

**FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**CAMILLE A. BROWN BRINGS *BLACK GIRL: LINGUISTIC PLAY*  
TO THE TED SHAWN THEATRE, AUGUST 9–13**

July 26, 2017—(Becket, MA) The 2016 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner, Camille A. Brown, will bring her evening-length work *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* to the Ted Shawn Theatre this summer, August 9–13. Combining elements of modern dance, hip-hop, African-American social dances, ballet, and tap dance with throbbing rhythms, color chalk scenery, and live music, Brown explores representations of black women in today's society through a rich storytelling practice. A 2016 Guggenheim Fellow and creator of the viral TED-ED Talk, *A Visual History of Social Dance in 25 Moves*, Camille A. Brown proves to be "a force of nature" (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*).

"Camille has a deep history with the Pillow and we are delighted to present her highly acclaimed *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*. It connects us to the power and fun of childhood relationships and reminds us how much that shapes our identity as adults," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Within *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, Camille A. Brown & Dancers move through solos and duets that embrace a vibrant array of rhythms, music, and scenery. The changing environment in this dance is highlighted by an original musical composition by pianist Scott Patterson and bass guitarist Tracy Wormworth, performed by Patterson and bass guitarist Robin Bramlett. "Their light yet groovy touch complements Brown's obsessive attention to rhythm and meter" (Katherine Bergstrom, *Point of Contact*). Scenic designer Elizabeth C. Nelson's colorful chalk background—reminiscent of a neighborhood sidewalk—and large black block platforms enliven the "play" of the dance and alter the typical landscape of the proscenium theater. Brown herself becomes part of this scenic design with her opening solo of intricate rhythms, where the stage becomes an obstacle course that cannot win against her fast footwork and fluid movement. She then plays with another dancer as they energetically reference social dances, double dutch, steppin', tap, Juba, ring shout, and gesture that express sentiments of childhood joy that demonstrate the diverse, yet connected, dance forms that build the piece. Two duets follow that combine the work's overarching movement vocabularies, while shifting in emotion, as the first holds a fiery and competitive tone while the second gives way to a narrative of nurturing and womanhood. *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play's* combination of movement, music, and scenic design highlights "the great spirit in this evening-length work" (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*).

In *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* dancers explore their own stories, stereotypes, and social influences. Gaunt's book *The Games Black Girls Play* was one of many inspirations for Brown. It provoked the essence of the work and helped her focus on de-constructing stereotypes and oppressive social factors through the entry point of childhood play. Brown asks, "what are the things that celebrate us and uplift us, and are culturally specific?...What happens when you take Double Dutch and make it an art?" She notes, "when I decided that I wanted it to come from a personal place, from childhood, I really had to go back and figure out what was that first time that someone made me feel different." For her, the idea of "play" felt connected to growing up within specific movement styles that came in the form of games. In this way, *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* uses movement, rhythm, and personal histories to discover what it means to be a black woman in urban America, focusing on the playground and games as a source of empowerment. Brown emphasizes that "in a society where black women are often only portrayed in terms of their strength, resiliency, or trauma, this work seeks to interrogate these narratives by representing a nuanced spectrum of black womanhood in a racially and politically charged world." This socio-political dance uses the lens of theatrics, high-caliber dancing, raw emotion, rhythms, and dialogue to showcase the lacking positivity given to today's young black women.

## **About Camille A. Brown & Dancers**

Recognized for its introspective approach to cultural themes through visceral movement and socio-political dialogues, Camille A. Brown & Dancers soar through history like a whirlwind. Making a personal claim on history, Camille A. Brown leads her dancers through excavations of ancestral stories, both timeless and traditional, as well as immediate contemporary issues. Theater, poetry, visual art and music of all genres merge to inject each performance with energy and urgency. In addition to their work onstage, Camille A. Brown & Dancers teach and facilitate community-based dance workshops that empower and promote creative social change within the Black community and allies. [www.camilleabrown.org](http://www.camilleabrown.org).

A characteristic of this company is “The Dialogue,” a conversation that takes place post-performance between the artists and the audience, facilitated by a scholar or company representative. At Jacob’s Pillow, “The Dialogue” will take place during the scheduled post-performance talk, facilitated by Jacob’s Pillow Scholar-in-Residence Maura Keefe, on Friday August 8th after the evening’s performance of *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*.

## **About Camille A. Brown**

Camille A. Brown is a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow, four-time Princess Grace Award winner, 2016 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award recipient, 2015 USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, 2015 TED Fellow, and 2015 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient. Her TED-ED Talk *A Visual History of Social Dance in 25 Moves*, with more than 12 million views on Facebook, was chosen as one of the most memorable talks by TED Curator Chris Anderson. Brown has created commissioned works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT), Philadanco!, Urban Bush Women, Complexions, Ailey II, Ballet Memphis, and Hubbard Street II. Her theater credits include: Broadway’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Fortress of Solitude* (The Public Theater), *Stagger Lee* (DTC), *Cabin in the Sky* (NY City Center Encores!), *BELLA: An American Tall Tale* (DTC & Playwrights Horizons) and Jonathan Larson’s *tick, tick...BOOM!* (NY City Center’s Encores! Off-Center) starring Lin-Manuel Miranda, and she is the choreographer for the Broadway revival of *Once on the Island*—Opening Fall 2017.. As a performer, she danced for Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE. Brown founded Camille A. Brown & Dancers in 2006.

## **Pillow Connections**

Brown performed at the Pillow with Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE in 2002, 2004, and 2005. Camille A. Brown & Dancers performed at Jacob’s Pillow in both 2010 and 2011. She co-directed *The School* at Jacob’s Pillow 2015 Social Dances Program with E. Moncell Durden. Brown performed in the 2016 Festival’s *And Still You Must Swing* program in the Ted Shawn Theatre and also received the 2016 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award.

In addition, Brown has been a part of Creative Development Residencies in 2010 and 2011. Along with Francine E. Ott and Maria Monge, Brown recently finished facilitating a series of free dance and movement workshops in Pittsfield, MA from June 27-29. These workshops encouraged participants to find their own personal voices and celebrated African-American social dance within the community.

Brown can be seen in the Pillow’s 2017 season image jumping in front of the Ted Shawn Theatre, found on billboards, program books, brochures, and other print and digital promotional materials.

## **Related Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive Resources**

Camille A. Brown & Dancers in *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine*, 2010:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/camille-a-brown/the-evolution-of-a-secured-feminine/>

Camille A. Brown & Dancers in *How We Process*, 2011:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/kyle-abraham-camille-a-brown/how-we-process/>

## **Performance & Ticket Details**

**Camille A. Brown & Dancers**  
**Ted Shawn Theatre, August 9–13**

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

**\$69, \$49, \$39**

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. Other discounts are available.

Tickets are on sale now; online at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org), and via phone 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 0122

### **ALSO THIS WEEK**

**dendy/donovan projects' *ELVIS EVERYWHERE***

**Doris Duke Theatre, August 9–13**

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

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

**\$45, \$35, \$25**

Praised for his "speed, force, brilliance and surprise" (*The Washington Post*), Mark Dendy's work is known for its searing social and political commentary and intense physicality. *Elvis Everywhere* scrutinizes society's obsession with celebrity, ultimately drawing chilling parallels to today's politics. Inspired by an interview with Donald Rumsfeld on his encounter with Elvis Presley in Las Vegas, Dendy's *Elvis Everywhere* utilizes the arc of Elvis's life as a metaphor for the United States and its current turbulent political atmosphere. *Elvis Everywhere* is supported by the Jacob's Pillow Creative Development Residency program.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: The DASH Ensemble**

**Wednesday, August 9 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Showcasing high-octane physicality and combining elements of modern dance, hip-hop, floor work, and physical theater, the DASH Ensemble performs *Ways to Handle*, created by Artistic Director Gregory Dolbashian in collaboration with the artists of DASH. Dolbashian has created works for companies such as Ballet Austin, ABT, Atlanta Ballet, and Hubbard Street 2. He created The DASH Ensemble in 2009, and since then the company has performed at The Joyce Theater, New York Live Arts, Guggenheim Works & Process, The Skirball Center, and as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series in 2010.

**Class with Inside/OUT Artist: Ballet Barre with Kevin Thomas**

**Thursday, August 10 at 5pm**

**\$10 per class**

Take a class, then see the artists perform as part of the Inside/Out Performance series that evening. Pre-registration required. Walk-ups are accommodated as space permits. Participants younger than 18 require a parent signature on [liability waiver](#). *Class locations are posted on signs at the Pillow.*

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Collage Dance Collective**

**Thursday, August 10 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Founded in New York City in 2007 and now based in Memphis, TN, Collage Dance Collective works to increase access to outstanding ballet training, diversity on professional ballet stages, and participation by people of color at ballet and other fine arts events. The company returns to the Inside/Out Stage for the first time since 2007, with excerpts of *Testament* by Complexions Contemporary Ballet Artistic Director Dwight Rhoden; *Wash*, a new commission by Princess Grace Award winner Joshua Manculich; and *Beyond the Veil* and *Lineage* by Juilliard graduate and multi-faceted choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie.

**Free Fun Friday**

**Friday, August 11, noon-7pm**

**Free Event**

Enjoy FREE dance games, an outdoor Inside/Out performance, classes, a special Kids' Tour of the Pillow's historic grounds, and more!

**PillowTalk: *Staging Dance***

**Friday, August 11 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Camille A. Brown and Mark Dendy each straddle the worlds of concert dance and musical theater in varying degrees; here they define some characteristics of the different worlds.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: *Études* by Preeti Vasudevan & Amar Ramasar**

**Friday, August 11 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

*Études* combines superior technique and the joy of dance, spanning two very different genres. It is a dynamic dance dialogue between Preeti Vasudevan, classical Bharatanatyam dancer, and Amar Ramasar, principal dancer at the New York City Ballet, which redefines classical movement idioms. Vasudevan is the director of Thresh, an arts collaborative that creates productions that explore a contemporary movement derived from the gestures, rhythms and storytelling techniques of Indian classical dance-theater. Winner of several international awards, Vasudevan is the first Indian choreographer to be invited as a Resident Fellow at the prestigious Center for Ballet and the Arts in New York, and as an Artist-in-Residence at New York Live Arts, premiering her new commissioned work in late 2107. Ramasar joined New York City Ballet in 2000 as an apprentice and has been promoted regularly since then, becoming a principal with the company in 2009. He has danced countless lead roles in classical and contemporary works and is the recipient of a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer and the Mae L. Wien Award for Outstanding Promise.

**Lift Ev'ry Voice Festival 2017**

**Saturday, August 12 at 11am**

**Free and Ticketed Events**

Jacob's Pillow Dance invites the Lift Ev'ry Voice community to spend a day and enjoy all that the Pillow has to offer. The day's activities include free and ticketed performances, tour of the historic grounds, the opportunity to observe classes, picnic, and more. All are welcome to enjoy.

**PillowTalk: *A Salute to Barton Mumaw***

**Saturday, August 12 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Pillow icon from his 1930s beginnings here to his eternal role as Ted Shawn Theatre weathervane, Mumaw has further cemented his heroic status with a substantial bequest.

A Pillow icon from his 1930s beginnings here to his eternal role as Ted Shawn Theatre weathervane, Mumaw has further cemented his heroic status with a substantial bequest. He's remembered at this event in rare video clips and personal reminiscences.

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

**Saturday, August 12 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Performers of the Musical Theatre Dance Program share excerpts of song and dance numbers they are preparing for *A Jazz Happening*, a benefit for The School at Jacob's Pillow to be held in the Ted Shawn Theatre on August 20. Under the direction of Broadway choreographer/director Chet Walker, award-winning Broadway choreographers, directors, composers, and musicians collaborate to create original numbers on the performers, with the same fast pace and rigor required to audition for and mount Broadway productions. 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: dendy/donovan projects**

**Sunday, August 6 at 10am–11:30am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

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

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

**Open to intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+**

Colette Krogol, dancer with denny/donovan projects, leads a class with the unique opportunity to learn repertory sections from *Elvis Everywhere*. Featuring a warm-up followed by repertory work, she will lead dancers through Mark Denny's work which is known for its searing social and political commentary and intense physicality. Please wear comfortable clothes to move in, socks or bare feet are fine.

***Trisha Brown: In Plain Site at the Clark***

**Sunday, August 13 at 1pm & 4pm**

The Trisha Brown Dance Company continues Brown's legacy through its *Trisha Brown: In Plain Site* initiative. Through this effort, the company draws on Brown's model for reinvigorating her choreography at new sites and in new contexts. In a co-presentation by Jacob's Pillow and the Clark, the company will present *Trisha Brown: In Plain Site* on the Clark's grounds in Williamstown.

**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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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