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**ADAM H. WEINERT RECONSTRUCTS TED SHAWN'S CHOREOGRAPHIC ACHIEVEMENT  
*DANCE OF THE AGES* AT JACOB'S PILLOW, SEPTEMBER 21-23**

August 9, 2018 (Becket, MA)—Adam H. Weinert performs Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn's epic work *Dance of the Ages*, the first evening-length modern dance work ever presented, in celebration of the work's 80th anniversary. This exclusive engagement transforms the Pillow's campus to reflect the original performance as first experienced in 1938, featuring use of the Pillow's original barn studio, now known as the Bakalar Studio, traditional production components, and an authentic pre-performance Tea Garden lecture.

"We hope to give audiences the once in a lifetime experience of the Pillow campus, the way it must have felt eighty years ago, while giving them the opportunity to revisit this iconic work of American modern dance," says Director Pamela Tatge.

"Performing *Dance of the Ages* here, now, has never been more important. This work became the centerpiece of the penultimate tour of The Men Dancers and was seemingly written in response to the attacks on democracy at the brink of World War II. Finding resonance today is as sobering as it is inspiring," says Adam H. Weinert.

Weinert and his nine-person male ensemble, featuring dancers who studied at The School at Jacob's Pillow, reconstruct *Dance of the Ages* with a mixture of historical accuracy and contemporary reflection. The reconstruction process took over 15 months and was made possible through Jacob's Pillow's extensive Archives, which holds images, films, costumes, and press clippings from the original production. Vintage costumes, images, and film excerpts are displayed throughout the season in a Ted Shawn Theatre lobby exhibit, also titled *Dance of the Ages*. Meanwhile, a collaborative exhibition at the Williams College Museum of Art entitled *Dance We Must* coincides with the project, displaying an extensive collection of costumes and memorabilia from the time period of the work, through November 11.

Modeled after The Men Dancers' famous lecture-demonstrations, *Dance of the Ages* begins with an informal Tea Garden reception, marked by J.M. Tate's durational interpretation of Shawn's *Death of an Adonis* (1924) performed on a pedestal. Suited in the signature white robe of The Men Dancers, choreographer/lecturer Sydney Skybetter provides pre-performance context, blurring the lines between lecture and performance as Weinert and his ensemble serve tea and finger sandwiches to the audience.

*Dance of the Ages* is performed inside the Bakalar Studio, the Pillow's original barn studio, featuring the original Jess Meeker score played live by pianist John Sauer. Sauer himself is an important link to an

earlier era, known for accompanying classes at the Pillow since 1971 and working as a professional colleague of Shawn's long-time composer Jess Meeker. Production elements enhance historical accuracy including original staging, natural lighting from large side windows, and eclectic seating. Historical consultant Caroline Hamilton and Costume Supervisor Anna McDunn create costumes made after the original designs.

"It's a dream come true to be able to see this dance presented in its original venue once again," says Director of Preservation Norton Owen. "Audiences will be able to 'time travel' and imagine themselves back in the formative years of Jacob's Pillow, bringing our history alive in a powerful way."

### **ABOUT DANCE OF THE AGES**

*Dance of the Ages* premiered on September 9, 1938 at Jacob's Pillow. Shawn considered *Dance of the Ages* to be the "summit of his achievement as a choreographer, dancer, and educator." Each section mirrors one of the four elements: fire, water, earth, and air. With no narrative, Shawn referred to this as pure dance.

*Dance of the Ages* was also his first dance in "symphonic framework" to be presented as a full evening's program. Shawn used the word symphonic to describe the work's structure, with many different themes introduced and explored. After its premiere at Jacob's Pillow, *Dance of the Ages* traveled to Montreal and became a cornerstone of The Men Dancers' repertory in hundreds of cities until the company's final performance in May 1940.

### **ABOUT TED SHAWN**

Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn is a modern dance pioneer widely accepted as "The Father of American Dance" who legitimized the role of men in dance through abstract, barefooted, and decisively masculine choreography. Shawn initially purchased a farm in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts called Jacob's Pillow in 1930 as an artistic retreat, laying the groundwork for his revolutionary company of men dancers and America's oldest dance festival.

In July 1933, Shawn and his Men Dancers started using the Bakalar Studio to give public "Tea Lecture Demonstrations" to promote their work. That summer, an initial audience of 45 grew so quickly that people were eventually turned away. Although Shawn and his Men Dancers were among the first to use film as documentation of the work they developed, rehearsed, and performed at Jacob's Pillow, Shawn's choreography is not frequently performed or seen today.

### **ABOUT ADAM H. WEINERT**

Hudson-based performance artist Adam H. Weinert is critically acclaimed for reconstructing the work of Ted Shawn with a distinguishable contemporary resonance. Weinert was a 2013 Jacob's Pillow Research Fellow and performed early solos by Shawn as part of a series hosted at the Museum of Modern Art and Tate Modern. In 2016, Weinert premiered the evening-length work *MONUMENT* at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, praised as "impressive, strange, a puzzle you want to solve" (Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*), where he revived works by Doris Humphrey, José Limón, and Ted Shawn.

Weinert began his training at The School of American Ballet, and continued on to Vassar College, The Juilliard School, and New York University, where he recently earned a Master's Degree under the tutelage of André Lepecki. Weinert has danced with The Metropolitan Opera, The Mark Morris Dance

Group, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and Christopher Williams, and for six years served as the Artistic Associate to Jonah Bokaer.

In addition to his performance work, Weinert has been published in *The New York Times*, the *Juilliard Journal*, and as a featured profile in *New York Magazine*. He produced and choreographed an award-winning collection of dance film shorts screened nationally and abroad, and his performance works have toured to four continents including a number of non-traditional dance venues such as the Museum of Modern Art, The Tate Britain Museum, and The Tate Modern Museum. He was awarded Presidential Distinction and Scholastic Distinction from the Juilliard School, and in 2008 received the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Outstanding Choreography.

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

Adam H. Weinert in MONUMENT: [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/adam-h-weinert/monument/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/adam-h-weinert/monument/)

Ted Shawn's Men Dancers in Kinetic Molpai (1937)

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/ted-shawns-men-dancers/kinetic-molpai/>

Jacob's Pillow's Men Dancers: [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jacobs-pillows-men-dancers/ted-shawn-centennial-tribute/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jacobs-pillows-men-dancers/ted-shawn-centennial-tribute/)

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Adam H. Weinert in *Dance of the Ages*  
September 21-23; 4pm Performance  
Bakalar Studio, Jacob's Pillow  
358 George Carter Road, Becket MA 01223  
General Admission: \$50

*Tickets on sale now. To purchase tickets and find more information, please visit [jacobspillow.org/events/historic-reconstruction-dance-of-the-ages/](http://jacobspillow.org/events/historic-reconstruction-dance-of-the-ages/)*

**RELATED EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS**

**Third Thursday: Adam H. Weinert in *Dance of The Ages***

**The Dance Zone, Downtown Pittsfield**

**June 20 at 6pm**

**FREE**

Just prior to the three-day exclusive Pillow engagement, Adam H. Weinert brings highlights of his latest reconstruction of Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn's choreographic achievement *Dance of The Ages* to downtown Pittsfield.

**Dance We Must: Treasures from Jacob's Pillow 1906-1940**

**Collaborative Exhibition at Williams College Museum of Art**

**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)*

### **Dance of the Ages**

**Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, June 20-September 23**

**Open 60 minutes prior to every performance**

**FREE**

Dive deeper into *Dance of the Ages* prior to the show with the Ted Shawn Theatre exhibit which commemorates the 80th anniversary of the a culminating achievement by Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers and highlights the full reconstruction process. The exhibit features images, memorabilia, and costumes from the original 1938, production many on view for the first time.

**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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