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THE SCHOOL AT JACOB'S PILLOW ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL 2018 CHOREOGRAPHY FELLOWS

August 24, 2018 (Becket, MA)—The School at Jacob's Pillow announces the 2018 Choreography Fellows of The Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Fellows Program. The new, unparalleled ten-day choreography program, which runs from August 21-31, fortifies The School at Jacob's Pillow commitment to fostering early-career choreographers by providing invaluable mentorship, resources, and connections. An integral component of Vision '22, the organization's five-year plan, The Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Program strengthens the artistic core of Jacob's Pillow, a National Medal of the Arts recipient and home to the longest running dance festival in the United States.

The complete list of 2018 Choreography Fellows with current affiliations are included below.

- **Dawn Marie Bazemore**, Rowan University Department of Theatre and Dance Assistant Professor
- **Laro Chien**, London Contemporary Dance School
- **Bret Easterling**, University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance Lecturer
- **Russell Lepley**, Flux + Flow Dance and Movement Center | FluxFlow Dance Project
- **Susanne McHugh**, Susie McHugh and Dancers
- **Kameron Saunders**, Center of Creative Arts Faculty/Company Rehearsal Director
- **Chafin Seymour**, seymour::dancecollective Artist Director
- **Eryn Renee Young**, XAOC Contemporary Ballet Co-Founder/Resident Choreographer

Eight Fellows were carefully chosen from 160 applicants for the opportunity to join the extensive network of resources that Jacob's Pillow offers artists. During their ten days on site, Choreography Fellows will be guided through extensive studio time to evolve a choreographic idea through a fully process-oriented approach, with no expectations of an end-product or public showing. After the program, Choreography Fellows are offered and encouraged to take part in a secondary opportunity which can include returning to Jacob's Pillow to shadow a Pillow Lab artist, connecting with a mentor virtually, or conducting community engagement work in Berkshire County.

ABOUT THE ANN & WESTON HICKS CHOREOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Underwritten for eight, early-career choreographers approximately 20-30 years of age, The Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Program was specifically designed for artists looking to advance their work, refine their choreographic voice, and expand their network. Each choreographer is invited to bring up to two dancers with them, based on their specific interests and needs, providing the opportunity for choreographers to continue developing materials following the program. Accompanying dancers receive a modest stipend.

In its inaugural year, the program is co-directed by long-time transformative dance artists and mentors Dianne McIntyre and Risa Steinberg, who were instrumental in the selection process and development of curriculum. Program highlights include Festival performances, talks, and classes as well as discussions on composing,

costume design, lighting design, curation, and business from esteemed guest speakers including Music Director of The Juilliard School Dance Division Jerome Begin; singer/songwriter and costume designer Omotayo Wunmi Olaiya; esteemed lighting designer Allen Lee Hughes; Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge; Co-Artistic Director of ODC/Dance KT Nelson; and Artistic Director of Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, Ronald K. Brown.

ABOUT PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dianne McIntyre is a dancer, choreographer, and cultural investigator, who creates work in dance, opera, film, and theatre, including Broadway. Known for collaborations with live "jazz" musicians, she founded and directed Sounds in Motion Company and School in Harlem for many years. She has held residencies at Baryshnikov Arts Center and Dance Place, with recent commissions by Dance Theatre of Harlem and two at New York Live Arts. Screen credits include *Beloved* and *Miss Evers' Boys*, garnering her an Emmy nomination, while her dance-driven dramas, drawn from interviews, include *I Could Stop on a Dime...* and *Open the Door, Virginia!* Honors include three New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Awards, the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two honorary degrees, numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, NYSCA, and other funders as she continues to mentor, teach, and choreograph with her own ensembles, numerous universities, American Dance Festival, and Jacob's Pillow.

Risa Steinberg is an active member of the dance community as a performer, teacher, re-constructor of the works of José Limón, and mentor to young, emerging, and established choreographers. A former principal dancer with the American Repertory Dance Company, Anna Sokolow's *Player's Project*, Annabelle Gamson, Bill Cratty Dance Theater, Colin Connor, and José Limón Dance Company, Steinberg has also been a guest artist with choreographers including DanzaHoy of Caracas, Venezuela, Sean Curran, and Wally Cardona. Her acclaimed solo concert, *A Celebration of Dance*, featured repertory from Isadora Duncan to contemporary choreographers. She is faculty at The Juilliard School since 2001 and held the position of Associate Director of Juilliard Dance from 2009-2016. She is on the Artists Advisory board for the José Limón Dance Foundation and is on the selection committee of The Bessies. Steinberg is currently the Choreographic Advisor and Rehearsal Coach for Brian Brooks Moving Company, Kate Weare Dance Company, and is a performer in *Sleep No More*.

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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