

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org**KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION RETURNS TO JACOB'S PILLOW WITH THEIR NEWEST WORK, *DEAREST HOME*, AUGUST 2–6**

July 13, 2017 - (Becket, MA) Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion returns to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival with their most recent work, *Dearest Home*, on the Doris Duke Theatre stage, August 2–6. Kyle Abraham, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow and Jacob's Pillow Award-winner, presents an intimate performance that explores the concepts of love, longing, and loss. Abraham's choreography has a "sense of constant connection" and "makes the simple a source of complex satisfaction" (Laura Molzahn, *The Chicago Tribune*). *Dearest Home* audiences watch the performance in-the-round, allowing them to fully experience the "glorious conviction" of the dancers (Carla Escoda, *Bachtrack.com*).

"We will reconfigure the Doris Duke Theatre to welcome Kyle Abraham's latest work, *Dearest Home*, a work performed in the round, where audiences decide whether or not to see the work with music or without. It's a courageous piece where audiences are brought into the push and pull of love, loss, and intimacy," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Dearest Home premiered in May 2017 at the Yerba Center for the Arts, a multidisciplinary contemporary arts center in San Francisco, California. While the dancers of Abraham.In.Motion perform the work in silence, audience members have the unique opportunity to choose whether to experience the work with a sound score through wireless headphones or in silence. The music, an original composition by Jerome Begin, recorded by Vivian Yau (vocals), and Cyrus Beroukhim, Jennifer Choi, Wendy Lau, and Danika Paskvan (musicians), accompanies the rich movement of the dancers. Begin, called a "fabulous composer-pianist" by *The New York Times*, creates experimental electronic and acoustic music scores. He has collaborated with distinguished companies such as Bill T. Jones, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Keigwin + Company, among others. In *Dearest Home*, "the sound situation offers the best of two worlds," says Allan Ulrich of *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Witnessing the piece without the score provides an intriguing alternative to traditional dance performances, allowing the audience to engage all of their senses and witness the vulnerable, fervent energy of the dancers within the space.

Dearest Home communicates the complexities of love, longing, and loss. The dancers initiate a powerful movement narrative, and transition through solos, duets, and trios, intertwining their bodies. The intimate lighting of Dan Scully complements the dancers as they dress and undress, exposing their bodies and highlighting the undulations and twists of their torsos. Allan Ulrich of the *San Francisco Chronicle* praises Dan Scully's set and light design as "extraordinarily subtle" and says, "if you had any doubts about the extent to which lighting can make a dance, they will be eradicated here."

Kyle Abraham brings together a diverse group of dancers from varying ages and subcultures. His work is widely known for its ability to dive into the realities of our changing social world, revealing individual histories

and oftentimes silenced voices. Instead of the sharper-edged emphasis of some of Abraham's prior works, a softness and subtlety pervades the movement in *Dearest Home*; Abraham.In.Motion shares an unmistakable intimacy with the audience within this special in-the-round setting.

About Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion

Artistic Director Kyle Abraham was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After receiving a B.F.A. from SUNY Purchase and an M.F.A. from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Abraham founded his own company, Abraham.In.Motion, in 2006. He has choreographed works for other notable companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, for which he created *The Corner* (2010), *Another Night* (2012), and his trilogy, *Untitled America* (2016). Abraham has a diverse background in the performing arts, drawing on his base in modern, hip-hop, and urban dance, as well as his studies in music and visual arts. Abraham contextualizes social and political intricacies through dance, and his work is deeply rooted in identity and personal history. In his 2012 work, *Pavement*, Abraham.In.Motion provides an emotional recount of the discrimination within Pittsburgh's historically black neighborhoods. Joan Acocella writes in *The New Yorker* that Abraham's work "comes close to combining truth and beauty, by making its realism metamorphose, again and again, into symbol...It's been a long time since I've seen a group of virtuoso dancers look as natural, as human, as Abraham's company."

Abraham is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow, a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, and a 2015 City Center Choreographer in residence. Previous awards include being named a 2012 USA Ford Fellow, a Creative Capital grantee, and receiving the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. In 2010, Abraham received a prestigious New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show*, and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010. The previous year, he was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch".

The mission of Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion (A.I.M) is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s, and grounded in his artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, Abraham's goal in his movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The work entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior, and all things visual in an effort to create an avenue for personal investigation and exposing that on stage. A.I.M. is a representation of dancers from various disciplines and diverse personal backgrounds. Combined together, these individualities create movement that is manipulated and molded into something fresh and unique.

The dancers of Abraham.In.Motion hail from diverse backgrounds both across the United States and internationally, bringing with them extensive dance training. Before joining A.I.M., they worked and studied with other notable choreographers such as Bill T. Jones, Martha Graham, and Mark Dendy.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Kyle Abraham won the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award in 2012 and serves as a Board Trustee. Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion made their Jacob's Pillow debut in 2009 on the Inside/Out stage, and returned to the Pillow in 2010, 2011, and 2013. Abraham collaborated with Wendy Whelan, former principal dancer of the New York City Ballet, to create and perform in *Restless Creature*, which premiered at the Pillow in 2013. He also performed at the Pillow with the companies of Cherylyn Lavagnino (2008) and David Dorfman (2011).

Related Videos on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive

Kyle Abraham, *Inventing Pookie Jenkins*, 2010:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/kyle-abraham/inventing-pookie-jenkins/>

Kyle Abraham in David Dorfman Dance, *Prophets of Funk*, 2011:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/david-dorfman-dance/prophets-of-funk/>

Kyle Abraham & Camille A. Brown, *How We Process*, 2011:

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

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, *Pavement*, 2013:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/kyle-abraham-abraham-in-motion/pavement/>

Performance & Ticket Details

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion at Jacob's Pillow

Doris Duke Theatre, August 2–6

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15

Thursday, Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

A limited number of 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

Doug Varone & Dancers

Ted Shawn Theatre, August 2–6

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2pm

\$69, \$59, \$39

Praised for its “sheer kinetic force and profound emotional insight” (*The Washington Post*), modern dance company Doug Varone & Dancers delivers expansive vision, versatility, and technical prowess to the Ted Shawn Theatre. Celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, the company brings *ReComposed*, inspired by expressionist painter Joan Mitchell’s swirling pastels, set to acclaimed composer Michael Gordon’s tremendous orchestral score *Dystopia*. The program also includes Varone’s masterpiece *Boats Leaving*, as well as Varone himself in the world premiere solo performance of *Nocturne(s)*.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive

Doug Varone & Dancers, *Castles*, 2009:

https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/doug-varone-and-dancers/castles/?_ga=2.19999805.468591657.1498415454-1763640048.1495821370

Inside/Out Performance Series: Amy Seiwert's Imagery

Wednesday, August 2 at 6:15pm

Free Event

Amy Seiwert's Imagery, a contemporary ballet company based in San Francisco, will show excerpts of *Wandering*, Seiwert's first evening-length contemporary ballet set to “Winterreise,” the piano and voice cycle by

Franz Schubert to 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller. The dramatic monologue reflects the story of a wanderer who feels lost from himself and lost from the world. *Wandering* was created during a residency provided by The Joyce Theater Foundation, New York City, with major support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Amy Seiwert enjoyed a nineteen-year performing career dancing with the Smuin, LA Chamber, and Sacramento Ballets. As a dancer with Smuin Ballet she became involved with the “Protégé Program” where her choreography was mentored by the late Michael Smuin, and became Choreographer in Residence there upon her retirement from dancing in 2008.

Inside/Out Performance Series: METdance

Thursday, August 3 at 6:15pm

Free Event

Appearing on the Inside/Out stage for a third time, METdance from Houston, TX, present works by some of the most active and accomplished choreographers of this generation, in a program that highlights the company’s signature effervescent energy and passion for diversity. The program features *New Second Line*, inspired by the events of Hurricane Katrina and choreographed by Guggenheim Fellow and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award winner Camille A. Brown; *The Clean-Cut American Stage Show*, a fusion of vintage Americana and contemporary design by founder and director of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Joshua L. Peugh; and *Snow Playground*, a crystal-clear look at the organized flurry of a winter snowfall by celebrated performer and choreographer Katarzyna Skarpetowska.

Weekend OUT at the Pillow

August 4–6

Our annual LGBTQ celebration weekend includes free events, a special tour honoring Pillow founder Ted Shawn and his Men Dancers, a Saturday night dance party with DJ BFG hosted by Tyler Ashley, The Dauphine of Bushwick; and a film screening of a documentary about Marcelo Gomes entitled *Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer*.

PillowTalk: Exquisite Corps

Friday, August 4 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

Free Event

Filmmaker Mitchell Rose employed 42 prominent choreographers to create a visual “chain love letter” to dance, which he’ll screen and discuss with members of his illustrious cast.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Inlet Dance Theatre

Friday, August 4 at 6:15pm

Free Event

From Cleveland, Ohio, Inlet Dance Theatre is a contemporary dance company founded in 2001 by choreographer and Executive/Artistic Director Bill Wade. Their Inside/Out program includes *This Could Hurt*, inspired by Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers and the book *Wild At Heart* by John Eldredge, centered around a group of men having an adventure full of risk; *Doppelganger*, a transfixing duet that plays with balance, dependency, and weight sharing; and excerpts from *Easter Island Memoirs*, the result of a residency on Easter Island, a remote volcanic island in Polynesia.

PillowTalk: Perspectives on Men in Dance

Saturday, August 5 at 4pm

Blake’s Barn

Free Event

In conjunction with the Pillow’s annual Weekend OUT celebration, Festival artists discuss shifting dynamics of gay men in dance from their own perspectives.

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

Saturday, August 5 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: Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion

Sunday, August 6, 10–11:30am

Doris Duke Theatre

Open to intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion dancer Jeremy "Jae" Neal leads a class that emphasizes the four specific core values of Abraham.In.Motion: exploration, musicality, abandonment, and intuition. The opening warm-up sequence will focus on the fluidity of the spine, articulation, and core body strengthening and will build to challenging, creative, and invigorating phrase work. Participants will experience a personalized postmodern movement vocabulary full of intricate gestures and fearless floor work. Please wear comfortable clothes to move in; socks or bare feet are fine.

Sunday Film Event: *Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer*

Sunday, August 6 at 4:30pm

Blakes Barn

Tickets \$10

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

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, 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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