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**RENOWNED TAP COMPANY DORRANCE DANCE
RETURNS TO JACOB'S PILLOW, JULY 18–22**

July 18, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Michelle Dorrance returns to the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 18-22 with her company Dorrance Dance, marking their fifth Festival engagement in six years. Described as "one of the most imaginative choreographers working today," (*The New Yorker*), Dorrance brings her groundbreaking work *Myelination* as well as a world premiere that features a powerhouse of female hoofers and was developed in part through a residency at the Pillow Lab.

"The Pillow prides itself on being an artistic home for Michelle Dorrance. We are so excited to welcome Dorrance Dance back and to have supported the development of her newest work, *All Good Things Must Come to an End*," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Myelination features a live score by Donovan Dorrance and Gregory Richardson, accompanied by eclectic soul vocalist Aaron Marcellus. Tap and hip-hop dancers fill the stage for this high-energy ensemble piece to create "a dance brimming with electricity, with movement so swift it defies comprehension" (*The New York Times*). The cast includes break dancers Matthew "Megawatt" West and Bessie Award-winning Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, whose own highly-anticipated world premiere, *Odeon*, opened at the Pillow earlier this summer. *Myelination* also features Nicholas Van Young, a long-time collaborator with Dorrance, who doubles as a dancer and musician, and was the co-creator of the widely praised works *ETM: The Initial Approach* and *ETM: Double Down*.

The Pillow-commissioned *All Good Things Must Come to an End* with support from long-time Pillow donor, Jim Chervenak and the world premiere features four women and celebrates their solo abilities as well as collaboration. Michelle Dorrance is joined by guest artists Melinda Sullivan, known as a Top 10 finalist and All Star on *So You Think You Can Dance* and for work in *La La Land*; former Cirque du Soleil dancer Josette Wiggan-Freund; and a founding member of Savion Glover's ti dii, Hannah Heller.

Dorrance is well known for her innovation and has "given tap a new physical profile" as her dancers "tap from all sorts of unlikely positions, balances and trajectories" (*Los Angeles Times*). She has a strongly rooted background in tap and music that includes mentorship from Gene Medler and performance credits with *STOMP*, Savion Glover's ti dii, Derick K. Grant's *Imagine Tap*, and indie band Darwin Deez. She frequently breaks the mold of tap dance by experimenting with the emotional range of the form "while exposing its true nature: that it is music" (*The New York Times*).

ABOUT DORRANCE DANCE

Based in New York City, Dorrance Dance was founded in 2011 by Artistic Director Michelle Dorrance with the intention to honor tap dance's history while also pushing the boundaries of the form.

Dorrance Dance's work challenges the rhythm, technique, and concepts found in tap dance. Dorrance Dance received a Bessie Award in 2011 for the inaugural performances of *Remembering Jimmy* and *Three to One* and in 2015 for *The Blues Project*, a collaboration with musician Toshi Reagon and her band BIGLovely that premiered at the Pillow in 2013. The company has performed to critical acclaim in many venues across the U.S. including The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Vail Dance Festival, and internationally in Canada, Spain, Germany, and Hong Kong.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Michelle Dorrance first appeared at the Pillow in 2004 with Cintia Chamecki as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series, and returned to perform her own work with Dorrance Dance for the series in 2011. In 2013, Dorrance received the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award.

Most recently, Michelle Dorrance curated *TIRELESS: A Tap Dance Experience* for Jacob's Pillow during the 2017 Festival, which brought together gifted tap dancers from the U.S. and abroad. She served as the Co-Director of the 2017 Tap Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow alongside Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards and as the Director of a similar program in 2014, when Nicholas Van Young joined her on faculty for two weeks.

Dorrance Dance has developed several works at Jacob's Pillow, including her *ETM* series over multiple residencies. The company has performed for sold-out engagements during the 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013 festivals. *The Blues Project* with Toshi Reagon premiered in 2013 as a week-long, sold-out engagement in the Doris Duke Theatre that was reprised in 2015 in the Ted Shawn Theatre.

Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Related essay and videos on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive: Tap, written and curated by Brian Seibert: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/tap/michelle-dorrance/>

Dorrance Dance in ETM: Double Down in 2016:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/dorrance-dance/etm-double/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Dorrance Dance

July 18-22, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

LIVE MUSIC

\$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 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 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Cie Art Move Concept

July 18-22, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

“A thrilling fusion of hip-hop and contemporary dance” (*The New York Times*), Cie Art Move Concept is led by prominent French hip-hop figures Soria Rem and Mehdi Ouachek. With the ability to transcend traditional moves by mixing contemporary dance with circus arts and mime, Cie Art Move Concept is a genre-blurring tour de force of movement and motion. They make their Pillow debut with physically thrilling, emotionally-driven work that showcases intricate technical refinement, presenting excerpts from the trio *Exit* and the ensemble work *Nibiru*. *Tickets start at \$25.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

Wednesday, July 18 at 6:15pm

Thursday, July 19 at 6pm at Pittsfield’s Third Thursday in the Dance Zone

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company returns to the Inside/Out stage for the second time, just before they bring traditional Mexican folklorico to downtown Pittsfield’s Third Thursday on July 19. Celebrating the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through its unique artistic vision, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company performs as a family of dancers, musicians, and teachers—named after the Aztec word for clan (Calpulli). They present excerpts of the work *Boda Mexicana* (Mexican Wedding), compiling over 15 years of the company’s repertoire to tell a story that spans time and place by bringing together native and Hispanic celebrations and rituals.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Breton Follies

Thursday, July 19 at 6:15pm

FREE

One of New York City’s most celebrated on-the rise immersive dance theater companies, Breton Follies is the incubator for in-house choreographer Breton Tyner-Bryan, a CUNY 2018 Artist in Residence, New York Theater Barn Choreography Lab recipient for new musicals, AMDA commissioned artist, and Chance to Dance contest finalist at Jacob’s Pillow. With a cinematic approach to movement, the company’s vernacular is rooted in classical ballet, cabaret, and Latin rhythms, while honoring the style and sounds of 1940s–1970s musical theater. Celebrating the female form while debunking behavioral expectations based on gender, this program explores humanity as expressed through the characters that inhabit the world of Breton Follies.

PillowTalk: *Launching the Pillow Lab*

Friday, July 20 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

FREE

A central focus of the Pillow’s new year-round activities is the Pillow Lab, offering research and creative time to a wide range of dance artists. In this discussion with Pillow Director Pamela Tatge, and recent participants Ephrat Asherie and Ilya Vidrin will assess the program’s impact.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Wylliams/Henry Dance Company

Friday, July 20 at 6:15pm

FREE

Hailed as one of the most captivating dance troupes in the Midwest, The Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company (WHDC) proudly calls Kansas City home. Known for its diverse artists, the company’s mission is to present the best of American contemporary dance through exposure to nationally renowned and emerging artists. WHCDC has a bold, athletic style with repertoire ranging from the lyrical to the avant garde. The company does not shy away from using dance as a vehicle to

address social issues to spark perspective and speak to the human spirit. Performances are given in both conventional and non-traditional spaces to introduce contemporary dance to audiences in urban and rural communities.

PillowTalk: *Dance We Must*

Saturday, July 21 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

A current exhibit at the Williams College Museum of Art focuses on Jacob's Pillow's extensive collections of costumes, sets, and other artifacts, discussed here by co-curators Kevin Murphy and Caroline Hamilton.

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

Saturday, July 21 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 choreography set on them by Ronald K. Brown, Founder and Artistic Director of EVIDENCE.

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 second week of study in the Perles Family Studio are: Deborah Wingert, prize-winning choreographer, ballet teacher and lecturer; Aya Kaneko, School alumna and Myers' assistant; and John Levis, Music Director.

Sunay Master Class: Cie Art Move Concept

Sunday, July 22 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Cie Art Move Concept 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.*

Special Workshop: Tap with Dorrance Dance

Sunday, July 22 at 11:30am

Take a 90 minute tap class with an artist of Dorrance Dance. For all tap experience levels ages 16+; Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. *\$20/class; pre-registration required.*

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 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 11, 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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