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**JACOB'S PILLOW PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
REGGIE WILSON/FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP'S *POWER*, JULY 10-14**

June 24, 2019 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents the world premiere of Pillow-commissioned *POWER*, Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group's new evening-length work, July 10-14 in the Doris Duke Theatre. Imagining what Black Shaker worship may have looked like, *POWER* was developed through two residencies at the Pillow Lab and Berkshire-based Hancock Shaker Village. It is preceded by *...they stood shaking, while others began to shout*, a site-based roving performance at the Village's Round Stone Barn and 1910 Barn on Saturday, July 6 at 2pm.

"Reggie Wilson's newest work *POWER* is the product of Berkshire-based research and development and we're thrilled to present the world premiere. Wilson's nuanced lens into the physicality of spirituality is unmatched," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Award-winning choreographer Reggie Wilson created *POWER* with his Brooklyn-based company Fist and Heel Performance Group through two residencies at the Pillow Lab and Hancock Shaker Village, a living history museum based in neighboring Pittsfield, MA. *POWER* imagines what Black Shaker worship would have looked like. With a name derived from the whirling, communal dancing that occurred as part of their religious services, the Shakers welcomed African American members into their communities as early as the late 1700s, assisted fugitive slaves along the Underground Railroad, and often purchased the freedom of slaves in southern communities.

Praised for how "his sprawling movement pieces fold history into the present" (*The New York Times*), Wilson refers to his work as "post-Africa/Neo-HooDoo Modern dance." Through rhythmic movement, *POWER* presents intriguing perspectives and correlations on Shaker worship and practices. The work is a culmination of Wilson's extensive research on the spiritual and mundane traditions of Africa and its Diaspora, specifically visionary black preacher Rebecca Cox Jackson. *POWER* further reflects Wilson's investigations on the early evolution of African American spiritual worship in the pantheon of American Christian religions and expands on his research into African American shout traditions.

*...they stood shaking, while others began to shout* is a site-specific companion to the world premiere, performed in two barns at Hancock Shaker Village. A continuation of Wilson's series of thought-provoking performances and talks that engage historic religious spaces, *...they stood shaking*

“explores intersection of worship and dance with poetic imagination” (*The New York Times*).

Established by Shakers in 1783, the Pittsfield village was the site of extensive research by Wilson as he and his collaborators engaged with thousands of archival materials.

Fist and Heel will also lead a Community Ring Shout in Pittsfield on July 8. This stimulating, transformative sing-a-long will connect participants to their rhythmic voices and bodies. The Shout unearths some of the origins, functions, and interconnections through tales and songs from Africa and the African Diaspora (the Caribbean and American South).

#### **ABOUT REGGIE WILSON/FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP:**

Reggie Wilson founded his company, Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, in 1989. The company's name is derived from enslaved Africans in the Americas who reinvented their spiritual traditions as a soulful art form that white and black authorities dismissed as merely 'fist and heel worshipping'. Wilson draws from the cultures of Africans in the Americas and combines them with postmodern elements and his own personal movement style to create what he calls "post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances." Wilson is a graduate of New York University, Tisch School of the Arts (1988, Larry Rhodes, Chair). He has studied composition and been mentored by Phyllis Lamhut, and performed and toured with Ohad Naharin before forming Fist and Heel. He has lectured, taught, and conducted workshops and community projects throughout the U.S., Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. He has traveled extensively to the Mississippi Delta to research secular and religious aspects of life there; Trinidad and Tobago to research the Spiritual Baptists and the Shangoists; and Southern, Central, West, and East Africa to work with dance and performance groups as well as diverse religious communities. He has served as visiting faculty at several universities including Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan Universities.

Wilson is the recipient of the Minnesota Dance Alliance's McKnight National Fellowship (2000-01). Wilson is also a 2002 Bessie Award recipient for his work *The Tie-tongued Goat and the Lightning Bug Who Tried to Put Her Foot Down*, and a 2002 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow. He has been an artist advisor for the National Dance Project and Board Member of Dance Theater Workshop. In recognition of his creative contributions to the field, Wilson was named a 2009 United States Artists Prudential Fellow and is a 2009 recipient of the Herb Alpert Award in Dance. In 2012, New York Live Arts presented a concert of selected Wilson works, *theRevisitation*, to critical acclaim and the same year he was named a Wesleyan University's Creative Campus Fellow, received the 2012 Joyce Foundation Award for his new work *Moses(es)*, and was named a Doris Duke Performing Artist and a 2015 New York City Center Choreography Fellow.

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

Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group made their Pillow debut in 1996 with excerpts from *Love* as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series. They returned to the Inside/Out stage several times, and in 2007, had their Doris Duke Theatre debut with *The Tale: Npinpee Nckutchie and the Tail of the*

*Golden Dek*. Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group returned to the Doris Duke Theatre in 2014 with *Moses(es)*.

*POWER* was developed in part at the Pillow Lab through two residencies.

**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/)

**PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:**

- **Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group**  
**Doris Duke Theatre, July 10-14**  
**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm**  
**Saturday and 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.*

- ***...they stood shaking, while others began to shout***  
**Hancock Shaker Village**  
**Saturday, July 6 at 2pm**  
**\$30 (includes admission for the day); members \$10**  
**1843 West Housatonic St.**

**Pittsfield, MA 01201**

***Note: Most of this performance will be standing room only***

*...they stood shaking, while others began to shout at Hancock Shaker Village is sponsored by Joan and James Hunter, Julie Mehretu, Bruce and Reba Evenchik, and Robin Lazarow and Jeanne Kangas.*

**RELATED EVENTS:**

**Site-Specific Performance: *...they stood shaking, while others began to shout***

**Saturday, July 6 at 2pm**

**Presented in collaboration in Hancock Shaker Village**

**1843 W Housatonic St, Pittsfield, MA**

Award-winning choreographer Reggie Wilson imagines what Black Shaker worship might have looked like in the world premiere of *POWER* at Jacob's Pillow. Witness an introduction to the work in a special site-based experience at Hancock Shaker Village with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group. The site-specific event will feature the dancers in a roving performance that weaves the historic buildings and landscape into Wilson's narrative and emphasizes the intense physical expression of Shaker spirituality. *Visit [hancockshakervillage.org](http://hancockshakervillage.org) for tickets.*

**Community Ring Shout with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group**

**Monday, July 8 at 7pm**

**Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield, MA**

**FREE**

A stimulating, transformative sing-a-long for participants to restore and connect to their rhythmic voices and bodies. The Shout unearths some of the origins, functions, and interconnections through tales and songs from Africa and the African Diaspora (the Caribbean and American South). *Additional details to be announced, visit [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org) for updates.*

**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.

**ALSO THIS WEEK:**

**Dance Theatre of Harlem**

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

**Ted Shawn Theatre**

Celebrating 50 years of Dance Theatre of Harlem's signature artistry, this beloved, multi-ethnic ballet company returns in commemoration of co-founder, the late Arthur Mitchell. Founding member and former principal dancer Virginia Johnson now leads the 16-member company known for a forward-thinking repertoire. Along with treasured classics, this dynamic company presents innovative, culturally inclusive works that propel ballet into the 21st century. Dance Theatre of Harlem made its first public appearance at the Pillow in 1970, just one year after it was founded and prior to its New York debut. The company premieres an expanded version of Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Balamouk* as well as George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*, Christopher Wheeldon's *This Bitter Earth*, and Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Harlem on My Mind*. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Explore past Pillow performances 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/)

**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.

**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.

## **ABOUT HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE**

Hancock Shaker Village is one of America's finest and most authentic living-history museums and Shaker sites. Set on 750 acres of preserved farm, meadow and woodland in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, the museum's 20 historic buildings, including the iconic Round Stone Barn, are located within a walkable 10-acre Village setting. HSV houses an impressive collection of original Shaker furniture, art, objects, tools, textiles and other artifacts. The Center for Shaker Studies, a research facility, is located in the modern Visitor Center, along with conference and exhibit space, a Café, Museum Store, and adjacent event deck.

## **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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