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**NICOLA GUNN'S *PIECE FOR PERSON AND GHETTO BLASTER***

**AT JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL, JULY 4-8**

June 27, 2018 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents Nicola Gunn in the Doris Duke Theatre, July 4-8, in her work *Piece For Person and Ghetto Blaster*, an award-winning and intimate show inspired by a confrontation between a man, a woman, and a duck. Praised as "tantalising, entertaining, ridiculous, and often bewildering in the best possible way" (*The Herald Sun*), the Melbourne-based performance artist makes a rare U.S. appearance after touring Australia, Canada, Europe, and South America. Through spoken narrative and storytelling, this thought-provoking solo performance explores concepts of humor, conflict, and morality.

"The work of Nicola Gunn is entirely unique— her movement becomes an extension of her storytelling in a way that I have never seen before. I'm so excited to present the solo work of this brilliant artist from Melbourne's exciting performance scene" says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

During *Piece For Person and Ghetto Blaster*, Gunn slips across tempos, ideas, and performance modes—from theater to dance to performance art and back again—to create a provocative meditation on human behavior. Throughout this solo performance, Gunn uses movement to challenge how audiences view the world, violence, each other, and art itself. Her performance is "a feat of quietly jaw-dropping dexterity" (*The Music Australia*). Winner of multiple awards, *Piece For Person and Ghetto Blaster* has engaged audiences around the world.

The work is inspired by a moral dilemma that Gunn experienced during a visit to Belgium. She noticed a man throwing stones at a defenseless duck while out for a jog. Not only does the performance address the surface-level humor of her attempts to communicate with him despite language and cultural barriers, it also delves deeper into society's tendencies towards self-righteousness, social media ranting, and existential thought, ultimately encouraging audience members to challenge their conceptions about dance in a unique and humorous way. The performance is full of playful wit, reflection, and surprises. Gunn's message throughout the show is "self-aware, irreverent, and brilliantly funny" (*Dance Informa*).

**About Nicola Gunn**

Nicola Gunn is a performance artist, writer, director, and dramaturg based in Melbourne, Australia. Since 2001, she has created pieces that blend performance with art and anthropology to explore the fragility of the human condition with subversive humor. Inspiration for this work is rooted in theater and choreography, while also exploring themes from literature, comedy, and the visual arts. In addition

to dance, Gunn also produces live performances, videos, and books. Most recently, her work has examined social situations from moral and ethical standpoints. Through collaboration with choreographers, she combines text and dance to reflect critically on performance, to examine power relations, and to consider the relevance and social function of art itself.

Gunn graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a postgraduate diploma in Performance Creation in 2008 and also has an M.A. from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. She has led workshops in performance-making and writing for performance at The National Theatre School, Monash University, Back to Back Theatre, Dawson's College, St. Catharine's University, Simon Fraser University, Dublin Theatre Exchange, and Tanzquartier Wien. She is an Australia Council Creative Australia Fellow and a Mike Walsh Fellow. In 2016, Gunn received a Churchill Fellowship to research socially engaged and site-specific practices in Europe and North America.

As a performer, Gunn has worked with Tamara Saulwick, Ian Pidd, Jessica Wilson, Bec Reid, and with Ridiculusmus (*The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland*). As a dance dramaturg, Gunn has partnered with choreographers Jo Lloyd (*Confusion For Three*) and Luke George (*Public Action, Erotic Dance*). Her latest collaboration is with Michael Fikaris on a comic book called *Instruction Manual for Lonely Mountains*.

## PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

**Nicola Gunn at Jacob's Pillow**

**Doris Duke Theatre, July 4-8**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm**

**Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm**

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

*A limited number of special Under 35 discounted tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. Tickets are \$20 in the Doris Duke Theatre. One ticket per person; each guest must show valid I.D. when picking up tickets at Will Call.*

Tickets are on sale now; online at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org), via phone 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

### ALSO THIS WEEK

**Batsheva - The Young Ensemble**

**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 4-8**

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

**Saturday & Sunday at 2pm**

The "superhumanly spry" (*The New York Times*) movers of Batsheva – The Young Ensemble perform the award-winning *Naharin's Virus* in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Embraced as part of one of the most prominent contemporary dance companies in the world, the company boasts an internationally diverse roster of dancers from Israel and beyond.

Adapted from the anti-play *Offending the Audience* by Austrian playwright Peter Handke and enriched by Ohad Naharin's innovative, wide-reaching movement language Gaga, *Naharin's Virus* is described as being "as powerful as the eye of the storm" (*The Jerusalem Post*). Under the inimitable direction of "one of the most important living choreographers" (*The Guardian*), the majority of dancers in The

Young Ensemble later become members of Batsheva Dance Company. The presentation of The Young Ensemble coincides with a two-week Professional Advancement program *Gaga: The Movement Language of Ohad Naharin*, offered by The School at Jacob's Pillow as well as a PillowTalk with Ohad Naharin on July 7. *Tickets start at \$45.*

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Emma Portner, *An Evening of Twos***

**Wednesday, July 4 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Boundary-breaking and genre-blurring, Canadian choreographer and dancer Emma Portner is known for her online viral contemporary dance films and collaborations with artists like Justin Bieber and Ellen Page and has been commissioned by L.A. Dance Project and New York City Ballet. Portner makes her Pillow debut with an evening of duets featuring regular collaborators Ajani Johnson-Goffe, Brian Davis, and Chantelle Good, among others. *An Evening of Twos* investigates several dichotomies including private and public, quiet and loud, and seen and watched.

**Class with Inside/Out Artists: Contemporary Repertory with Bruce Wood Dance**

**Thursday, July 5, 4pm**

The artists of Bruce Wood Dance share some of their contemporary repertory. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$10 per person. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Bruce Wood Dance**

**Thursday, July 5 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Bruce Wood Dance (BWD) harnesses the power of contemporary dance to entertain, enrich, and heal through high-caliber, original choreography performed by dynamic artists. Founder Bruce Wood was a prolific choreographer who created more than 80 diverse works in his career. Current Artistic Director Kimi Nikaidoh now leads this Dallas-based company forward, presenting treasured pieces from Wood's repertoire as well as new commissions. The company repertory includes ground-breaking dances by choreographers like Yin Yue, Bessie-nominated Katarzyna Skarpetowska, and Princess Grace awardees Bryan Arias and Bridget L. Moore. BWD presents excerpts from four works including Bryan Arias' *My Heart Remembers*, *All Things New* by Kimi Nikaidoh, a trio taken from Bruce Wood's all-male, multigenerational, evening-length work, *My Brother's Keeper*, and Katarzyna Skarpetowska's entrancing *Yesod*.

**PillowTalk: Gotta Dance, Too!**

**Friday, July 6 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

The stunning collection of dance movie posters now on view in Blake's Barn are from the collection of former film executive Mike Kaplan, who discusses some of his favorites at this event.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Dancing Crane Georgian Dance Ensemble**

**Friday, July 6 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

With thrilling feats of acrobatics performed in traditional costumes, Dancing Crane Georgian Dance Ensemble presents traditional music and dance from the country of Georgia. Founded in 1996, this Brooklyn, NY-based company is committed to studying and accurately representing Georgian folk

traditions. Led by Victor Sirelson, former performer with the Aman Folk Ensemble of Los Angeles, the ensemble features a unique mix of local talent and professional performers, showcasing the demanding and refined technique with elegance and grace. Performing choreography by Vladimer "Dato" Goderidze, the dancers excel in the virtuoso leaps, turns, and the traditional, *tseruli*, or men's dancing on the toes. The repertoire includes *Parikaoba* mountain dances with swords, the elegant *Osuri* court dances, the ancient *Samaya* women's dance, the city dances of the *Kinto* and *Karachokheli*, as well as the regional folk dances such as those from *Acharia* and *Svaneti*. Presented in collaboration with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance.

**PillowTalk: Mr. Gaga in Person**

**Saturday, July 7 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

Ohad Naharin is a monumental force in Israeli dance who has influenced the field world-wide; in this PillowTalk he talks about his history with Batsheva Dance Company and what lies ahead.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Gaga Program**

**Saturday, July 7 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Gaga: The Language of Ohad Naharin has attracted dancers from around the world to study with Naharin and former members of his Batsheva Dance Company. To conclude their two weeks of movement research in The School at Jacob's Pillow, they invite audiences to an open rehearsal where dancers apply Gaga principles to deeply explore and embody Naharin's movement vocabulary.

**Sunday Master Class: Nicola Gunn**

**Sunday, July 8 at 10am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Nicola Gunn will teach a 90-minute master class open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and over. Quiet observation is welcome; \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. Pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org).

**Special Workshop: Gaga/people with Ohad Naharin**

**Sunday, July 8 at 11am**

**Perles Family Studio**

In this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, experience the inimitable movement language of Gaga with its creator Ohad Naharin. For all experience levels ages 16+; \$20/class; pre-registration is required at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org). Class is closed to observers.

**FESTIVAL 2018 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—ONGOING**

**Gotta Dance, Too!**

**Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26**

**Open Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tues noon to 5pm; FREE**

This select group of original movie posters follows up on the hugely popular 2014 *Gotta Dance* exhibit with a different set of rarities from the collection of award-winning design director Mike Kaplan. More

than 75 vintage posters feature classic films and stars like Fred Astaire, Josephine Baker, Gene Kelly, and other screen legends, excitingly illustrated in vibrant color.

### **Dance of the Ages**

**Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26**

**Open 60 minutes prior to every performance**

**FREE**

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of *Dance of the Ages*, a culminating achievement by Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, this exhibit also highlights a full reconstruction of the work to be performed by Adam H. Weinert at Jacob's Pillow, September 21-23. The exhibit features images, memorabilia, and costumes from the original 1938 production, many on view for the first time.

### **Paramodernities/Revelations**

**Doris Duke Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26**

**Open 60 minutes prior to every performance**

**FREE**

Netta Yerushalmy has created a new performance work entitled *Paramodernities* with its premiere on deconstructing classic dances by pioneering choreographers. Historic Pillow images from one of these, Alvin Ailey's iconic *Revelations*, are displayed here and juxtaposed with Christopher Duggan's new photos and text from Yerushalmy's 2018 re-examination, premiering August 8-12.

### **Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room**

**Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26**

**Open daily, Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tue noon to 5pm**

**FREE**

This spacious, 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.

### **Collaborative Exhibit at Williams College Museum of Art**

**Dance We Must: Treasures from Jacob's Pillow, 1906-1940**

**June 29-November 11**

**FREE**

The Williams College Museum of Art has created an eye-popping new exhibit with costumes, set pieces, and other historic artifacts from the collections at Jacob's Pillow. On view through November 20, this exhibit offers a rare chance to see items from the dawn of American modern dance, tracing the evolution of this contemporary art form. *More information at [wcma.williams.edu](http://wcma.williams.edu)*

**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, celebrating its 86th Festival in 2018. The Pillow announced its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance in June 2017 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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