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## **DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM RETURNS TO JACOB'S PILLOW TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 10-14**

June 24, 2019 —(Becket, MA) Dance Theatre of Harlem celebrates 50 years of dance at Jacob's Pillow and commemorates the legacy of their late co-founder Arthur Mitchell in the Ted Shawn Theatre, July 10-14. Founding member and principal dancer Virginia Johnson now leads the multi-ethnic ballet company known for their innovative repertoire, acclaimed as "classy, earnest, and potent" (*LA Times*). Returning to the Pillow for the first time in five years, Dance Theatre of Harlem performs a program showcasing the dancers' diverse technical expertise in Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Harlem on My Mind*, Christopher Wheeldon's *This Bitter Earth*, George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*, and premiering at the Pillow, an expanded version of Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Balamouk*.

"We're thrilled to celebrate 50 years of this groundbreaking company and are particularly excited to premiere an expanded version of *Balamouk* in honor of this year's Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner Annabelle Lopez Ochoa," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Harlem on My Mind* traces the history of jazz through the kineticism of five couples. The work features musical compositions by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Rodgers and Hart, Wynton Marsalis, and a contemporary arrangement of *My Funny Valentine* by trumpeter Chris Botti. The soulful work follows jazz from its earliest New Orleans origins to the present. A Harlem native and recipient of a Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award, Moultrie has been recognized for his diverse choreography and skillful teaching, working in ballet, modern, and commercial dance genres. *The New York Times* writes, "Moultrie moves his dancers around the stage with remarkable authority...is obviously someone to watch."

*This Bitter Earth*, choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, is an emotional pas de deux from *Five Movements, Three Repeats*. Set to an arrangement of Dinah Washington singing the song of the same name combined with Max Richter's *On the Nature of Daylight*, the duet was originally created for Fang-Yi Sheu & Artists, an ensemble that included New York City Ballet dancers Wendy Whelan, Tyler Angle, and Craig Hall. The pas de deux embodies strength and patience through rich spirals and glides. Dancing on the edge of stability and control, the duet explores intimacy in finding balance between two bodies before falling into an embrace.

Dance Theatre of Harlem presents Balanchine's 1967 classic, *Valse Fantaisie*. Of rare musicality, the work was originally presented as the second section of *Glinkiana*. The cast of five is swept into a perpetual state of motion, displaying Balanchine's trademark of swift and brilliant technique. Paul Boos, Répétiteur for The George Balanchine Trust, says that beneath the charm, the choreography is among the most aerobically difficult pieces in ballet history.

*Balamouk* is a new work that premiered in October 2018, originally choreographed for Dance Theatre of Harlem by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and commissioned for New York City Center's Fall for Dance. This expanded version of the work will be presented in celebration of the 2019 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner, Lopez Ochoa, an internationally sought-after Colombian-Belgian choreographer who was recognized for her artistic vision and achievement. Lopez Ochoa is critically acclaimed for her versatile, edgy choreography that allows dancers to embody both their personality and virtuosity.

The late Arthur Mitchell was a legendary dancer and cultural trailblazer who has been described as the Jackie Robinson of ballet. Internationally known as a dynamic performer and dance pioneer, Mitchell dedicated his life to increasing diversity in the classical arts by providing opportunities and support to young talent. Co-founding Dance Theatre of Harlem, the first major black classical dance company, with Karel Shook, Mitchell's vision of empowerment and cultural inclusion has helped unify the dance community and beyond.

On Saturday, July 13 at 4pm, artistic director Virginia Johnson and Jacob's Pillow Scholar-in-Residence Theresa Ruth Howard will remember Arthur Mitchell and the company's 1970 debut at the Pillow.

### **ABOUT DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM**

When the late, legendary, Arthur Mitchell created Dance Theatre of Harlem (with co-founder Karel Shook) in 1969, he was as intent on creating a new vision of ballet as he was on creating opportunity where none had existed before. Now, 50 years later, the organization is a singular presence in the ballet world. With a legacy of bringing renewed vitality to the art form of ballet through thrilling performances by its professional touring company, training in its Harlem-based school as well as transforming the lives of young people through its exceptional arts education and community engagement programs, the organization is acclaimed around the globe. Dedicated to the future of ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem continues the work of changing perceptions, in particular, who can or cannot participate, what has value and what is beautiful. By challenging expectations, providing a platform for new voices and breaking down barriers, DTH presents ballet for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century, an art form that is as relevant as it is inspiring, an art form for all.

### **JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS**

Dance Theatre of Harlem made its first public appearance as a company at the Pillow in 1970, just one year after it was founded and prior to its New York debut. Their most recent performance at Jacob's Pillow was in 2014.

Current Artistic Director Virginia Johnson was a part of the first Dance Theatre of Harlem performance at Jacob's Pillow in 1970.

Darrell Grand Moultrie is a 2019 guest choreographer for the Contemporary Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow.

**Explore past Pillow performances and related content on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:**

- Dance Theatre of Harlem in *The Lark Ascending* in 2013:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/dance-theatre-of-harlem/the-lark-ascending/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/dance-theatre-of-harlem/the-lark-ascending/)
- Dance Theatre of Harlem in *Contested Space* in 2014:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/dance-theatre-of-harlem/contested-space/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/dance-theatre-of-harlem/contested-space/)
- *Virginia Johnson, Women in Dance* by Maura Keefe:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/virginia-johnson/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/virginia-johnson/)
- *Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Women in Dance* by Maura Keefe:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/annabelle-lopez-ochoa/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/annabelle-lopez-ochoa/)

**PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION**

**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 10-14**

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm**

**Thursday, Saturday & Sunday at 2pm**

**\$78, \$65, \$45**

*A limited number of \$35 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:**

**Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group**

**July 10-14, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Praised for how "his sprawling movement pieces fold history into the present" (*The New York Times*), award-winning choreographer Reggie Wilson imagines what Black Shaker worship might have looked like in the world premiere of *POWER*. This Brooklyn-based company and its body of work draws from the spiritual and mundane traditions of Africa and its Diaspora; Wilson often refers to his work as a "post-Africa/Neo-HooDoo Modern dance." *POWER* is commissioned by Jacob's Pillow and fueled by two residencies at the Pillow Lab with supplemental research at Hancock Shaker Village, a living history museum dedicated to the Shakers, who established the village in Pittsfield, MA in 1783. A special, site-based experience with Reggie Wilson and company will be performed at Hancock Shaker Village on July 6. *Tickets start at \$35.*

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

Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group in *Moses(es)* in 2014:

[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/reggie-wilson-fist-heel-performance-group/moseses/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/reggie-wilson-fist-heel-performance-group/moseses/)

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Phunk Phenomenon****Wednesday, July 10 at 6:15pm****FREE**

Seen on MTV's America's Best Dance Crew, Phunk Phenomenon's Urban Dance Theatre brings together a diverse group of professional dancers from across New England through a non-traditional dance studio that celebrates hip-hop's vibrant culture. The dynamic crew promotes and educates on ethnic and personal empowerment through a cross-cultural fusion of contemporary urban dance. Led by former New England Patriots cheerleader Reia Briggs-Connor, Phunk Phenomenon has performed for TEDx Talks, Nike Puma, the pop singer Miguel, Waka Flocka, and more.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Kim Lusk****Thursday, July 11 at 6:15pm****FREE**

Seattle-based choreographer Kim Lusk is known for her subtle humor and intricate movement, praised for choreography that "literally vibrates at the intersection of classicism and pop action, like a slam-dancing sarabande" (*Seattle Weekly*). Lusk and her dancers teeter between success and failure in *A Dance for Dark Horses*, set to '90s pop beats. The end result showcases a rag-tag bunch of go-all-out dancers that the audience can't help but root for.

**PillowTalk: Movers & Shakers****Friday, July 12 at 5pm****Blake's Barn****FREE**

Hancock Shaker Village curator Sarah Margolis-Pineo and choreographer Reggie Wilson discuss Wilson's exploratory research on black Shakers and the new dance inspired by this work.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Charlotte Ballet****Friday, July 12 at 6:15pm****FREE**

Led by Artistic Director Hope Muir, Charlotte Ballet is known for its strong dancers and versatile repertoire that ranges from the classics to bold, contemporary work. The company of 18 professional dancers who make Charlotte their home annually present six performance series in Charlotte with an international roster of choreographers. They perform Bryan Arias' first commission for the company, *When Breath Becomes Air*. The thought-provoking choreographer is an alumnus of Charlotte Ballet as well as the 2018-19 recipient of the Jacob's Pillow Fellowship at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post.

**Dog Dance****Saturday, July 13 at 11am****The Great Lawn****FREE**

Back by popular demand, this participatory event for beloved canines and their dance-loving companions will be led by Debbie Maciel and Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Artistic Director of Dance Exchange and an Artist Educator for *Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion*® program. The two lead participants and their leashed canines through a series of simple and fun movements, designed to highlight the beauty of our pets and the unique relationship we share with our dogs. This family-friendly event includes a group dance, giveaways, raffle featuring local pet vendors, and more. *Pre-registration is encouraged at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org). No experience for humans or dogs needed (dogs*

*should be comfortable around others and with loud sounds). Free with a suggested donation to the Berkshire Humane Society. Rain Date, July 14.*

**PillowTalk: Remembering Arthur Mitchell**

**Saturday, July 13 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

On the eve of Dance Theatre of Harlem's 50th anniversary, director Virginia Johnson remembers the company's Pillow debut and the man who made it all possible.

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

**Saturday, July 13 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Dancers of the Contemporary Program are apprentices, advanced pre-professionals, and early-career professionals from leading dance companies and training centers around the world. Darrell Grand Moultrie, Jae Man Joo, and Didy Veldman—three of today's most sought-after, and stylistically diverse, contemporary choreographers—will create new work on the ensemble of dancers.

Renowned mentor, choreographer, and Horton technique expert Milton Myers returns for his 33rd summer as Director of the Contemporary Program, joined by Dutch artistic director, choreographer, and contemporary teacher Didy Veldman. Renowned artist faculty joining the two are Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Rehearsal Director Lucas Crandall; Ballet Master for Alonzo King LINES Ballet Arturo Fernandez; Aya Kaneko, School alumna and Myers' assistant; expert on Forsythe improvisational methods Thomas McManus; one of Britain's leading contemporary technique teachers Kerry Nicholls; Head Faculty at Manhattan Youth Ballet Deborah Wingert; and pianist/composer John Levis, Music Director.

**Sunday Master Class: Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group**

**Sunday, July 14 at 10am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Choreographer Reggie Wilson teaches a class through his particular movement idiom, merging contemporary Technique and post-modern structures with rhythmic folk traditions. *Open to all intermediate and advanced dancers 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](http://jacobspillow.org).*

**FESTIVAL 2019 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—ONGOING**

**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.

### **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.

### **Jacob's Pillow: Taking Dance Off the Mountain**

**Methuselah Bar & Lounge**

**391 North St, Pittsfield, MA**

**Mon-Sat 5pm-1am**

In this off-site exhibit, we ask the question: "where can dance happen?" View a selection of original images by Festival photographer Christopher Duggan, taken for a new artistic series that intersects dance, photography, and our beloved Berkshire landscape. We invite you to become part of the movement and share how *you* take dance off the mountain. Visitors are encouraged to take photos dancing in the exhibit and post on social media using the hashtags #jacobspillow and #pillowcommunity for a chance to win Festival 2019 tickets.

### **Online Exhibit: Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive**

This evolving online resource features breathtaking video highlights of Pillow performances from the early 1930s through today, with an expanded section of multimedia essays featuring talks, photos, and other exclusive content organized into various themes. Visit [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org)

## **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](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. The Pillow's Director since 2016 is Pamela Tatge. For more information, visit [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

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