

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ELVIS EVERYWHERE, TO JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL, AUGUST 9-13**

July 26, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents denny/donovan projects in their most recent dance-theater work, *Elvis Everywhere*, in the Doris Duke Theatre, August 9-13. Distinguished Artistic Directors Mark Dendy and Stephen Donovan collaborate to create a production that pairs playful movement with insightful social commentary. *Elvis Everywhere* treats the timeline of Elvis Presley's rise to fame as a symbol of the shifting political climate in the United States. Praised for his "sheer craftsmanship" by Alastair Macaulay of *The New York Times*, Dendy communicates and critiques our infectious obsession with American celebrity figures. Andrew Boynton of *The New Yorker* says, "Mark Dendy is on a quest—for truth in his art, for acceptance of his past, for an honest confrontation of the world's ills...Dendy has a sharp wit, which frequently emerges from the characters he creates, indelibly limned."

"I love Mark Dendy's intense physicality and sense of humor. Part love letter, part political commentary, he brings both to bear in this examination of the cult of Elvis," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Dendy points to John Oliver, comedian, political commentator, and actor, who outlines the driving force behind *Elvis Everywhere*: "America is Elvis Presley – the most beautiful, talented, rebellious nation in the history of the earth. And now, you're in your Vegas years. You have squeezed yourself into a white jumpsuit, you're wheezing your way through 'Love Me Tender' and you might be about to pass away bloated on the toilet. But you're still the king."

Elvis Everywhere was created in part during a Creative Development Residency at Jacob's Pillow in 2017. Dancers move between Elvis-inspired hip swivels and Dendy's own experimental vocabulary of movement, drawing on elements of both classic Hollywood musicals and postmodern dance. The performers have diverse backgrounds in the performing arts as actors, dancers, choreographers, and teachers, bringing a range of personalities to the stage. Part of the program features a solo work by Dendy done to a recording of an interview with former Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. The interview, in which Rumsfeld describes his encounter with Elvis Presley in Las Vegas, inspired Dendy's initial choreographic ideas for the work. *Elvis Everywhere* premiered in July 2017 at the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina.

The movement, ranging from fluid, gestural sequences to full body lifts and turns, pairs with David Ferri's vibrant lighting design. In addition to his collaborations with denny/donovan projects, Ferri has worked with notable choreographers such as Doug Varone, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and Eiko & Koma, among others. The work revisits Elvis's most iconic hits, including "Hound Dog," "Love Me Tender," "Jailhouse Rock," and "All Shook Up," and simultaneously uses these records to illustrate how immense popularity led to Elvis's eventual decline. Elizabeth Scwyzer of the *Santa Barbara Independent* writes that Dendy creates "dazzling and courageous commentary on America...Dendy achieves a rare and heady blend of high entertainment and smart social criticism."

In the work, Donovan projects news headlines of Elvis on '70s television and contextualizes the singer's stardom through the Nixon era, ultimately dissecting the complexities of Elvis as an American icon. Though uplifting, colorful, and humorous, Theo Boguszewski of *The Dance Enthusiast* writes, "Darkness resides beneath the humor. Like Oliver, Dendy suggests that America is in fact Elvis Presley during the Vegas years, when a sad, untimely demise awaits. While Dendy may have dreary predictions for the future, the outlook for modern dance--where work can be both provocative and entertaining--seems bright".

Mark Dendy and Stephen Donovan have a long history of challenging gender and sexual stereotypes and contextualizing current events within movement narratives. In *Whistleblower* (2015), dendy/donovan projects use transcripts from Chelsea Manning's controversial trial to investigate how transgender identity and sexual orientation function within and influence the military. Lauren Wingenroth of *Broadway World* says that although the trial is in the past, "Dendy reminds us that its personal and political meanings are still urgent."

About dendy/donovan projects

dendy/donovan projects was formed in 2008, with longtime collaborators Mark Dendy and Stephen Donovan, to create a dance-theater multi-media company valuing all forms of design and collaboration with a sincere and political sensibility. Obie, Alpert, and New York Dance & Performance ("Bessie") award-winning choreographer Mark Dendy and actor, designer, and filmmaker Stephen Donovan have been a creative team since 2003 when they worked on the Broadway musical *TABOO!*, with Dendy as the choreographer and Donovan as Assistant Director. They have created many original works, namely *Ritual Cyclical*, a site-specific work for 80 dancers at Lincoln Center Out of Doors (2013), *Labyrinth* at Abrons Arts Center (2014), and *Whistleblower* at Dixon Place (2015).

Mark Dendy has worked in a variety of dance genres ranging from experimental dance and edgy East Village drag to high-end Broadway productions, prominent ballet companies, and opera to large-scale site-specific works. Mark Dendy Dance & Theatre has been presented at PS 122, the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, Lincoln Center, Central Park SummerStage, and Dance Theater Workshop, as well as numerous national and international venues. Dendy has been commissioned by both modern and ballet companies worldwide, most notably Pacific Northwest Ballet. He has collaborated with prominent directors, writers, and composers on numerous projects. He has received several awards and honors, including a 1997 New York Dance & Performance ("Bessie") Award, a 2000 Obie Award, the National Society of Arts and Letters Sustained Achievement Award (1990), the Herb Alpert Award, and the Joe A. Calloway Award (both in 2000), as well as numerous grants.

Stephen Donovan is the Artistic Director of dendy/donovan projects. His works include *Ritual Cyclical* (Lincoln Center Out of Doors, 2013); *Dystopian Distractions!* (Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, 2014); *Labyrinth* (Abrons Arts Center, 2014); *NEWYORKnewyork @Astor Place* (Joe's Pub, 2015); and *Whistleblower* (Dixon Place, 2015). Stephen has worked extensively as a performer, designer, and director. He studied contemporary art at Nottingham Trent University and acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

In addition to appearing in the Jacob's Pillow Gala performances in 1988 and 1997, Mark Dendy and Company performed *Beat* as part of the Jacob's Pillow "Splash Festival" in 1998. Dendy himself performed on the Inside/Out stage in 1992 with Jane Comfort & Company, and then his work *Aria* was performed by Li Chiao-Ping on Inside/Out in 1997. Dendy's company participated in Creative Development Residencies at Jacob's Pillow in 2010 and 2017.

Performance & Ticket Details

dendy/donovan projects' *Elvis Everywhere*

Doris Duke Theatre, August 9-13

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

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. Other discounts are available.

Tickets are on sale now; online at 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

Camille A. Brown & Dancers**August 9-13 Ted Shawn Theatre****Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm****Saturday & Sunday at 2pm****\$78, \$65, \$45**

Jacob's Pillow Dance Award-winner Camille A. Brown is known for theatrical works filled with gutsy moves and bold storytelling. *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* is a joyful and moving exploration of childhood innocence, girlhood awareness, and maturation of the Black female through her lens. Through "a common language formed from play, musicality, and empathy" (*Time Out New York*), the evening-length "Bessie" Award-nominated work *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* reveals the complexity of carving out a self-defined identity as a black female in urban American culture. "A storyteller with many stories to tell" (*The Boston Globe*), Brown is a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow, 2014 Bessie Award recipient, 2015 USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, 2015 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, 2015 TED Fellow, a four-time Princess Grace Award recipient, and a three-time recipient of New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project support, among many other accolades. LIVE MUSIC

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance InteractiveCamille A. Brown, *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine*, 2010:<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/camille-a-brown/the-evolution-of-a-secured-feminine/>**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 Pillow's Inside/Out Performance Series in 2010.

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.

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 2017. 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.

PillowTalk: A Salute to Barton Mumaw

Saturday, August 12 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

Free Event

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 Dance 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.

Sunday Master Class with Festival Artist: denny/donovan projects

Sunday, August 13, 10–11:30am

Doris Duke Theatre

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.

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), 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–Sunday, 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

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 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, Dendy/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.

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