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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**NETTA YERUSHALMY DECONSTRUCTS ICONIC MODERN  
CHOREOGRAPHIES IN THE WORLD PREMIERE  
OF *PARAMODERNITIES*, AUGUST 8-12**

July 31, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Highly acclaimed for her “fierce choreographic imagination” (*The New York Times*), Netta Yerushalmy makes her Pillow debut with the world premiere of *Paramodernities*, August 8-12. By deconstructing and re-examining iconic works by choreographers Vaslav Nijinsky, Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Bob Fosse, and George Balanchine, Yerushalmy dismantles the modern tradition with both reverence and intensity. Performed by a diverse cast of dancers alongside contributions by scholars and writers, *Paramodernities* assembles some of today’s best and brightest minds to bridge the sometimes disparate worlds of dance and academia.

“When I heard about Netta’s research into the role of iconic choreographers in the development of modernism, all of whom have connections to Jacob’s Pillow, I knew that we not only had to support the development of this work but also that we could connect it to area colleges who could benefit from the work’s cross-disciplinary possibilities,” says Jacob’s Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Working across genres and disciplines, *Paramodernities* is an encyclopedic collection of six pieces. Each installment is devoted to the work of one pioneering choreographer, and each was created as an independent unit with a distinct creative process. Numbered through the order in which they were created, they are: #1, Vaslav Nijinsky’s *Le Sacre du Printemps* (*The Rite of Spring*; 1913); #2, Martha Graham’s *Night Journey* (1947); #3, Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* (1960); #4, Merce Cunningham’s *Rainforest, Sounddance, Points in Space, Beach Birds, and Ocean* (1968-1990); #5, Bob Fosse’s *Sweet Charity* (1969 film); and #6, George Balanchine’s *Agon* (1957).

Nineteen revered dancers and scholars take part in this expansive project, joining forces with Yerushalmy to generate questions and thoughts around different tracks taken by the modern tradition, in dance and beyond. Within each installment, fundamental tenets of modern discourse are explored—such as sovereignty, race, feminism, nihilism, and ableism—with public discussion encouraged as an integral aspect of each work. Dancers and scholars work in tandem—as dancers deconstruct pioneering choreographies, scholars and writers work to situate these works within the larger concept of Modernism, contributing written responses presented live on stage.

The process for *Paramodernities* began when Yerushalmy deconstructed Nijinsky’s *Le Sacre du Printemps* in 2013 for a Berlin-based centennial celebration. Since then, it has been marked as *Paramodernities #1* and acts as a blueprint for the project.

For the first time at the Pillow, access for those who are blind and visually impaired will be available through audio description. This access accommodation expands the audience for dance performance by translating aspects of the onstage movement into words. Audio devices will be offered for the Encyclopedic Series, Saturday August 11 at 1pm.

### **PILLOW CONNECTIONS**

*Paramodernities* is co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow and was developed in part through residencies at Jacob's Pillow and at both Trinity and Williams College, engagements that the Pillow subsidized. Yerushalmy worked closely with Director of Preservation Norton Owen in the Jacob's Pillow Archives during this time and described her time as a "rocket ship into deep investigations."

An exhibit entitled *Paramodernities/Revelations*, on display in the Doris Duke Theatre lobby through August 26, juxtaposes historic photos of Ailey's *Revelations* taken at the Pillow, with new images by Christopher Duggan featuring Yerushalmy and her collaborators in New York City.

### **ABOUT NETTA YERUSHALMY**

Netta Yerushalmy is an award-winning dance artist who has been based in New York City since 2000. Her work aims to engage with audiences by imparting the sensation of things as they are perceived, not as they are known, and to challenge how meaning is attributed and constructed. *The New Yorker* praised her most recent work as a "perfect dance," and Eva Yaa Asentewaa of *The Village Voice* lauds, "Netta Yerushalmy's dances, like fresh hot spices, are pungent, potent, head-clearing. Her dancers meet near-impossible demands..."

For her extensive body of work Yerushalmy has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Jerome Robbins Bogliasco Fellowship, a Grant to Artists from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, a commission from LMCC's Extended Life program, a Six Points Fellowship, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship. In 2018-19 Yerushalmy will be a Research Fellow at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, as well as a Virginia B. Toulmin Fellow for Women Leaders in Dance at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University. In the U.S., Yerushalmy's work has been commissioned and presented by venues such as the Joyce Theater, Danspace Project, American Dance Festival, New York Live Arts, La Mama, River to River Festival, Harkness Dance Festival, Roulette, and Movement Research. Abroad her work has been seen in Israel and Germany. Her work will be presented this fall by the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation as part of *Choreography Unlocked*.

Yerushalmy works across genres and disciplines: she contributed to artist Josiah McElheny's "Prismatic Park" at Madison Square Park, choreographed a Red Hot Chili Peppers music video, worked with cellist Maya Beiser and composer Julia Wolfe on "Spinning", and collaborated on evenings of theory and performance at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI Berlin). As Guest Artist and visiting faculty, Yerushalmy has created work with repertory companies and students nationally at the Juilliard School, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Rutgers University, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, University of the Arts, University of Utah, Zenon Dance Company, American Dance Festival, Alvin Ailey School, SUNY Brockport, Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, University of Texas at Austin, James Madison University, Long Island University, UNC Charlotte, and Roger Williams University. In the fall she will be a guest at Sarah Lawrence College. As a performer Yerushalmy has worked with Doug Varone and Dancers (performing with the company at Jacob's Pillow in 2009), Pam Tanowitz Dance, Joanna Kotze, Karinne Keithley, Nancy Bannon, Mark Jarecki, and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Netta grew up in Galilee, Israel. She received a B.F.A. in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has been in New York ever since.

## PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

***Paramodernities* by Netta Yerushalmy**

**Doris Duke Theatre, August 8-12**

**Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm;**

**Saturday at 1pm and Sunday at 2:15pm**

**\$45, \$35, \$25**

*Each Performance features different installments. Saturday's Encyclopedic Series engages with all six, with breaks and encouraged discussion beginning at 1pm. Accessible audio devices will be offered for the Encyclopedic Series, Saturday August 11 at 1pm. For more information or to reserve an audio device, call the box office at 413.243.0745.*

*A limited number of \$20 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.*

### **ALSO THIS WEEK**

**Limón Dance Company**

**August 8-12, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2pm**

**Ted Shawn Theatre**

A vanguard of American modern dance since its inception in 1946, Limón Dance Company is a thriving legacy of José Limón and his mentors Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman, whose innovative works revolutionized dance in America. After making their Pillow debut in 1946, the company achieved considerable fame and recognition, known for being the first modern group to outlive its founder. Acclaimed for dramatic expression, technical mastery, and expansive yet nuanced movement, Limón Dance Company is under the new artistic direction of Colin Connor and perpetuates the timelessness of José Limón's work and vision. Today, Limón represents a changing "definition of humanity" with a "new kind of rawness" (*Dance Magazine*).

*"Performing with luscious spontaneity" (The New York Times), the company brings Limón's Chaconne, The Moor's Pavane, and beloved 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. Tickets start at \$45.*

*Related videos on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:*

*José Limón performing Lament for Ignacio Sánchez Mejías in 1946:*

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

*Limón Dance Company in Orfeo in 1997:*

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

**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 his heritage and initiatives.

### **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](http://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 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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