

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations and Publications Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org

JACOB'S PILLOW PRESENTS
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE'S *ODEON*

June 26, 2018 (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents the highly-anticipated world premiere of Ephrat Asherie Dance's *Odeon* in the Doris Duke Theatre, June 27-July 1. *Odeon* is a high-energy, hybrid work that layers breaking, hip-hop, house, and vogue to the buoyant score of 20th century Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth, played live.

"It has been so exciting to get to see the development of *Odeon* through many different iterations, including the inaugural residency in the new Pillow Lab last September. We are thrilled that this is the first project to emerge from the Lab as a world premiere for the Festival." says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

The Boston Globe's "bona fide b-girl," Bessie Award-winning choreographer and dancer Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie collaborates with her brother Ehud Asherie, lauded as "a master of swing and stride" (*The New Yorker*). The duo reimagines Nazareth's signature compositions, noted for melding classical music with popular Afro-Brazilian rhythms. Featuring seven dancers and four musicians, *Odeon* brings together the extended legacies of street and club styles and remixes them to challenge choreographic contexts.

Praised as being "...versed in seemingly every style of street dance" (*The New York Times*), Asherie strives to use the expansive narrative qualities of street and club dance to tell stories, develop innovative imagery, and find new modes of expression through Ephrat Asherie Dance.

Coinciding with the world premiere, Asherie steps up to host the Pillow's second annual All Styles Dance Battle on July 1. This one-night-only event features Festival artists, dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow, regional artists, surprise judges, and DJ DP One aka "The Blessing".

Odeon was developed in part during two residencies at Jacob's Pillow and through a co-presentation with MASS MoCA. Asherie is the inaugural recipient of the Jacob's Pillow Fellowship at the Tilles Center for Performing Arts at LIU Post, where she further developed this work. The touring of *Odeon* is supported by a National Dance Project award from the New England Foundation for the Arts.

ABOUT EPHRAT "BOUNCE" ASHERIE

Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie is a New York City-based B-girl, dancer, and choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award-winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance. Asherie has received numerous awards to support her work including a Mondo Cane! commission from Dixon Place, a creative development residency at

the Pillow Lab from Jacob's Pillow, Workspace and Extended Life Residencies from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, a Travel and Study Grant from the Jerome Foundation, and two residencies through the CUNY Dance Initiative. Most recently, Asherie received a National Dance Project award to support the development and touring of her newest work, *Odeon*. Asherie is a regular guest artist with Dorrance Dance and has worked and collaborated with Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, David Parsons, Gus Solomons Jr., and Buddha Stretch, among others. Asherie earned her B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian and her M.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances.

ABOUT EHUD ASHERIE

Ehud Asherie, "a master of swing and stride" (*The New Yorker*), is a jazz pianist who integrates the venerable New York piano tradition into his inventive style. He has toured clubs and festivals around the world, including South America, Europe, and Asia. Asherie's playing can be heard on countless recordings, including the 2010 Grammy Award winning soundtrack of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. He recently released his twelfth album entitled *Shuffle Along* (Blue Heron Records), a solo piano performance of Eubie Blake songs from the musical *Shuffle Along*.

PILLOW CONNECTIONS

Ephrat Asherie Dance made its Pillow debut as part of *Unreal Hip-Hop* in 2014. Asherie also performed with Dorrance Dance as the only non-tap dancer in 2014 and 2016 and will perform with the company in their 2018 Festival engagement, July 18-22.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Ephrat Asherie Dance in Step 4.2 in 2014:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/ephrat-asherie-dance/step-4-2/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION

Ephrat Asherie Dance at Jacob's Pillow

Doris Duke Theatre, June 28-July 1

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

A limited number of \$20 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.

ALSO THIS WEEK:

Pilobolus at Jacob's Pillow

June 27-July 1, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

For 45 years, this "mind-blowing troupe of wildly creative and physically daring dancers" (*NY Newsday*) has tested the limits of human physicality, exploring the beauty and power of connected bodies. Pilobolus collaborates with innovative artists, thinkers, and creators to reach beyond performance, bringing stories to diverse communities, brands, and organizations. Pilobolus has created over 120 pieces, performing for 300,000+ people each year. The company's honors include a TED Fellowship, a GRAMMY nomination, a Primetime Emmy Award, and several Cannes Lion Awards.

The company returns to the Ted Shawn Theatre with *Come To Your Senses*, a program of works about accessing all five senses, as well as new and old repertory including a re-working of the site-specific commission *Branches*, which premiered in 2017 on the Inside/Out stage to celebrate the power of the Pillow's natural setting. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Class with Inside/Out Artists: Lindy Hop with Wild Rhythm

Thursday, June 28, 4pm

The artists of Wild Rhythm lead a Lindy Hop class. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$10 per person. *Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Translucent Borders

Wednesday, June 27 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Spearheaded by a three-year exploration of intercultural dialogue, practice, and exchange led by New York University (NYU) Tisch Arts Professor, Dr. Andy Teirstein, that focuses on the role of dance and music at geographic, cultural, and economic borders, the international collaborators of Translucent Borders present an inter-cultural work-in-progress. The performance will include short introductions to help contextualize the work.

This special engagement follows a three-day, on-site residency at Jacob's Pillow that brings together over 20 collaborators from Cuba, Israel, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Italy for the first time, with some artists making their U.S. debuts.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Wild Rhythm

Thursday, June 28 at 6:15pm

FREE

One of New York's most decorated swing duos, Nathan Bugh and Gaby Cook, perform an exciting evening of swing dance alongside an ensemble of performers. With nearly 20 years of experience combined, the two travel the world regularly, sharing their knowledge and passion of swing, jazz, and vintage-dance entertainment. Wild Rhythm has graced many stages including Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, and The USS Intrepid.

PillowTalk: *Dancing on Air*

Friday, June 29 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

A behind-the-scenes look at the robust online resource known as Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive, with new themes and essays featuring many more online videos and photos.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami

Friday, June 29 at 6:15pm

FREE

Since their "triumphant" (*El Nuevo Herald*) and "exuberant" (*Miami Herald*) 2016 debut, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami has rapidly built a reputation as a brilliant new ballet company, featuring an alluring Latino/American cast and repertoire that reflects the vibrancy and vitality of Miami. Founded and led by former Miami City Ballet stars, Jennifer Kronenberg and Carlos Guerra, the company makes their Inside/Out debut with two striking works by emerging choreographic talent Ariel Rose of Miami City Ballet, as well as the dazzling final movement of Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain*.

PillowTalk: *Through You*
Saturday, June 30 at 4pm
Blake's Barn
FREE

Dancer/filmmaker Lily Baldwin is forging new territory with a unique blend of dance, storytelling, cinema, virtual reality, mixed reality, and interactive technology, demonstrated and discussed in this talk.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Gaga Program
Saturday, June 30 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. Following their first week of movement research in The School at Jacob's Pillow, dancers invite audiences to an open rehearsal where dancers apply Gaga principles to deeply explore and embody Naharin's movement vocabulary.

Sunday Master Class: Ephrat Asherie Dance
Sunday, July 1 at 10am
Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Ephrat Asherie Dance will teach a 60-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.*

All Styles Dance Battle
Sunday, July 1 at 8pm
Doris Duke Theatre

After an epic inaugural event in 2017, Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie steps up to host the second annual dance battle, featuring Festival artists, dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow, regional artists, surprise judges, and DJ DP One aka "The Blessing". *Tickets start at \$25.*

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 50 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 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 Exhibition at The Williams College Museum of Art (WCMA)

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*

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, 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.

###