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**THE WASHINGTON BALLET BRINGS WORKS OF TODAY'S LEADING CONTEMPORARY BALLET CHOREOGRAPHERS TO THE TED SHAWN THEATRE, AUGUST 23–27**

August 9, 2017—(Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents The Washington Ballet in dances by some of today's prominent working ballet choreographers. This Washington, D.C.-based ballet company is led by Artistic Director Julie Kent, who began her tenure after dancing 29 years for American Ballet Theatre (ABT). By broadening the company's repertory for "the vivid, uninhibited freshness of these Washington performers" (Alastair Macaulay *The New York Times*) Kent built the company into a well-known force in the ballet world. Demonstrating their artistic and technical versatility, The Washington Ballet will perform *Petite Mort* by Czech choreographer Jiří Kylián, *Seven Sonatas* by ABT's artist-in-residence Alexei Ratmansky, and *SOMBRERISIMO* by Belgian-Cuban choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge notes that "the Pillow is excited to welcome back The Washington Ballet after a 37-year hiatus! Now led by Julie Kent, and presenting a program that includes Jiří Kylián's masterwork, *Petite Mort*."

Jiří Kylián, "one of the most influential choreographers of the last 30 years" (Claudia La Rocco, *The New York Times*), created *Petite Mort* in 1991 on Nederlands Dans Theater. The work exploded internationally, gracing the repertory of exemplary dance companies with both classical and contemporary focuses. In an ode to the second centenary of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's death, Kylián paired *Petite Mort* to Mozart's famous "Piano Concerto in A Major (KV 488), Adagio" and "Piano Concerto in C Major (KV 467), Andante." A French euphemism for arousal, translating as "little death," *Petite Mort's* structure and delicate crafting exudes the complicated variances of sexual experiences: from passion and subtlety, to fiery independence and magnetic attraction. Props of fencing foils for the men and black moveable bodices for the women heighten the roles of femininity and masculinity. Skin-toned corsets and lace-up shorts, modeled after Joke Visser's original costumes, showcase the beauty of skin-to-skin contact in the male and female pas-de-deux, where bodies intertwine and caress each other in physical bursts of sensation ranging from fragile to feverous, as the dancers explore the temperaments of touch. *Petite Mort* truly reveals the vulnerable and sensual prowess of The Washington Ballet.

The Washington Ballet will also perform *Seven Sonatas* by Alexei Ratmansky, current artist-in-residence at ABT and hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the 21st century's greatest choreographers" (Michael Cooper). *Seven Sonatas*, which premiered on ABT in 2009, is praised as an "utter joy" that "clearly transcends the piano-ballet format" (Allan Ulrich, *The San Francisco Gate*). This whimsical piece for three male-female couples is performed to seven parts of Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti's keyboard sonatas. These light and airy "melodies are all nearly weightless," a quality that echoes in the work's "dancing of extreme musical sensitivity" (Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*). The dancers swirl, float, and jump with an easeful breath that evokes not only a similar physicality to the billowing music but an emotional connection as well. Ratmansky crafted the work in hopes "that the music sounds *because* of the movement" as if each dancer is "being a pianist...responsible for the music being born." The more the dancers turn and float through space their smiles change into yearning and their joyous energy hints of sadness, showing "without calculation how brightness descends into fear or how the unfurling of a body in space can create a flash of clarity" (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*).

Closing the program is *SOMBRERISIMO* created by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, one of today's most in-demand

contemporary ballet choreographers. This work for six men, described as “explosive in its exploits” (Siobhan Burke, *The New York Times*) and originally performed by Ballet Hispánico in 2013, examines Belgian painter René Magritte’s famous depictions of men in bowler hats: “a thematic continuity and dimension to the piece” that is “clear, yet unforced” (*The Knight Foundation*). Lopez Ochoa and costume designer Diana Reutigger dress the men in Magritte’s symbolic bowler hats, which the sextet playfully grabs and tosses throughout the piece. These personified figures of Magritte slide through athletic feats, from articulate inversions and floor work to impressive jumps and flips through the air, that illustrate both their balletic foundations and a friendly-competitive nature. Technically challenging and requiring consistent high energy, *SOMBRERISIMO* is performed to a musical mixture of salsa, flamenco, tango, and Spanish guitar. Salsa dancing motifs and flamenco arm gestures decorate the physical expansion on Magritte’s visual art as *SOMBRERISIMO* exemplifies Lopez Ochoa’s ability to attentively blend her own artistic values into her creative inspiration.

### **About The Company**

The Washington School of Ballet was opened in 1944 by distinguished dance teacher Mary Day and is celebrating its 72<sup>nd</sup> year as an organization. The company grew out of this school, establishing itself in 1976 to continue Day’s main goal for the organization as a whole: to make a stellar institution of teaching, creating, and enlightenment through dance. Artistic Director Julie Kent is engaged in continuing Day’s goals in addition to building a larger, diverse repertory for the company and constructing her unique perspective as a leader. Her vision for The Washington Ballet focuses on using its foundation to further develop and build the institution by broadening company repertoire, expanding community engagement efforts throughout the DC metropolitan area, and leading the company to a more prominent place both within and beyond the Nation’s capital. Kent believes that “this pursuit that the Washington Ballet has charged me with...has great rewards, when you see dancers changing before your eyes. And when I hear, as one said recently, ‘My dream come true is happening right now’” (Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*).

### **Pillow Connections**

The Washington Ballet made its Jacob’s Pillow debut in 1960 and last performed at the Pillow in 1980. Julie Kent performed at the 1999 Jacob’s Pillow Gala with Robert Hill; and in 2003 introduced a Pillow film screening of *Dancers*, the 1987 film in which she starred with Mikhail Baryshnikov.

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

The Washington Ballet in *Double Contrasts*, 1980:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/the-washington-ballet/double-contrasts/>

Julie Kent with Robert Hill in *Manon*, 1999:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/julie-kent-robert-hill/manon-scene-from-act-i/>

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**

#### **The Washington Ballet**

**Ted Shawn Theatre, August 23–27**

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

**Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm**

**\$75, \$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](http://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**

### ***The Principles of Uncertainty***

**Doris Duke Theatre, August 23–27**

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

**Saturday and Sunday at 2pm**

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

Jacob's Pillow Dance Award-winner John Heginbotham and acclaimed illustrator Maira Kalman join forces for the world premiere of *The Principles of Uncertainty*. Imaginative set design meets whimsical dance theatre, promising a delightful evening full of wit and charm. Co-commissioned by the Pillow and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and developed during multiple Pillow Creative Development Residencies, *The Principles of Uncertainty* is an evening-length dance theatre work choreographed and directed by Heginbotham, inspired by Kalman's written and visual art, set to an original score composed, arranged, and curated by Brooklyn Rider and Silk Road Ensemble's Colin Jacobsen. Members of The Knights, Jacobsen's innovative chamber orchestra, will perform live.

### **Inside/Out Performance Series: Leonardo Sandoval/Parangolé Collective**

**Wednesday, August 23 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

***Live Music***

Brazilian tap dancer Leonardo Sandoval, described by the *Chicago Sun-Times* as "strong yet fine-boned, capable of authority and nuance," is quickly gaining a reputation in the tap world and beyond for his musicality and for adding his own Brazilian flavor to tap dancing. An alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow, he performs excerpts from his first full-length work, *Music from the Sole*, an hour-long show created with bassist and composer Greg Richardson. Sandoval's choreography and performing style are rooted both in America's tap dance heritage, and in Brazil's rich rhythmic and musical traditions, with additional influences from jazz and contemporary dance. In addition to his solo work, he is currently performing with Dorrance Dance, touring across the U.S. and abroad.

### **Inside/Out Performance Series: American College Dance Association Highlights**

**Thursday, August 24 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

For the second year, American College Dance Association (ACDA) presents highlights from its regional festivals. The ACDA supports and promotes the wealth of talent and creativity from college and university dance departments. Each spring, regional conferences are hosted around the country with performances, workshops, panels, and master classes. At each conference, a panel of expert adjudicators assess works choreographed by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and guest artists. A selection of standout works from the 2017 conferences will be featured in this program. Represented colleges include University of Hartford (CT), Modesto Junior College (CA), Uni of Michigan, Virginia Commonwealth University, Long Beach City College (CA).

### **PillowTalk: Maira Kalman's *Principles of Uncertainty***

**Friday, August 25 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Both whimsical and brilliant, Maira Kalman's work inhabits a world all its own, currently represented at the Metropolitan Museum and in the Doris Duke Theatre, and explored here, in discussion with Kalman herself.

### **Inside/Out Performance Series: Charya Burt Cambodian Dance**

**Friday, August 25 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Showcasing Charya Burt's inventive choreography, based in Cambodia's classical dance tradition, this program includes her 2016 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival premiere, *Heavenly Garden*; a demonstration

of classical Cambodian movements and gestures; *Sentimental Dance* from the classical repertory; and *Intersections Through Time*, which explores her personal journey as an immigrant artist. Dedicated to the preservation and advancement of Cambodian dance through formal instruction, workshops, and public performances, Charya Burt Cambodian Dance was established in 1993 after Charya left the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh to immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area. Today, the company continues its original mission along with developing and presenting new works deeply rooted in tradition that also push artistic boundaries to help the art form evolve and stay relevant.

**PillowTalk: *Inside the Dancer's Art***

**Saturday, August 26 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**Free Event**

Rose Eichenbaum has spent over 30 years interviewing and photographing dancers; she shares highlights of her life's work in a new book and exhibition on view all season in the Ted Shawn Theatre lobby, featuring a number of Pillow images. Here she will participate in a discussion about her work, followed by a book signing.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Red Sky Performance**

**Saturday, August 26 at 6:15pm**

**Free Event**

Red Sky Performance is Canada's leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in dance, theater, music, and media. They will perform *Miigis*, a commissioned work which will be the centerpiece of a Toronto celebration for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In Anishinaabe culture (the culture of the indigenous people of Canada), the miigis shell represents the breath of life, and informs travel to the Great Lakes and to a place where wild rice grows (manoomin) on water. Red Sky is an award-winning company founded in 2000 by [Artistic Director Sandra Laronde](#). Touring since 2003, the company has delivered 1,523 performances across Canada and 159 international performances in 12 countries on four continents.

**Dog Dance**

**The Great Lawn, August 26 at 11am**

**Free Event**

This participatory event for fleet-footed canines and their dance-loving companions will be led by Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Artist of Dance Exchange and an Artist Educator for the Pillow's Curriculum in Motion program. The event is free, with a suggested donation to the Berkshire Humane Society.

**Alumni Day**

**Saturday, August 26 at 12pm**

**\$45**

Former Jacob's Pillow staff, interns, students, faculty, and Board members are invited! Ticket includes access to a performance in either theatre and Post-Show activities!

**Festival Finale**

**Saturday, August 26 at 9pm**

**\$75, \$50 | \$100, \$75**

Your Festival Finale ticket includes an evening performance of [The Washington Ballet](#) or Dance Heginbotham's [The Principles of Uncertainty](#), plus entrance to the best after-party of the summer. Mingle with artists and staff and dance the night away to DJ BFG spinning live at the ultimate dance celebration.

**Sunday Master Class With Festival Artist: Dance Heginbotham**

**Sunday, August 27 at 10am–11:30am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

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

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

Macy Sullivan of Dance Heginbotham leads participants through Dance Heginbotham's favorite exercises and tunes with an opportunity to learn material from *The Principles of Uncertainty*. Influenced by multiple modern

techniques, this class will begin with a gentle warm-up, progress to expansive across-the floor phrases, and culminate with a section from *The Principles of Uncertainty*. Open to intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+; closed to observers. Please wear comfortable clothes to move in, socks or bare feet are fine.

**Sunday Film Event: *Wendy Whelan: Restless Creature***

**Sunday, August 27 at 4:30pm**

**Blake's Barn**

After 30 years with New York City Ballet, legendary dancer Wendy Whelan retired from the company and focused on independent, contemporary projects. This film follows her throughout the extraordinary chapter of life and career that all dancers must face. Whelan's dance work *Restless Creature* premiered at Jacob's Pillow in 2013 and portions of this documentary were filmed at the Pillow. The screening will be introduced by Whelan herself. 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–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](http://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, denty/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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