

**FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE HOSTS DOG DANCE, AUGUST 26**

August 15, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow Dance celebrates National Dog Day with an invitation for dogs and their caregivers to participate in a dance choreographed just for them on Saturday, August 26th. This dance highlights the special relationship we share with our pets and will also feature local pet vendors and the opportunity to win prizes. As the 85th Anniversary Season comes to a close, Jacob's Pillow Dance continues to expand the parameters of who gets to dance in this fun, canine-friendly experience.

"Partnering is fundamental to many dance genres and the partnership between dogs and their companions is unlike any other," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "I'm so looking forward to seeing the Great Lawn in front of the Ted Shawn Theatre animated in this way!"

Hosted by Maryland-based Dance Exchange Artist Elizabeth Johnson, participants and their leashed canines will be guided through a series of making patterns, practicing gestures, and showing off tricks. After 45 minutes of rehearsal, there will be a short 15 minute "performance" to demonstrate what the dogs and their companions have learned.

The class begins at 11am, RSVP encouraged. Donations to the Berkshire Humane Society are suggested; a donation wish list can be found at: <http://berkshirehumane.org/jacobs-pillow-dog-dance/>

There is no experience needed for humans or dogs, although it is encouraged that participating dogs are, comfortable with loud noises, being around other dogs, and must be leashed at all times. To learn more and RSVP visit: <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/dog-dance/>

**About Berkshire Humane Society**

Berkshire Humane Society (BHS) opened in 1992 as a private, non-profit, open-admission animal center after taking over the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA). Since then, BHS has continuously evolved and innovated to meet the growing needs of animals and their people in and around Berkshire County. With an expanding capacity to care for homeless animals, BHS also develops services as well as educational and outreach programs. These programs include *Purradise*, a satellite feline adoption center, and *SafePet* Room, a temporary foster housing for pets of owners who are in crisis or transitions.

**About Dance Exchange**

Dance Exchange is a Takoma Park, MD-based non-profit arts organization committed to dance making and creative practices that engage individuals and communities of all ages to cultivate a deeper understanding of themselves and their world, and to open up the questions at the heart of their lives. Founded in 1976 by Liz Lerman and under the artistic direction of Cassie Meador since 2011, Dance Exchange creates dances by asking four questions: *Who gets to dance? Where is the dance happening? What is it about? Why does it matter?*

**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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