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**STARS OF AMERICAN BALLET CELEBRATES RENOWNED CHOREOGRAPHER
JEROME ROBBINS' CENTENNIAL AT JACOB'S PILLOW, AUGUST 22-26**

August 14, 2018 – (Becket, MA) Bringing together some of today's most remarkable ballet talents, Daniel Ulbricht's Stars of American Ballet returns to Jacob's Pillow, appearing in the Ted Shawn Theatre August 22-26. A principal dancer with New York City Ballet since 2007, Ulbricht is lauded as "one of the best male ballet dancers in New York" (*Dance Magazine*). As Artistic Director, curator, and performer, Ulbricht brings a unique vision and perspective to performance. With a cast highlighting 14 powerhouse dancers of New York City Ballet, this collective celebrates the legacy of choreographic legend Jerome Robbins with a program of his masterpieces on the occasion of his centennial, augmented by two Robbins-related PillowTalks.

"We're thrilled to welcome Daniel Ulbricht and Stars of American Ballet back to Jacob's Pillow to close our 2018 Festival season. Daniel has curated a special program for us that will take audiences into the brilliance of Jerome Robbins, whose body of work shaped dance in America and influenced choreographers around the world," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

In 2018, the world comes together to celebrate the centennial of Jerome Robbins (1918-1998) through performances, screenings, events, exhibitions, and discussions. A prolific figure in American cultural history, Robbins is regarded as a creative genius who impacted dance and theater through his genre-blurring ballets and work as a director and choreographer of theater, movies, and television. Alastair Macaulay of *The New York Times* praises his influence, "Theater does not consist of words alone. And much of what can be sublime in theater goes beyond words...nobody has demonstrated this point more substantially than Jerome Robbins." Throughout his lifetime, Robbins created more than 60 ballets and his Broadway credits include *On the Town*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and more.

The program is curated by Artistic Director Daniel Ulbricht with a cast of 14 dancers from New York City Ballet, one of the foremost dance companies in the world. The Stars of American Ballet cast includes principal dancers Ulbricht, Anthony Huxley, Teresa Reichlen, and Gonzalo Garcia; soloists Sara Adams, Unity Phelan, and Indiana Woodward; and corps de ballet members Devin Alberda, Daniel Applebaum, Lars Nelson, Andrew Scordato, Kristen Segin, Sebastian Villarini-Velez, and Peter Walker.

The performance begins with Robbins' *Andantino*, an intimate duet with a sense of sweetness and unforced drama set to the lilting second movement of Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1." Following, Teresa Reichlen, Daniel Applebaum, and Andrew Scordato perform Robbins' *Concertino*

accompanied by early Stravinsky music. Performed with an onstage cellist, Stars of American Ballet also presents *A Suite of Dances*, a witty yet introspective solo for a male dancer. Performed by Ulbricht, Robbins' choreography in *A Suite of Dances* combines classical ballet movements with Broadway-inspired steps—effortless pirouettes and sweeping extensions blend with forward rolls and cartwheels. The ensemble also presents *Chopin Dances*, a male duet by Robbins. Performed by Ulbricht and Huxley, *Chopin Dances* is a collection of solos originally from Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering* and *Other Dances*. This performance offers a rare opportunity to experience Robbins' mastery in one of his lesser-known works.

The entire cast of Stars of American Ballet closes the performance with *Interplay*, a lively ballet with a 1940s-inspired jazz score by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Morton Gould. Performed by the entire collective, this ensemble piece is a playful ballet with clear influences from Robbins' Broadway style. Throughout the piece, the dancers take part in a lighthearted competition and revel in the swingtime rhythms. At the heart of *Interplay* is a bluesy pas de deux that contrasts the competitive atmosphere of the dance. Robbins' choreography in *Interplay* “warmly gleams with his innovative mix of ballet and pop dance, jazzy and yet crammed with fiendish technical demands” (*Chicago Tribune*).

In addition to the performances, Jacob's Pillow will present a free film screening of *NY Export: Opus Jazz* on Friday, August 24 at 5pm and a free Robbins-related panel discussion on Saturday, August 25 at 4pm. These events coincide with The Boston Symphony Orchestra's Bernstein Centennial Summer at Tanglewood, celebrating the 100th Birthday of American composer Leonard Bernstein, a long-time collaborator with Robbins.

Jacob's Pillow Connections

Stars of American Ballet last performed at Jacob's Pillow as part of the 2015 season. Their first performance at Jacob's Pillow was in 2014.

Related video on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

Daniel Ulbricht/Ballet 2014 in Fancy Free from 2014:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/daniel-ulbricht-ballet-2014/fancy-free-2014/>

Stars of American Ballet in Distractions from 2015:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/daniel-ulbricht-stars-american-ballet/distractions/>

ABOUT STARS OF AMERICAN BALLET

Stars of American Ballet travels to cities that rarely host ballet performances and offers top-notch choreography with principal and soloist-level dancers from major American companies. Founded and directed by New York City Ballet principal dancer Daniel Ulbricht, Stars also sponsors dance education programs, consisting of master classes, pre-performance lectures, and community outreach projects. Stars seeks to build a better awareness and overall experience with the art form and offers free tickets for underprivileged children. The mission of Stars of American Ballet is to one day see all parts of this country entertained, educated, lifted up, and inspired by the art of ballet and great dancing, delivered to anyone, anywhere who wishes to share this experience.

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Stars of American Ballet at Jacob's Pillow

Ted Shawn Theatre, August 22-26

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm

\$100, \$78, \$65, \$45

Saturday evening Finale | \$100, \$75

A limited number of special Under 35 discounted tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. Tickets are \$35 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. 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

ODC/Dance

Doris Duke Theatre, August 22-26

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

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

Saturday evening Finale | \$75, \$50

With four female resident choreographers—Brenda Way, KT Nelson, Kimi Okada, and Kate Weare—this contemporary dance company is widely recognized for its rigorous technique, full-throttle partnering, interdisciplinary collaboration, and musical commissions. San Francisco-based ODC/Dance began as a collective at Oberlin College in 1971 and has since transformed and relocated to become one of the most active centers for dance on the west coast. “Full-bodied and expansive without being showy or brawny” (*The New Yorker*), ODC/Dance returns to the Pillow for the first time since 1994, featuring KT Nelson’s *Dead Reckoning*, set to original music by celebrated Kronos Quartet cellist Joan Jeanrenaud and performed amidst a mesmerizing sea of green confetti. *Tickets start at \$25.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Felipe Galganni & Company

Wednesday, August 22 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Felipe Galganni is a tap dancer, teacher, and choreographer known for his unique style and versatility in blending the American art form of tap dance with his Brazilian roots. Felipe Galganni & Company present excerpts from the concert *TAP&TOM*, which premiered at The Players Theatre in New York. Under the musical direction of award-winning Brazilian Maestro Carlos Bauzys, the performance blends Galganni’s original tap choreography with the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim’s bossa nova.

Inside/Out Performance Series: American College Dance Association Gala Highlights

Thursday, August 23 at 6:15pm

FREE

For the third consecutive year, American College Dance Association (ACDA) presents highlights from its regional festivals, supporting and promoting the wealth of talent and creativity from college and university dance departments. Each spring, regional conferences are hosted around the country with performances, workshops, panels, and master classes. At each conference, a panel of expert adjudicators select works in an anonymous process to be performed at a gala performance which

concludes the conference. The dances are choreographed by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and guest artists. Selected works from each region go on to be presented at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts before highlights are selected for the Inside/Out stage.

PillowTalk: *NY Export: Opus Jazz*

Friday, August 24 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Shot on location with an ensemble of New York City Ballet dancers, this film adaptation of Jerome Robbins's 1958 "ballet in sneakers" is screened and discussed.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Saung Budaya Dance

Friday, August 24 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Saung Budaya Dance was established in 2005 by Amalia Suryani to introduce new audiences to Indonesian culture through dance and music. As a vital part of the Indonesian community in New York, Saung Budaya repertoire includes various dances from all over Indonesian archipelago. They have performed at Lincoln Center, Asia Society, American Museum of Natural History, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Saung Budaya presents two pieces showcasing the beauty and diversity of Indonesia with an interactive teaching component. *Leleng* will take audiences deep into the jungles of Borneo, home to the Dayak Tribe, where a young girl lost is saved by the hornbill birds. *Naiak Piring* portrays the daily lives of women who balance baskets on their heads in the rice fields through farmers' daily activities and harvest celebrations in West Sumatra. This dance comprises several quick movements with plates that create a throbbing atmosphere throughout the work.

PillowTalk: *Robbins Reconsidered*

Saturday, August 25 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

In the centennial year of Jerome Robbins, new attention is focused on this groundbreaking choreographer through many lenses including two represented here: Julia Foulkes, curator of an upcoming Robbins exhibit at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and Hiie Saumaa, who has been studying Robbins' own writings.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Subject:Matter

Saturday, August 25 at 6:15pm

FREE

Closing this year's Inside/Out Performance Series is Boston-based tap dance company Subject:Matter. They present *From the Top*, an evening-length work that promises to keep audiences intrigued with its twists and turns through a wide variety of music—from funk and jazz, to afro-beat and oldie pop. Each section of the performance presents a unique world to be investigated. Subject:Matter is led by Ian Berg, an alumnus of the Tap Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow. Berg also performed as part of *TIRELESS: A Tap Dance Experience*, curated by Michelle Dorrance in 2017.

Alumni Day

Saturday, August 25

Alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow and Intern Program are invited to reconnect at the Pillow with specially-priced tickets and surprises.

Festival Finale

Saturday, August 25

The ultimate end-of-summer celebration! After evening performances of Stars of American Ballet and ODC/Dance, dance the night away with desserts, drinks, and a dance party on the Pillow's Great Lawn. *Tickets start at \$50 including performance; \$40 party-only tickets are available.*

Sunday Master Class: ODC/Dance

Sunday, August 26 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of ODC/Dance 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.

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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