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**JACOB'S PILLOW KICKS OFF FESTIVAL 2018
WITH SEASON OPENING GALA & AFTER PARTY, JUNE 16**

June 1, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Jacob's Pillow kicks off Festival 2018 with a Season Opening Gala, its signature fundraising event, on Saturday, June 16. Considered the start of the summer season in the Berkshires, the Season Opening Gala includes the official opening of all 2018 Exhibits, the presentation of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award to acclaimed choreographer and director [Faye Driscoll](#), and a tribute to **Honorary Chair and 2018 Kennedy Center Honoree Carmen de Lavallade**; in addition to exclusive programming, an evening of delicious food and drink by The Old Inn On The Green, and a festive **After Party with live music and dancing**.

The Gala program includes a cocktail hour performance of *POP-UP Duets* by Scotland-based Janis Claxton Dance in their U.S. debut; an exclusive preview of Ephrat Asherie Dance's *Odeon* prior to its world premiere at the Festival (June 27-July 1); a world premiere performed by the Ballet Program dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow, choreographed and set in just four days by internationally sought-after choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa; and Dance Theatre of Harlem's Amanda Smith performing Carmen de Lavallade's "signature solo" *Come Sunday*, as a tribute to the Honorary Chair.

The Gala program also includes a live auction featuring an original painting created specially for the Jacob's Pillow Gala by American landscape painter Stephen Hannock, whose work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of Art, among others. A Fund the Future paddle raise will occur to support the Pillow's programming.

In celebration of its first summer in use, cocktail hour will be held in the new \$5.5 million Perles Family Studio, an anchor of the Pillow's recent transition to a year-round center for dance development and research as outlined in its five-year plan, Vision '22.

The cocktail hour also features the official opening of ***Gotta Dance, Too!***, an original movie poster exhibition in Blake's Barn from former film executive Mike Kaplan's collection, signature cocktails, and a silent auction with rare and priceless packages. Following the performance, guests will enjoy dinner and drinks under an elegant tent on The Great Lawn catered by New Marlborough-based [AAA 4-Star The Old Inn On The Green](#), just prior to the grand opening of their three brand new, on-site dining venues at the Pillow, June 20.

Later in the evening, the Pillow hosts an epic After Party featuring live music by New York-based soulful singer-songwriter Paul Loren and his 'One-Night Only' Band. With party-only tickets available, the After

Party includes a three-hour open bar, sweet and savory snacks provided by The Old Inn On The Green, and treats provided by Chocolate Springs Café and Tyler & Pine Bakery.

Season Opening Gala Co-Chairs are Ann & Peter Herbst and Mark & Taryn Leavitt. After Party Chair is Angessa L. Hughmanick. Proceeds from the Jacob's Pillow Gala benefit the Pillow's nonprofit programs including Festival presentations, free community programs, The School at Jacob's Pillow, and the Archives.

The Season Opening Gala begins at 5pm; After Party begins at 9pm. Gala tables of ten are \$5,500-\$15,000; individual tickets are \$600-\$1200; individual After Party tickets are \$75, 4-pack After Party tickets available for \$200. The silent auction will be open throughout the event and is available online; bidding opens May 31, with items available for preview now at biddingforgood.com/jacobspillowdance/2018Gala.

TICKET DETAILS:

Season Opening Gala at Jacob's Pillow

June 16, 5pm-Midnight

Purchase tickets online: jacobspillow.org/events/gala

Gala After Party at Jacob's Pillow

June 16, 9pm-Midnight

Purchase After Party only tickets online: jacobspillow.org/events/gala-after-party/

Tickets are on sale now; purchase online or contact Gretchen Weber, Jacob's Pillow Gala & Special Events Manager at 413.243.9919x126. Jacob's Pillow is located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

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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