

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations and Publications Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org

**LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY BRINGS BELOVED CLASSICS
AND INNOVATIVE NEW WORKS TO JACOB'S PILLOW, AUGUST 8-12**

July 31, 2018 – (Becket, MA) Acclaimed for dramatic expression, technical mastery, and expansive yet nuanced movement, Limón Dance Company returns to Jacob's Pillow, August 8-12 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Under the new artistic direction of Colin Connor, the company perpetuates the timelessness of José Limón's work and vision, recognized today as one of modern dance's greatest male dancers and choreographers. "Performing with luscious spontaneity" (*The New York Times*), Limón Dance Company performs Limón's *Chaconne*, *The Moor's Pavane*, and company staple *A Choreographic Offering*, with special archival footage of José Limón performing at the Pillow, as well as Connor's *Corvidae*, set to music by Philip Glass, and Kate Weare's *Night Light*.

"Connor is infusing new energy and innovation to this American cultural treasure," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "The program features Limon masterworks alongside new works that showcase the versatility of the Limon dancers."

The program begins with Limón's *Chaconne*, a solo inspired by the dance form "the chaconne," which originated in Mexico as a robust social dance. Through Bach's impeccable score, *Chaconne* combines an austere formality with powerful emotions. Limón's choreography "goes beyond zestful musicality, revealing his mastery of composition and emotional modulation...a plaintive yearning grows into a whirling dervish of never-ending turns that suspend and contract" (*Dance Enthusiast*). This striking solo pays homage to Limón's Mexican heritage and dance legacy.

Following, Limón Dance Company performs Artistic Director Colin Connor's *Corvidae*, which is inspired by the mystery and symbolism of crows. Considered the most intelligent of birds, corvids—especially ravens and crows—were historically regarded as spiritual signs. *See Dance* praises, "the dance is dramatic, athletic and full of beautiful images of these mysterious creatures who many think of as messengers or omens of doom." Like a murder of crows, the dancers move as a group, flocking around the stage and creating a surreptitious atmosphere.

The Moor's Pavane is inspired by William Shakespeare's *Othello*, which tells the story of the hapless Moor and his wrongfully suspected wife, along with the Moor's treacherous friend and his wife. Acclaimed as one of Limón's masterpieces, the choreography is inspired by the high Renaissance. The four dancers embody a tragedy, in an old world setting of elegance and formality, that speaks of racism and domestic violence with timeless relevance. *The Moor's Pavane* is "both strikingly simple and extraordinarily complex, and as crystalline a merger of dance and drama as can be imagined" (*Critical Dance*).

Kate Weare's *Night Light* "continues to play against expectations, with same gendered partnering and fascinating role-reversals" (*Dance Enthusiast*). Clad in flowing blue shirts, the dancers discover a nebulous environment where groups merge into long lines and individuals break from the group into intimate duets. Through their intricate and physical partnering, the dancers in *Night Light* invite audience members to find their unique interpretations of the work. *The New York Times* explains that the dancers create a world "both subterranean and luminescent."

Lastly, the Limón Dance Company closes with *A Choreographic Offering*, originally created by Limón as a tribute to modern dance icon Doris Humphrey. The choreography is based on variations and motifs from her own dancing and choreography. Through weaving patterns, elegant gestures, and joyous partnering, *A Choreographic Offering* highlights "the full company in a lush and harmonious world" (*Miami Art Zine*).

Jacob's Pillow Connections

After the Limón Dance Company made its Pillow debut in 1946, the company achieved considerable fame and recognition, and is known for being the first modern group to outlive its founder. The company most recently performed at Jacob's Pillow in 2006. This performance includes archival video of José Limón performing at Jacob's Pillow in 1948.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

José Limón performing Lament for Ignacio Sánchez Mejías from 1946:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jose-limon/lament-for-ignacio-sanchez-mejias/>

Limón Dance Company in Orfeo from 1997:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/limon-dance-company/orfeo/>

ABOUT LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY

The Limón Dance Company (LDC) has been at the vanguard of dance since its inception in 1946, distinguishing itself as the first dance group to tour internationally under the auspices of the State Department and the first modern dance company to perform at Lincoln Center in New York, as well as performing twice at The White House. Thematically, founder José Limón possessed a social awareness that transcended distinct groups to address how we all search for commonality, earning him a special place in American culture. With their arresting visual clarity, theatricality, rhythmic, and musical life, his works continue to influence the evolution of the art form more than 40 years after his passing.

The company has developed a repertory of unparalleled breadth to complement the classics by its founders Humphrey and Limón. This oeuvre represents 44 choreographers and 45 new commissions by such luminaries as Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Donald McKayle, Murray Louis, Susanne Linke, Meredith Monk, Jiří Kylián, and now Kate Weare. The José Limón Dance Foundation, encompassing the company and the educational and licensing institute, was awarded a 2008 National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Limón Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow
Ted Shawn Theatre, August 8-12
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2pm
\$78, \$65, \$45

A limited number of \$35 Under 35 tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. 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

PARAMODERNITIES by Netta Yerushalmy
Doris Duke Theatre, August 8-12
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

Highly acclaimed for her "fierce choreographic imagination" (*The New York Times*), Netta Yerushalmy makes her Pillow debut with the world premiere of *Paramodernities*. Presented in several installments and with two different programs, this work is a meditation on the different tracks taken by the modern tradition, in dance and beyond. Yerushalmy tackles this tradition with both reverence and violence, by deconstructing iconic works from choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, and Bob Fosse, and then performing them alongside scholarly contributions that situate them in larger contexts. Intelligently crafted, *The New Yorker* praised Yerushalmy's most recent work as a "perfect dance." Visit jacobspillow.org for specific programming. Tickets start at \$25.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Dawn Lane & Co.

Wednesday, August 8 at 6:15pm

FREE

Stockbridge-based choreographer and long-time *Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion*® Artist Educator Dawn Lane returns to Jacob's Pillow with the premiere of *30 Love*. Conceived and directed by Lane, the work is a trio for Lane, Jane Goodrich, Leslie Nelson, and 30 tennis balls. The piece is a series of solos, duets, and trios that explore dimensions of identity, love, knowledge of self, relationships, and the consequences of choices made. Interplays and volleys are inspired by aspects of tennis which inspire movement throughout the work. *30 Love* includes a commissioned sound score by Boston-based artist Allison O'Brien.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Sarah Elgart | Arrogant Elbow

Thursday, August 9 at 6:15pm

FREE

Sarah Elgart | Arrogant Elbow engages audiences by transforming and catalyzing stages, screens, and sites, and painting them with singular visuals and visceral movement drawn from the quotidian human experience. Inspired by the fact that light from a star is actually memory made visible, *Shape of Memory* is a roving, site-specific work that begins on the stage then moves through the Pillow grounds melding gravity, distance, and scale, to explore how memory inhabits the body and the self, the individual and the collective. With an original score by composer/guitarist Nels Cline of Wilco, in

collaboration with composer Paul Chavez of FeltLike, *Shape of Memory* is a work about the ephemerality of dance and life and reclaiming things lost in the face of the unstoppable passage of time. The work seeks to create a new memory and leave a lingering “ghost imprint” in the viewers’ experience.

Free Fun Friday

Friday, August 10 at 2pm

Enjoy dance games, a special Kids’ Tour, classes, an outdoor performance, and more! Activities start at 2pm; funded by the Highland Street Foundation.

PillowTalk: Scholars United

Friday, August 10 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

FREE

Netta Yerushalmy’s *Paramodernities* brings together some of today’s best and brightest minds, assembled in this talk to consider the sometimes disparate worlds of dance and academia.

Inside/Out Performance Series: It’s Showtime NYC!

Friday, August 10 at 6:15pm

FREE

It’s Showtime NYC!, in only its third year of activity with now more than 25 members, has become one of the largest street dance companies in New York City. A program of Dancing in the Streets performed to celebrate New York City street culture, the group provides performance and professional development opportunities to street and subway dancers as a legal alternative to dancing in subway cars. Led and managed by the dancers themselves, It’s Showtime NYC! has created a number of pieces and commissioned major new works from international dance makers such as Anne Nguyen (Paris) and Faustin Linyekula (Congo). The group regularly presents work in Battery Park, and has been invited to perform at many events in the city including Summerstage, The Civil Court of New York State, Crossing the Line Festival, Madison Square Park, The South Bronx Culture Trail, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Times Square, Weeksville Heritage Center, and the Roberto Clemente Plaza.

PillowTalk: Limón’s Resurgence

Saturday, August 11 at 4pm

Blake’s Barn

FREE

Under new direction for the first time in 40 years, the Limón Dance Company has entrusted former company dancer Colin Connor with leading the way forward, and Connor here discusses the way forward.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob’s Pillow Musical Theatre Dance Program

Saturday, August 11 at 6:15pm

FREE

Performers studying in the Musical Theatre Dance Program are participating in the development of a new musical being created by Director/Choreographer Chet Walker, Playwright Shaun McKenna, and Composer/Lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Tonight’s presentation features numbers created on The School’s performers for *Boy on the Roof*, following two weeks in the Perles Family Studio. Inside/Out performances provide a rare chance to see participants as they prepare for the August 19 presentation of *Gotta Dance: New Faces for Broadway*, a benefit for The School at Jacob’s Pillow held in the Ted

Shawn Theatre.

Sunday Master Class: Netta Yerushalmy

Sunday, August 12, 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Netta Yerushalmy 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.*

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 new 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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