

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations and Publications Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org

**SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI'S EASTMAN COMES TO JACOB'S PILLOW
WITH GENRE-BENDING *FRACTUS V*, JULY 11–15**

July 9, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Internationally sought-after choreographer and Artistic Director Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui brings his company Eastman to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, July 11-15. Cherkaoui's most recent choreography credits include Beyoncé and Jay-Z's "APES**T" music video, filmed at the Louvre, and *Jagged Little Pill*, a new musical featuring the music of Alanis Morissette. In the Ted Shawn Theatre, Eastman performs *Fractus V*, a "captivating and provocative" (*The Times*), genre-bending work that explores the political philosophy of Noam Chomsky. In addition, Cherkaoui will participate in a free PillowTalk on Friday, July 13 at 5pm.

"Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's *Fractus V* brings artists of nine different nationalities into dialog to create a work that is truly astonishing in its virtuosity and impact. There is a palpable and joyous community onstage. As these artists integrate their different creative practices we witness the power of true cross-cultural collaboration right before our very eyes," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Fractus V features a cast of five men from vastly different movement backgrounds, including circus, Lindy hop, flamenco, and hip-hop. The work also features four onstage musicians of Korean, Indian, Congolese, and Japanese backgrounds. Through this unconventional collaboration, the performers work through Chomsky's insights on freedom of speech and the production and manipulation of information.

Interacting on stage in "images of marvellous ingenuity" (*The Guardian*), the performers layer limbs and flow with ease through different styles of dance. Cherkaoui intersperses the performance with Chomsky's text, while geometric set pieces accentuate the drama unfolding onstage. Cherkaoui masterfully mixes the varied cultural influences of his performers—"He magpies movements from disparate styles and places...and yet the dancers never look anything but authentically themselves" (*Evening Standard*).

Fractus V originated at the 40th Anniversary of Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal company, where it was titled *Fractus* and performed as a trio where Cherkaoui examined the fracture between the individual and society.

Cherkaoui has established himself as a leading voice in the contemporary dance community by blurring the boundaries between pop culture and theater dance, and has been praised as a "remarkably productive choreographer" (*The Guardian*). In addition to serving as the Artistic Director of Eastman, he was appointed Artistic Director of Ballet Flanders in 2015 and is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells

Theatre in London. His works *Babel (Words)* and *Puz/zle* have both received Laurence Olivier Awards for Best New Dance Production.

ABOUT EASTMAN

Eastman was founded in 2010 as an outlet for Artistic Director Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui to produce and promote more of his work. Cherkaoui pulls from a diversity of influences and facilitates collaborations that transcend genre and medium, combining contemporary dance, theatre, ballet, opera, and musicals while infusing them with a variety of cultural influences. This artistic basis in cultural collaboration drives Cherkaoui to work non-hierarchically with movement and body language. The company is based in Cherkaoui's native Antwerp, Belgium where they are artists-in-residence at the deSingel International Arts Campus.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Fractus V marks Eastman's Pillow debut. Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui premiered *Orbo Novo* with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet at Jacob's Pillow in 2009, his first work commissioned by an American company.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Orbo Novo with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet in 2009:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/cedar-lake-contemporary-ballet/orbo-novo/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Eastman

Ted Shawn Theatre, July 11-15

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2pm

\$78, \$65, \$45

A limited number of special Under 35 tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. Tickets are \$35 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. One ticket per individual with valid ID.

Tickets are on sale now; online at 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

PHILADANCO!

July 11-15, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

"Virtuosic, spiritually uplifting, and socially conscious" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO!) is celebrated for its innovation, creativity, and preservation of predominantly African-American traditions in dance. The resident modern dance company for the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and led by 2013 National Medal of Arts recipient Joan Myers Brown, PHILADANCO! works in "a range of idioms most companies don't even try to possess" (*Dance Magazine*). From contemporary ballet to modern genres, PHILADANCO! is a respected staple in the dance hub of Philadelphia, returning to Jacob's Pillow for the first time in over 20 years. They bring a

program that features work by Christopher Huggins, Gene Hill Sagan, and Ray Mercer. *Tickets start at \$25.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Barak Ballet

Wednesday, July 11 at 6:15pm

FREE

Los Angeles-based Barak Ballet presents contemporary dance work that captivates audiences, invokes thought, and expands the art form of ballet. The company thrives on dynamic partnerships with dancers, choreographers, composers, musicians, designers, and media artists, and the resulting works radiate artistic excellence and collaboration. Barak Ballet's repertoire features a range of athletic pas de deux to syncopated group work. They perform the duet *Moments* by Darrell Grand Moultrie, as well as a new work by Artistic Director Melissa Barak.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Kate Harpootlian & Artists

Thursday, July 12 at 6:15pm

FREE

Kate Harpootlian & Artists brings together a diverse group of individuals from Los Angeles and New York. This musical theatre-style ensemble performs the evening-length work *Better Late Than Never*, which explores the concept of transition versus the finality of destination. Set in 1960s America, the work features popular music and costumes reminiscent of a time in history riddled with change.

PillowTalk: Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Friday, July 13 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Eastman's director, Belgian dancer and choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, made his Pillow debut a decade ago with Cedar Lake, and returns now with his own stunning dancers.

Inside/Out Performance Series: PrioreDance

Friday, July 13 at 6:15pm

FREE

PrioreDance is a contemporary dance company based in Washington, DC, and led by Artistic Director Robert J. Priore. The company focuses on creating choreography based in human connection and personal experience, focusing on the physical manifestation of human touch, or lack thereof. Using music as the framework of the storylines, PrioreDance presents the work *Casita* and the duet *Michael*, both by Robert J. Priore.

Dog Dance

Saturday, July 14 at 11am

The Great Lawn

FREE

Back by popular demand, this participatory event for beloved canines and their dance-loving companions will be led by Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Artistic Director of Dance Exchange and an Artist Educator for *Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion*® program, and Dance Exchange Artist Debbie Maciel. Johnson and Maciel lead participants and their leashed canines through a series of simple and fun movements, designed to highlight the beauty of our pets and the unique relationship we share with our dogs. This family-friendly event includes a group dance, giveaways, raffle featuring local pet

vendors, and more. *No experience for humans or dog needed (dogs should be comfortable around others and with loud sounds).* Free with a suggested donation to the Berkshire Humane Society.

PillowTalk: Founding PHILADANCO!

Saturday, July 14 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

A cultural force for decades, Joan Myers Brown founded the Philadelphia Dance Company in 1970 and continues to nurture the company's predominantly African-American traditions.

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

Saturday, July 14 at 6:15pm

FREE

Dancers of the Contemporary Program are apprentices, advanced pre-professionals, and early-career professionals from leading dance companies and training centers around the world. They will present a work-in-progress created on them by choreographer Didy Veldman, Dutch artistic director, choreographer, and contemporary teacher.

Program Director Milton Myers guest teaches and choreographs internationally, and is on faculty at The Ailey School and The Juilliard School. Joining him to coach and mentor the dancers during their first week of study in the Perles Family Studio are: Elisa Clark, formerly with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Battleworks; Aya Kaneko, School alumna and Myers assistant; John Levis, Music Director; and Igal Perry, Founder and Artistic Director of Peridance Contemporary Dance Company and Peridance Capezio Center.

Sunday Master Class: PHILADANCO!

Sunday, July 15 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of PHILADANCO! 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.*

Sunday Film Event: *The Dancer*

Sunday, July 15 at 4:30pm

Blake's Barn

This biographical film focuses on Loie Fuller, Isadora Duncan, and the women of early twentieth century dance. The film's choreographer, Jody Sperling, will be on hand to discuss her recreations of historical dances. *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 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 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*

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.

###