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**ROYAL DANISH BALLET,
THE WORLD'S THIRD OLDEST BALLET COMPANY,
OPENS JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL JUNE 20-24**

June 13, 2018 (Becket, MA)—The Royal Danish Ballet, the third oldest ballet company in the world, returns to The Ted Shawn Theatre to open the 2018 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, June 20-24. Through an impeccable mastery of the Bournonville tradition, principals and soloists of this historic company perform excerpts from classical ballet's enduring masters including August Bournonville, Marius Petipa, and Jules Perrot.

"It is an absolute treasure to have the Royal Danish Ballet open the Festival 2018 and celebrate their rich legacy at Jacob's Pillow with a program that features some of their best known works performed by their dancers trained in a technique that is distinctively theirs. It is an honor for us to welcome back to the Pillow one of our most distinguished alumni, their Artistic Director Nikolaj Hübbe," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

The return of the Royal Danish Ballet is a continuation of the rich Pillow-Danish tradition, which dates back to 1954 when leading soloist Inge Sand made her U.S. debut at Jacob's Pillow Festival as she stepped in to replace another soloist at the last minute. A group of Soloists from the Royal Danish Ballet made its U.S. debut at the Pillow in the summer of 1955, which led to the full company's U.S. debut in the summer of 1957. In recognition, the King of Denmark knighted Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn in 1957 to celebrate and commemorate his role in introducing American audiences to Danish ballet and the work of famed choreographer August Bournonville. The Royal Danish Ballet has returned to the Pillow many times since then, most recently in 2007.

"Held in an extraordinary mixture of affection and respect all around the world," (*The New York Times*) the Royal Danes embody the strength of the legacy of August Bournonville in a rare Bournonville-centered program. The works feature Danish Romanticism including the pas de deux from *La Sylphide* (1836), one of the oldest surviving Romantic ballets; an excerpt from the first act of the humorous *The Kermesse in Bruges* (1851); the pas de sept from *A Folk Tale* (1854); and the Italian-inspired pas de six and tarantella from *Napoli* (1842).

In addition to the repertory by Bournonville, the Royal Danish Ballet also performs the pas de deux from Harald Lander's *Dvorak* (1966), originally filmed for Danish television; the White and Black Swan variations from Marius Petipa's and Lev Ivanov's great classic *Swan Lake* (1895); and an excerpt from the second act of Jules Perrot's and Jean Coralli's timeless masterpiece *Giselle* (1841). Judith Mackrell of *The Guardian* praises, "Watching dancers from the Royal Danish Ballet is like being given a master class in style—style not as superficial extra but as the substance, the beating heart of an art form."

ABOUT THE ROYAL DANISH BALLET

Founded in 1748 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Royal Danish Ballet is the world's third oldest ballet company with a school among the oldest of its kind which originated in 1771. The distinctive repertoire of Danish choreographer August Bournonville remains a technical cornerstone for the Royal Danish Ballet today. Emphasizing lightness and filigree footwork against a quiet upper body, Bournonville created a venerable tradition for Danish male dancing of the highest virtuosity, which raised the Royal Danish Ballet to an international ability and gave it the unique national quality which remains its distinctive characteristic to this day.

In his ten years as Artistic Director, Nikolaj Hübbe, former student of The School at Jacob's Pillow, has brought the company to an impressive technical level which masters a wide range of modern and classical ballets. Current repertory includes ballet by important choreographers including Jiri Kylian, John Neumeier, Alexei Ratmansky, and Christopher Wheeldon.

Related videos on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Soloists of the Royal Danish Ballet in Konservatoriet in 1955, the company's U.S. debut:
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/soloists-of-the-royal-danish-ballet/konservatoriet/>

Nikolaj Hübbe (Artistic Director of the Royal Danish Ballet and Alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow) & Darci Kistler in Apollo in 2002:
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/nikolaj-hubbe-darci-kistler/apollo/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Royal Danish Ballet at Jacob's Pillow

Ted Shawn Theatre, June 20-24

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2pm,

\$78, \$65, \$45

\$10 Youth Tickets available for youth ages 17 and under; 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.

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

ALSO THIS WEEK

Ragamala Dance Company

Doris Duke Theatre, June 20-24

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

“Soulful, imaginative, and rhythmically contagious,” (*The New York Times*) Minneapolis-based Ragamala Dance Company is highly acclaimed for creating a genre of performance that brings together a contemporary Western aesthetic with an Indian ethos. Sharing the South Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam with audiences for over 25 years, Ragamala brings the multi-disciplinary work *Written in Water* and a solo honoring the legendary Balasaraswati, noted for bringing Indian dance to the United States.

Conceived by Artistic Directors and Doris Duke Performing Artist Awardees Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy—and inspired by the second century Indian board game, *Paramapadam* (the precursor to *Snakes & Ladders*)—the work explores parallels between ecstasy and longing in Hindu and Sufi traditions. With original artwork and a score by Doris Duke Performing Artist Awardee Amir ElSaffar, *Written in Water* brings together internationally celebrated artists and features a live music ensemble with a distinct alchemy of Iraqi, Carnatic, and American jazz instruments. This work creates “a feast for the eyes, ears, and heart” (*Tallahassee Democrat*). *Tickets start at \$25.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Oyu Oro Afro Cuban Dance Ensemble

Wednesday, June 20 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Committed to the preservation of Afro-Cuban culture through dance, song, and music, Oyu Oro Afro Cuban Dance Ensemble was founded in 1998 in Cuba and re-formed in New York City in 2005 by Danys “La Mora” Perez, an international Afro-Cuban folklorist and dance ethnographer. The ensemble presents high caliber and authentic folkloric dance performances that represent Cuba’s unique history and cultural landscape. They explore traditional dance forms from the Yoruba, Congo, Carabali, Arara, and Dahomeyan cultures of West Africa; the rich Haitian influences that remain in Cuba of *tumba francesa*, *vodu*, *gaga*, *tajona*, and Haitian *bembe*; and the popular dances of Cuban heritage, including *rumba*, *conga*, *chancletas*, and *son*. *Presented in collaboration with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Esfane Crimean Tatar Ensemble

Thursday, June 21 at 6:15pm

FREE

Esfane Crimean Tatar Ensemble, based at the Crimean Tatar Cultural Center in Brooklyn, is a 40-member ensemble that preserves and promotes the cultural heritage and history of Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of the Crimean peninsula. Their vibrant music and dance traditions have substantial similarities with other cultures around the Black Sea, but with a special flair that captivates the ear and the eye: uniquely accented 7/8 dance rhythms and precise, athletic dance steps that bring energy to any performance. As the only U.S.-based group performing these dance traditions, they have danced in a variety of venues including Lincoln Center, the Lowell Folk Festival in Massachusetts, and the Ukrainian Tryzub Festival in Philadelphia. *Presented in collaboration with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance.*

PillowTalk: Scottish Dance: Yesterday & Today

Friday, June 22 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

FREE

Alongside the U.S. debut of Scottish company Janis Claxton Dance, historian Agnes Ness traces Scotland's dance history and explores its current cultural scene.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Dance & Dialogue: Classical Indian Solos

Friday, June 22 at 6:15pm

FREE

Renowned classical dance soloists Barkha Patel and Vinod Para perform a showcase of classical Indian dance styles—Kathak and Bharatanatyam—with a talkback moderated by Associate Professor of Dance at Wesleyan University, Dr. Hari Krishnan.

Barkha Patel will perform a piece that epitomizes Indian classical Kathak dance. The audience is exposed to pure movement that emphasizes form, motion, and speed through stylistically rapid movement, pirouettes, claps, and footwork, accompanied by the sound of ghungroos (ankle bells). Following, Vinod Para showcases virtuosic Bharatanatyam technique in the world premiere of *Black Box 3*, created specially for the Inside/Out Performance Series. The work features complex footwork, intricate gestures, architectural design, and a pulsating sound design of Indian, global percussion, and vocalized drum syllables.

PillowTalk: Nikolaj Hübbe's Royal Danish Ballet

Saturday, June 23 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Now directing one of the world's most venerable dance institutions, Nikolaj Hübbe talks about his career and his summer studying ballet at the Pillow in 1985.

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

Saturday, June 23 at 6:15pm

FREE

Dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow Ballet Program are apprentices, trainees, pre-professionals, and early-career professionals with leading ballet companies from around the world. Their performance for Festival audiences includes classical solo, pas de deux, and ensemble variations, as well as a new ballet created on them for the 2018 Season Opening Gala by choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

Program Director Anna-Marie Holmes is revered worldwide as a master teacher and artistic director/advisor. Joining her to coach and mentor The School's dancers are Erica Cornejo, Boston Ballet former principal; Anastacia Holden, Joffrey Ballet former soloist; Hope Muir, Charlotte Ballet Artistic Director; Viktor Plotnikov, choreographer; and Ayşem Sunal Savaşkurt, Principal Ballerina and Artistic Director of Istanbul State Opera and Ballet. Music direction and accompaniment provided by Ramona Pansegrau, John Sauer, and Michael Scales.

Sunday Master Class: Ragamala Dance Company

Sunday, June 24 at 10-11am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Ragamala Dance Company 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.*

Sunday Film Event: *Ingmar Bergman Through the Choreographer's Eye*

Sunday, June 24 at 4:30pm

Blake's Barn

Four choreographers interpret the style of the Swedish director, writer, and producer Ingmar Bergman, who is recognized as one of the most accomplished and influential filmmakers of all time. *Tickets \$10.*

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 by Festival photographer Christopher Duggan 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: Dance We Must: Treasures from Jacob's Pillow, 1906-1940
The Williams College Museum of Art

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, 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, 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.

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