

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org**A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM
MAKES TED SHAWN THEATRE DEBUT, JULY 31-AUGUST 4**

July 12, 2019 — (Becket, MA) A.I.M by Kyle Abraham makes its Ted Shawn Theatre debut at Jacob's Pillow, July 31-August 4. A Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner, Doris Duke Artist Award winner, and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, Kyle Abraham's "skill as a dancer is a fact" (*The New York Times*). A.I.M's mixed repertory program demonstrates the company's diverse range of styles and Abraham's own artistry as a performer with *INDY*, his first major solo in nearly a decade; Andrea Miller's all-female *state*; as well as *Show Pony*, *The Quiet Dance*, and *Drive*, marked by Abraham's "urgent and expressive choreography" (*The New York Times*).

"For me, Kyle Abraham's movement vocabulary has always been so deeply affecting, human, and full of insight," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "I'm proud to present this program of incredibly dynamic works that push the limits of what we perceive to be modern dance, both by him and his contemporary, Andrea Miller."

Born into hip-hop culture of the late 1970s and incorporating an artistic upbringing of classical cello, piano, and the visual arts into his work, Abraham's choreography is "a glimpse at a more interdisciplinary future for modern dance in America" (*The Post and Courier*). Abraham is one of today's most in-demand choreographers; he was recently commissioned by New York City Ballet as one of their first black choreographers in more than a decade.

Choreographed in 2018 in collaboration with composer/pianist Jerome Begin, *INDY* is Abraham's first solo work in nearly a decade. Abraham's relationship with Begin's score becomes "immediately canonical and deeply personal," (*The Dance Enthusiast*). Costumed in a black fringed tunic and pants designed by Karen Young, the expressive work contains "vivid moments of physical poetry," (*The New York Times*) as Abraham morphs into various personas. The program continues with *state*, a work for three women dressed in earth tones choreographed by Gallim's groundbreaking Andrea Miller. The work was choreographed in 2018 and is set to a hypnotic electronic score by Reggie Wilkins, praised as a "lush, atmospheric trio for women" (*Arts Air*).

The energetic *Show Pony* is the second solo of the program, and shows the "pleasure in the dancer's state of being alive" (*Fjord Review*). *The Quiet Dance*, choreographed in 2011 and the oldest work of the program, is set to Bill Evan's transcription of Leonard Bernstein's *Some Other Time*. As dancers group and re-group throughout the space around a soloist, they are "accentuating the simultaneous power and vulnerability of taking up space alone" (*Fjord Review*). The final work in the program is described as a "slipstream of genre blending and bending" (*The Dance Enthusiast*). *Drive* is a hypnotizing work for eight dancers that features inversions, leaps, and turns. Set to thumping house

music with flashing lights, *Drive* was choreographed in 2017 and is a “strong, pulsating feat of athleticism” (*The Post and Courier*).

ABOUT A.I.M:

The mission of A.I.M is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded in Abraham's artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, the goal of the movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The work entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior, and all things visual in an effort to create an avenue for personal investigation and exposing that on stage. A.I.M is a representation of dancers from various disciplines and diverse personal backgrounds. Combined together, these individualities create movement that is manipulated and molded into something fresh and unique.

ABOUT KYLE ABRAHAM:

Kyle Abraham is a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, 2015 City Center Choreographer-in-Residence, and a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. Previous awards include being named a 2012 USA Ford Fellow, a Creative Capital grantee, and receiving the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. In 2010, Abraham received a prestigious Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show* and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010. The previous year, he was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch for 2009.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

Kyle Abraham won the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award in 2012 and serves on the Board of Trustees. A.I.M made its Jacob's Pillow debut in 2009 on the Inside/Out stage, and returned to the Pillow in 2010, 2011, 2013, and most recently in 2017, performing *Dearest Home* in the Doris Duke Theatre.

Abraham collaborated with Wendy Whelan, former principal dancer of the New York City Ballet, to create and perform in *Restless Creature*, which premiered at the Pillow in 2013. He also performed at the Pillow with the companies of Cherylyn Lavagnino (2008) and David Dorfman (2011). Abraham was Faculty of The School at Jacob's Pillow for the Contemporary Program in 2015.

In November 2018, A.I.M had a residency at the Pillow Lab.

Watch Kyle Abraham and his works on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

- A.I.M in [Dearest Home](#) from 2017
- A.I.M in [Pavement](#) from 2013
- Kyle Abraham in [Inventing Pookie Jenkins](#) from 2010

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:

- **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham at Jacob's Pillow**
Ted Shawn Theatre
July 31-August 4
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Saturday and 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:

THE DAY

July 31-August 4, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

World-renowned cellist Maya Beiser, legendary dancer Wendy Whelan, and seminal choreographer Lucinda Childs join forces to present the highly-anticipated world premiere of *THE DAY*, with music by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang. This momentous melding of multi-genre creative genius, created collaboratively by Beiser and Childs, aims to grapple with memory, aging, death, and survival of the soul through the shared language of music and dance. *THE DAY* was co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow. *Tickets start at \$55.*

Explore a multimedia essay on Wendy Whelan on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/wendy-whelan/

Inside/Out Performance Series: Bryn Cohn + Artists

Wednesday, July 31 at 6:15pm

FREE

Founded in 2011, Bryn Cohn + Artists is a bicoastal company that constructs theatrical worlds of risk and reality with collaborations in film, fashion, music, and television. In an innovative repertory program for Inside/Out, BC + A will present their most celebrated works to date including *4AM*, *HOME*, and *Skin*. These pieces explore themes of identity, forming community, and family dynamics, performed with fierce physicality and emotional depth by the BC + A dancers.

Acclaimed artistic director Bryn Cohn was nominated for a Princess Grace Fellowship, received a feature in *Dance Teacher Magazine* and was selected to participate in the New Directions Choreography Lab at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The company has presented and toured their work at Danspace Project, Bryant Park, Hudson Valley Dance Festival, McCallum Theatre's Choreography Competition, Kaatsbaan, Gibney, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, 92nd Street Y, 14th Street Y, REDCAT, and Abrons Arts Center.

Class with Inside/Out Artist: Moving Creatively: Experience *Curriculum in Motion*® with Liv Schaffer

Thursday, August 1 at 4pm

Join Liv Schaffer and her performance cast through guided improvisations that warm the body and ignite a collaborative spirit. Participants will create movement studies based on imagery and innovative prompts drawn from *Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion*® residency program, the nationally-recognized arts integration program that engages all ages and bodies through creative inquiry and the choreographic process.

Weather permitting, class takes place at the Inside/Out stage. In the case of inclement weather, class takes place in the Ruth St. Denis Studio. Open to all experience levels, ages 12+; \$15 per person.

Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver.

Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Liv Schaffer

Thursday, August 1 at 6:15pm

FREE

Oakland-based choreographer and performer Liv Schaffer is a Jacob's Pillow Artist Educator with the *Curriculum in Motion* and *Medicine in Motion* programs. Schaffer creates in both concert and community dance settings; performing with Robert Moses' Kin and Dance Exchange, alongside her Directorship of University of San Francisco's intergenerational dance company, the *Dance Generators*.

In collaborative efforts with five performers, Schaffer presents three separate works created between 2014-2018, that abstract essences of remembrance, gender, effort, and wonder. Each of the works offers a view of the various ways Schaffer paints her inner terrain during times of personal grief or collective tenacity, using the fleeting nature of performance to illuminate bits of our own ephemeral stories amidst expansive athleticism and playful rhythms.

PillowTalk: *Dawn of THE DAY*

Friday, August 2 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

The three powerhouse artists involved in this week's premiere of *THE DAY*— dancer Wendy Whelan, musician Maya Beiser, and choreographer Lucinda Childs—discuss its genesis.

Special Event: Pillow Pride Weekend

August 2-4

Pillow Pride Weekend, formerly known as Weekend OUT, celebrates the Pillow's LGBTQIA+ community with special performances, one of the largest dance parties of the summer, an exclusive historic tour, and more. *Related events identified below.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Ebony Williams Choreography & Dancers

Friday, August 2 at 6:15pm

FREE

Ebony Williams bridges the worlds of concert, commercial, and theater as a Boston-based dancer and choreographer. She is known for her work as a dancer with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and as one of Beyoncé's principal dancers in the viral *Single Ladies* music video and The Formation World Tour. As a choreographer, Williams aims to fuse multiple styles of dance to bring awareness to today's social and cultural issues.

For a special Pillow Pride Inside/Out performance, Williams and dancers premiere *Title XI*, a piece that focuses on supporting and celebrating the LGBTQIAPD community #respectmypronoun, alongside the work *Victoria* that brings attention to the concerns of the heroin crisis that affects large communities without discrimination.

Pillow Pride Dance Party

Saturday, August 3 after evening performances

Jacob's Pillow's annual LGBTQIA+ celebration takes place August 2-4 and features exclusive events and performances on a decorated Pillow campus. The weekend's dance party is the most popular dance party of the summer with performances by Host Tyler Ashley, The Dauphine of Bushwick, music by DJ BFG, and unforgettable moments captured in Berkshire Photo Booth. *Sponsored by Berkshire Photo Booth. Tickets \$15 or included with ticket to evening performance of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham or THE DAY.*

Pillow Pride Brunch
Sunday, August 4 at 12pm
Inside/Out
\$10

Join us for a picnic brunch at Inside/Out before The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus (HGMC) performs at 1pm in celebration of our annual Pillow Pride weekend. Come enjoy refreshments, mingle with staff and peers, and celebrate our diverse LGBTQIA+ community in the Berkshires.

Special Pillow Pride Performance: Hartford Gay Men's Chorus
Sunday, August 4 at 1pm
FREE

In a special Sunday Pillow Pride performance, The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus (HGMC) brings live choir to the Inside/Out stage. Celebrating their seventh season, the 60+ voice ensemble is celebrated for its musicianship, creative programming, and community outreach. HGMC sings a wide range of music as a catalyst for enriching and educating both participants and audiences by demonstrating to individuals the many ways that beautiful music positively impacts our world.

Sunday Film Event: *Hot to Trot*
Sunday, August 4 at 4:30pm
Blake's Barn

This award-winning documentary film goes inside the fascinating but little-known world of same-sex competitive ballroom dance and follows a small international cast of four magnetic men and women, on and off the dance floor, over a four-year period. An immersive character study—and an idiosyncratic attack on bigotry—this rousing, powerful story unfurls with the rhythms and energy of dramatic cinema. *General admission \$10.*

PillowTalk: *Dance We Must: Another Look*
Saturday, August 3 at 4pm
Blake's Barn
FREE

Changing attitudes about world cultures and gender roles are brought into focus by the current exhibit of costumes and artifacts, discussed here from various angles.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Tap Program
Saturday, August 3 at 6:15pm
FREE

Dancers of the Tap Program have journeyed from around the world to study with Tap Program Directors Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards and Michelle Dorrance for three weeks. For Inside/Out audiences, they perform traditional tap vocabulary, cutting edge styles, improvisation, and acapella compositions as soloists and ensemble performers, all in preparation for *Gotta Dance*, a benefit for The School at Jacob's Pillow held in the Ted Shawn Theatre on August 18.

Additional artist faculty that dancers are trained and mentored by are among the most talented and celebrated artists in tap today including Brenda Bufalino, Derick K. Grant, Jason Samuels Smith, Maria Torres, Dianne Walker, Sam Weber, and Josette Wiggan-Freund.

Sunday Master Class: Wendy Whelan**Sunday, August 4, 10am****Doris Duke Theatre**

Wendy Whelan, legendary dancer and recently named New York City Ballet's Associate Artistic Director, leads a classical ballet technique class and shares the expertise gained through more than 30 years with the New York City Ballet. Participants will be led through a warm-up and exercises that will explore diverse dance techniques from Whelan's repertoire while focusing on the strong positioning and energy of the body. *Open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 12 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.*

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

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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