

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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TO JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL, JUNE 19-23**

May 22, 2019 (Becket, MA)—Jacob's Pillow presents one of the world's leading performance companies, Brisbane-based Circa, in the Doris Duke Theatre, June 19-23. At the forefront of contemporary Australian circus, Circa creates awe-inspiring performance from extreme physicality. Praised as "circus at its purest and most thrilling," (*Daily Review*, Sydney) three fearless acrobats perform *What Will Have Been*, featuring live music by an on-stage violinist that fuses together the music of Bach and Philip Glass with spine-tingling electronica.

"Circa's acrobats have a physical vocabulary that is not simply awe-inspiring and virtuosic; they take us on a surprising emotional and poetic journey that is unparalleled. I'm thrilled to open Festival 2019 with such a powerful work in the Doris Duke Theatre," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

In *What Will Have Been*, three artists stretch the boundaries of contemporary circus in this intimate and deeply moving production. Hauntingly beautiful and truly virtuosic, *What Will Have Been* is a sublime display of interlocking bodies, breathtaking movement, and pure physical beauty. "A work of immense power...masterly re-defining," (*The Public Reviews*, UK) Circa's intrepid artists challenge perceptions of what is possible within the human body and draw deep into a world of physical daring.

Directed by visionary Yaron Lifschitz, the ensemble blurs the lines between movement, dance, theater, and circus and has toured to over 40 countries across six continents since 2004, returning to Jacob's Pillow for the third time. Considered "one of Australia's greatest cultural exports—a groundbreaking ensemble of circus artists constantly stripping back and reinventing their art form" (*Daily Review*, Sydney), Circa utilizes little or no set, characters, story line, or theme, and the entire production is on an intensely human scale.

Related Pillow programming includes a Meet & Greet for Berkshire County music students with acclaimed Sydney-based violinist Lachlan O'Donnell; a free movement class for families with members of Circa on Saturday, June 22; and a Master Class with Todd Kilby, Tour Director and member of Circa ensemble, where participants are led through a practical introduction of Circa's acclaimed performance and analytical framework on Sunday, June 23.

ABOUT CIRCA

Circa Contemporary Circus is one of the world's leading performance companies. Since 2004, from its base in Brisbane, Australia, Circa has toured the world, performing in 40 countries to over a million people. Circa's works have been greeted with standing ovations, rave reviews, and sold-out houses across six continents. Circa is at the forefront of the new wave of contemporary Australian circus

pioneering how extreme physicality can create powerful and moving performances. It continues to push the boundaries of the art form, blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre, and circus, and is leading the way with a diverse range of thrilling creations that “redraw the limits to which circus can aspire” (*The Age*).

Under the direction of circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz, Circa features an ensemble of exceptional, multi-skilled circus artists who have been a regular fixture at leading festivals and venues in New York, London, Berlin, and Montreal with seasons at Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon Theatre, as well as major Australian Festivals.

Circa is committed to fostering the next generation of circus artists and also runs a Training Centre from its studio in Brisbane, facilitating regular circus programs with communities throughout Queensland and around Australia. As a champion of live performance, Circa manages arTour, Queensland's center of contemporary touring knowledge, and was the Creative Lead for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

Circa made its Pillow debut in 2012 with *CIRCA* and returned two years later to the Ted Shawn Theatre with *S*. Circa was part of the inaugural Pillow Lab season with a week-long residency in February 2018.

Explore past Pillow performances on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

- Circa in *CIRCA* in 2012: danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/circa/circa/
- Circa in *S* in 2014: danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/circa/S/
- *Can you Call that Dance? Circus at Jacob's Pillow* by Maura Keefe: danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/what-is-dance/can-call-dance-circus-jacobs-pillow/

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION

- **Circa at Jacob's Pillow**
Doris Duke Theatre, June 19-23
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm
Sunday at 2:15pm
\$45, \$35

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:

Ballet BC

June 19-23, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

Hailing from Vancouver, Ballet BC pushes the boundaries of classical ballet with a cutting-edge, contemporary sensibility. Praised as “physically rigorous, dramatically solid, and truly contemporary” (*Dance Magazine*), Ballet BC celebrates ten years under the leadership of Artistic Director and former company member Emily Molnar, whose vision has guided the company into an era of innovation and collaboration.

As one of the most significant Canadian companies, Ballet BC returns to the Pillow with a program including Molnar's most recent work *To this day* that brings her signature expressive style in conversation with the music

of Jimi Hendrix; the U.S. premiere of *Bedroom Folk*, originally created for Nederlands Dans Theater by sought-after Israeli collaborators Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar; and Medhi Walerski's *Petite Cérémonie*, a humorously thought-provoking work created in a sensitive, episodic dialogue that has become a famed signature of Ballet BC's diverse repertoire. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Kotchegna Dance Company

Wednesday, June 19 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Performing in elaborate masks to the explosive percussion of a group of brilliant drummers, Kotchegna Dance Company brings to life the ancient stories and legends of Africa's Ivory Coast, praised by *The New York Times* for "feverishly intricate rhythms from drummers who knew countless ways to subdivide a beat and make it jump."

Artistic Director Vado Diomande is a master dancer and percussionist, who was born into the sacred stilt-dancing tradition of the Mahou people in northwest Ivory Coast. As a young member of the *Ballet National de Cote D'Ivoire*, Diomande absorbed diverse dances of over 60 ethnic groups of the Ivory Coast. Diomande has toured the world, impressing audiences with the acrobatics of the Tall Mask, "God of the Sacred Forest", and *Gue-Pelou*. Diomande re-established his dance company in New York City in 1994, as Kotchegna Dance Company, developing a corps of multicultural dancers and a repertoire that is widely loved and admired.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Luke Hickey

Thursday, June 20 at 6:15pm

FREE, LIVE MUSIC

Tap dancer and choreographer Luke Hickey, an alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow, performs the high-energy trio *A Little Old, A Little New*. Representing the arc of American culture from the jazz era to modernity, the work is a collaboration between musicians and tap dancers, celebrating the cultural importance of both art forms. Choreographed, performed, and directed by Hickey, the performance also features two dancers alongside Davis Whitfield and his jazz trio Maniacs of 4th Dimension.

PillowTalk: Emily Molnar's Decade

Friday, June 21 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

In celebration of her 10 years leading Ballet BC, Emily Molnar discusses her various roles as dancer, choreographer, and director, and her plans for the future.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Micaela Taylor's TL Collective

Friday, June 21 at 6:15pm

Thursday, June 20 at 6pm at Pittsfield's Third Thursday in the Dance Zone

FREE

The TL Collective fuses contemporary dance and theatrical hip-hop with elements of groove and acrobatics, bringing high levels of athleticism to the stage. Artistic Director Micaela Taylor is highly acclaimed, including as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" and recent recipient of the Inaugural EMERGE Choreographic Award from Springboard Danse Montréal. The TL Collective performs Taylor's newest evening-length work *Drift*, which seeks to demonstrate an individual's ever-changing relationship to self while exposing a personal season of self-growth. *Drift* premiered at the Ford Theatre in Los Angeles as part of the Ford Theatres Artist-in-Residence program.

PillowTalk: Charles Reinhart Returns

Saturday, June 22 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

The longtime director of American Dance Festival directed Jacob's Pillow in 1974 and managed publicity here in the 1960s, returning now with stories to tell.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Ballet Program

Saturday, June 22 at 6:15pm

FREE

Dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Ballet Program are apprentices, trainees, pre-professionals, and early-career professionals with leading ballet companies from around the world. Their performance for Festival audiences includes choreography by Aszure Barton as well as the new ballet created on them for the 2019 Season Opening Gala by esteemed choreographer Matthew Neenan.

The Contemporary Ballet Program is directed by Alexandra Damiani, former artistic director of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and Matthew Neenan, co-founder of Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet company BalletX.

Sunday Master Class: Circa

Sunday, June 23 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Circa's work has been seen in 40 countries by over one million people. At the core of Circa's practice is four space theory – a performance and analytical framework created by Yaron Lifschitz. Todd Kilby, Tour Director and member of the Circa ensemble, will lead participants through a practical introduction of this framework that will explore how the theory and some key features function, and how they are used in movement creation and improvisation.

Open to all intermediate and advanced performers ages 16 and over. Quiet observation is welcome; \$20 per class or \$100 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.

Special Workshop: Flamenco with Briseyda Zárate

Tuesday, June 25 at 6:30-8pm

Get ready to dance and become inspired! Led by California-based flamenco dancer and choreographer Briseyda Zárate, this introductory class introduces participants to the main techniques of flamenco dance including braceo and floreos (movement of the hands and arms), zapateo (footwork), and palmas (rhythmic clapping). Participants will learn a brief and fun combination using all of these elements. Please wear comfortable clothing to move in and sturdy, hard-soled shoes. *For intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+; \$20; pre-registration required at jacobspillow.org.*

FESTIVAL 2019 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—OPENING THIS WEEK

Dance We Must: Another Look

Blake's Barn, June 19-August 25

Open Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tues noon to 5pm; FREE

Drawing upon the acclaimed 2018 exhibit at the Williams College Museum of Art, the Pillow's historic costumes, set pieces, and other artifacts are viewed through a different lens, illuminating the early years of American modern dance with alternative voices brought forward. The adjacent Norton Owen Reading Room features recent donations and more from the Stephan Driscoll Collection.

Assemblages by Paul Taylor

Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, June 19-August 25

Open daily, noon to final curtain**FREE**

Beyond dancemaking, Paul Taylor was an infinitely creative artist in multiple media, and Jacob's Pillow salutes his memory with his own idiosyncratic visual works, some on public display for the first time. Assembled mostly from found objects, Taylor's artworks are joyful, haunting, humorous, bawdy, ingenious, and just as memorable as the dances for which he is best known.

Merce Cunningham: Loops**Doris Duke Theatre Lobby, June 19-August 25****Open daily, noon to final curtain****FREE**

This abstract virtual reality portrait of Merce Cunningham was created by digital artists Paul Kaiser and Marc Downie. With imagery derived from a motion-captured performance by Cunningham of his solo dance for hands, and soundtrack of Cunningham reading from early diary entries, *Loops* recognizes the Cunningham Centennial by distilling the great choreographer's essence into a unique work of art.

Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room**Blake's Barn, June 19-August 25****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, provides instant access to rare film clips ranging from the present day back to the 1930s.

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, currently in the midst of its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance through a five-year strategic plan titled Vision '22. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and over 500 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs. The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the field's most prestigious professional dance training centers, encompasses the diverse disciplines of Contemporary Ballet, Contemporary, Tap, Photography, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Flamenco and Spanish Dance in 2019). 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. The Pillow's Director since 2016 is Pamela Tatge. For more information, visit www.jacobspillow.org.

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