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SONYA TAYEH BRINGS EMOTIONALLY CHARGED *YOU'LL STILL CALL ME BY NAME* TO JACOB'S PILLOW WITH INDIE FOLK DUO THE BENGSONS, AUGUST 15–19

August 6, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Obie and Lucille Lortel Award winner and two-time Emmy Award-nominated choreographer Sonya Tayeh makes her Pillow debut August 15-19, presenting her emotionally charged dance symphony, *you'll still call me by name*. Drawing from Tayeh's personal experience, the piece explores the complex and jagged relationship between a mother and daughter and is invigorated by an original score by live musicians, including indie folk duo The Bengsons and vocalist Jo Lampert. *you'll still call me by name* is a stirring and vulnerable work described as, "hugely entertaining with no qualms about sucker punching you in the gut with its overt emotion," (*Dance Enthusiast*).

"Sonya Tayeh's collaboration with The Bengsons and Jo Lampert is a powerful melding of dance, music, and story. We're excited to present Tayeh's Pillow debut," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

In *you'll still call me by name*, Tayeh draws on experiences from her own life to examine the inherent desire for familial acceptance and the heartbreak that comes when this acceptance is lost. Ten dancers and six musicians take to the stage to translate this internal anguish into movement and song. Tayeh navigates the dissonance between mother and daughter through her movement, with its characteristic "flailing limbs and sharp jabs that pulse as if powered by a bass speaker" (*The New York Times*).

The Bengsons and Lampert, frequent collaborators with Tayeh, bring an earthy sound that balances and accentuates the powerful, gritty, and technically adept choreography. Collaboration between Tayeh and The Bengsons has been praised: "The twirling, stomping, hysterical choreography ... and the haunting, ululating music ... marvelously sustain and heighten the drama" (*Vulture*). The Bengsons have also gained notoriety in the theater community for their indie folk opera, *HUNDRED DAYS*. *The New York Times* raves of the indie folk duo, "they offer luminous hope that a new generation of talent in American theater is taking up Stephen Sondheim's mantle of exquisite ambivalence."

Tayeh also participates in a PillowTalk on August 17 regarding how her work spans the commercial and concert worlds of dance—she has a wide-ranging portfolio that includes choreography for Miley Cyrus, The Martha Graham Dance Company, and most recently, the stage musical adaptation of Baz Luhrman's *Moulin Rouge!*

ABOUT SONYA TAYEH

Sonya Tayeh is a New York City-based choreographer. She has worked nationally and internationally across the worlds of dance and theater, and is also an accomplished and proud teacher. Since paving

her professional career, her work has been characterized as a blend of powerful versatility and theatrical range. She has gleaned accolades for her versatile work, including two Lucille Lortel Awards and an Obie Awards for Outstanding Choreography as well as a Drama Desk nomination.

Tayeh's recent credits include: *Moulin Rouge!* (Colonial Theatre, Boston); *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *Face the Torrent* for Malpas Dance Company (commissioned by The Joyce Theater), *you'll still call me by name* (commissioned by New York Live Arts), Martha Graham Dance Company's *Lamentation Variations* series, *Hundred Days* (New York Theatre Workshop), *The Skin Of Our Teeth* (Theatre for a New Audience), Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party* (City Center Encores!), and *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre).

ABOUT THE BENGSONS

Led by husband-and-wife team Abigail and Shaun, The Bengsons are rising stars of the New York City music and theater scene. Described by *Time Out New York* as "quirky and radiantly emotive" and *The New York Times* as possessing "not only a tremendous musical talent, but a raw honesty, a sincere righteousness," they blend rousing, all-join-hands group choruses with spry melodies over energetic, frenetic rhythms.

They have appeared across the country and around the world at such venues as Joe's Pub (NYC), NYU's Skirball Center (NYC), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA), On The Boards (Seattle), FlynnSpace (Burlington, VT), and the Market Theater (Johannesburg, South Africa). Their indie folk opera, *HUNDRED DAYS* (Z Space, San Francisco; Know Theatre, Cincinnati) was awarded the Theatre Bay Area Award for Best New Musical. They have had three singles featured on national television on *So You Think You Can Dance*. Their music has also been featured in Anne Washburn and Rachel Chavkin's *Iphigenia in Aulis* at Classic Stage Company. They are founding members of the Real Make Collective with Sonya Tayeh and Jo Lampert. Abigail Bengson has toured as a member of tUnE-yArDs, including an appearance on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Sonya Tayeh participated in a Pillow Lab residency in October 2017 where she collaborated with the Cuba-based Malpas Dance Company in development of *Face the Torrent*.

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Sonya Tayeh

Doris Duke Theatre, August 15-19

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

LIVE MUSIC

\$45, \$35, \$25

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.

Houston Ballet

Ted Shawn Theatre, August 15-18

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Thursday & Saturday at 2pm

Houston Ballet returns to Jacob's Pillow for the first time in almost 40 years. Australian Artistic Director Stanton Welch has led the respected company since 2003, marking its evolution into a world-class troupe of 59 dancers that calls the largest professional dance facility in the United States home. Celebrating a wide range of classic and contemporary ballet, Houston Ballet brings a program featuring Welch's *Clear*, an abstract work for seven men and one woman set to music by Bach, *In Dreams* by former Choreographic Associate Trey McIntyre, and a world premiere commissioned by Jacob's Pillow with an original music score by one of America's most-performed contemporary composers and co-founder of Bang on a Can, David Lang. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Gotta Dance: New Faces for Broadway

Ted Shawn Theatre, Sunday, August 19 at 5pm

Directed by Chet Walker, this lively, heartfelt evening, formerly called *A Jazz Happening*, provides a first-hand glimpse into a new musical theatre work being created by collaborators Director/Choreographer Chet Walker, Playwright Shaun McKenna, and Composer/Lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Original song and dance numbers for the show will be performed by the 2018 Musical Theatre Dance Program and an onstage band. *Tickets start at \$25.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Lida Winfield

Wednesday, August 15 at 6:15pm

FREE

Mixing dance and theater, Lida Winfield presents *IMAGINARY*, in collaboration with Ellen Smith Ahern, Joseph Hall, Laurel Jenkins, and Maree ReMalia—a deep, quirky, innovative, and socially poignant work that explores perception in relation to imagination. Commissioned in part by Jacob's Pillow through the National Performance Network, the work addresses the fact that imagination is a nearly universal human trait, though it is shaped by both personal and environmental factors. Winfield believes that the U.S. is at a critical juncture and that it is hard to know what is real, alleged, and what will unfold. *IMAGINARY* will engage community and audience members on how the imagination assists in shaping the potential and reality of our world.

Imaginary is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in partnership with Jacob's Pillow, Middlebury Performing Arts Series, and The Yard.

Class with Inside/Out Artists: David Parker & The Bang Group

Thursday, August 16, 4pm

David Parker & The Bang Group explore new ways of moving in this class. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$10 per person. *Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org.* Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The Bang Group

Thursday, August 16 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Choreographer David Parker returns to Jacob's Pillow with The Bang Group, an adventurous exploration of the sonic potential of the dancing body in a varied, interlocking suite of percussive

dances. The new work, *A Mouthful of Shoes*, works with a wide-ranging movement vocabulary drawing from classical and contemporary forms as well as tap dance, taking sets of contemporary and traditional musical scores and re-creating them as choreographic systems embodied by dancers. Thus, they can be played entirely by feet and bodies. Musician Pauline Kim Harris will play violin for an original composition by Dean Rosenthal. The group will also perform a version of Stravinsky's famous experimental jazz composition, *Piano Rag Music*.

PillowTalk: *You'll Still Call Me Sonya Tayeh*

Friday, August 17 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Bridging the worlds of television, theater, music videos, and concert dance, Sonya Tayeh discusses the emotionally charged work on view this week and her rocketing career.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Hood Nation

Thursday, August 16 at 6pm at Pittsfield's Third Thursday in the Dance Zone

Friday, August 17 at 6:15pm

FREE

Hood Nation, established in 2016 by Face Da Phlave Entertainment, is a dance company based in Philadelphia, PA. Hood Nation is a synergy of professional dancers from all around the globe and a worldwide movement, with artist representation from the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Undefined by styles, the company brings together dances from Lindy Hop, hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, locking, popping, and breaking. The company dedicates themselves to the preservation of hip-hop culture through educational programs, stage performances, and theater productions. Their goal is to bridge the gap for dancers from different backgrounds by bringing together a group of aspiring artists. They strive to teach younger generations the possibility of having a career through dance as well as guide them with knowledge that will be needed to get through their everyday lives.

PillowTalk: *Bob Fosse: Big Deal*

Saturday, August 18 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Kevin Winkler discusses his new book subtitled "Bob Fosse and Dance in the American Musical," offering a the behind-the-scenes view of this revolutionary director/choreographer.

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

Saturday, August 18 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 three weeks in the Perles Family Studio. Inside/Out performances offer a rare chance to see the 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: Sonya Tayeh

Sunday, August 19 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Sonya Tayeh 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.*

Gotta Dance: New Faces For Broadway

A Benefit for The School at Jacob's Pillow

August 19 at 5pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

LIVE MUSIC

Directed by Chet Walker, this lively, heartfelt evening, formerly called *A Jazz Happening*, provides a first-hand glimpse into a new musical theatre work being created by collaborators Director/Choreographer Chet Walker, Playwright Shaun McKenna, and Composer/Lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Original song and dance numbers for the show will be performed by the 2018 Musical Theatre Dance Program and an onstage band. Come see the next generation of performers bound for Broadway, the incubation stage of a Broadway-bound musical, and nurture tomorrow's dance artists by supporting The School at Jacob's Pillow. *Tickets start at \$25.*

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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