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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**JACOBS PILLOW PRESENTS 'CONTEMPORARY DANCE ON ICE'  
PILLOW POP-UP: LE PATIN LIBRE  
AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE BERKSHIRES IN PITTSFIELD**

December 4, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents Le Patin Libre (The Free Skate), pioneers of contemporary ice-skating as a new artistic discipline, as a Pillow Pop-Up performance at the Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires in Pittsfield, February 16. Through an innovative display of ice-skating virtuosity, this Montreal-based group combines ice-skating with choreography and performance art. This engagement is part of The City of Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development's *10x10 Upstreet Arts Festival* which highlights more than 50 events from artists across Berkshire County from February 15-25th.

"We're thrilled to present Le Patin Libre as a Pillow Pop-Up and take part in Pittsfield's *10x10 Upstreet Arts Festival*. This is an exciting way for us to bring renowned contemporary performance to our audiences in the middle of winter and to continue our collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Le Patin Libre brings their work *Vertical Influences*, highlighted as a "fresh, ice-cool take on contemporary figure skating" (Lise Smith, *London Dance*) to Berkshire County. Drawing from the movement vocabularies of hip-hop, b-boying, dance theater, and ice-skating, the work explores the dynamic relationship between individuals and groups as five skaters impressively glide through intricate formations in complete unison. Audience members sit on the ice with the performers as the group tries to collectively achieve a sense of harmony, realized through rhythmic footwork, moving air, and the tangible chill of the ice. Pedestrian costume design by Jenn Pocobene, an original sound score by Jasmin Boivin, and lighting design by Lucy Carter mark a drastic difference from the production of traditional competitive ice-skating.

*Vertical Influences* first premiered in 2014 and was commissioned by the Dance Umbrella Festival (London, UK), the National Arts Centre (Ottawa, Canada), and the Théâtre de la Ville (Paris, France). Judith Mackrell of *The Guardian* notes that the performers "spark with movement ideas that I've never seen on ice before, let alone on stage."

This Pillow Pop-Up performance will completely transform the ice rink of the Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires in Pittsfield. In addition, Le Patin Libre will present a special free showing for local Berkshire County school children and host a community workshop on Thursday, February 15.

**About Le Patin Libre**

Le Patin Libre was founded in 2005 by Alexandre Hamel, a traditionally trained competitive figure skater and fine arts university student, out of a desire to use his passion for skating outside the constraints of competition and "On Ice" show-business. Their first performances were offered on frozen ponds and at traditional winter carnivals. After 10 years, the performance group grew into a mature company with support from some of the most respected dance institutions in the world including Dance Umbrella, Sadler's Wells, Théâtre de la Ville de Paris, and the National Art Centre. Since then, Le Patin Libre has been able to create a unique style based off the choreographic possibilities of "glide."

In addition to an impressive touring schedule, Le Patin Libre is continually involved in its local Montreal community. The artists frequently organize activities that transform ice rinks into vibrant and positive community centers that appeal to sports fans and general and artistic audiences alike.

## **Performance & Ticket Details**

### **Pillow Pop-Up: Le Patin Libre**

Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires

16 Melville St, Pittsfield, MA 01201

February 16, 8pm

\$25 General Admission, \$10 Youth Tickets

Tickets on sale now. Purchase online at: [jacobspillowdance.formstack.com/forms/lepatinlibre](http://jacobspillowdance.formstack.com/forms/lepatinlibre)

Visit [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org) for more details.

## **Community Workshop Details**

Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires

16 Melville St, Pittsfield, MA 01201

February 15, 6-7pm

For ages 12 and up

More workshop information to be announced. Visit [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org) for updates.

To learn more about *10x10 Upstreet Arts Festival* visit [discoverpittsfield.com](http://discoverpittsfield.com).

*This engagement is funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.*

**ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW:** Jacob's Pillow is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival. While celebrating its 85th Festival in 2017, the Pillow announced its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance through a five-year strategic plan titled Vision '22. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and over 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs. 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, Contemporary, Musical Theatre Dance, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Gaga in 2018). The Pillow also provides professional advancement opportunities across disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production through seasonal internships and a year-round Administrative Fellows program. With growing community engagement programs, the Pillow serves as a partner and active citizen in its local community. The Pillow's extensive Archives, open year-round to the public and online at [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org), 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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