noon to 5pm

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.