

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org**MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY RETURNS TO
JACOB'S PILLOW WITH THE EVE PROJECT, AUGUST 14-17****WITH SPECIAL PILLOW POP-UP PERFORMANCE
AT THE CLARK ART MUSEUM, AUGUST 18**

July 29, 2019—(Becket, MA) Martha Graham Dance Company, the oldest dance company in the United States, returns to Jacob's Pillow with The EVE Project, a celebration of female power and the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the 19th amendment. This two-year project presents a range of Graham's classics alongside new commissions by leading female voices—providing entree into some of today's most pressing conversations. Featured works on the program include Graham's iconic *Appalachian Spring* and the all-female *Chronicle*, as well as a suite of *Lamentation Variations* and a new work, *Deo*, by Maxine Doyle and Bobbi Jene Smith.

"We're thrilled to present the Martha Graham Dance Company for six performances at the Festival and for a special Pillow Pop-Up at the Clark Art Museum, one of our cultural partners. The EVE Project presents exciting new commissions which showcase how Graham's legacy continues to impact leading dancemakers of today," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Appalachian Spring, now in its seventy-fifth year, opens the program. Probably Graham's best-known work, it takes place on the wedding day of a young bride and her husband as they begin a life together on the American frontier. With a set designed by Isamu Noguchi and a Pulitzer prize winning score by Aaron Copland, *Appalachian Spring* has been admired by *The New York Times* as a "real triumph" and "a celebration of the human spirit." Graham once wrote, "Of all my ballets, (*Appalachian Spring*) is the one I cherish the most," (*The Los Angeles Times*).

One of Graham's few works that express overt political ideas, *Chronicle*, with a cast of all women, premiered in 1936. A response to the rise of fascism in Europe, the dance seeks to universalize the tragedy of war. Performed to music by Wallingford Riegger, *Chronicle* is "incendiary, ferocious modern dance" (*The Chicago Tribune*).

Lamentation Variations features choreography by prominent female choreographers Liz Gerring, Michelle Dorrance, and Aszure Barton in reaction to Graham's iconic solo, *Lamentation*. What began in 2007 to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11 grew into a robust collaboration between Martha Graham Dance Company and the dance community at large. "We want to use the Graham legacy as a springboard for wildly diverse projects," said Artistic Director Janet Eilber (*The New York Times*). These artists present responses that reflect their unique movement idioms.

The company's newest work, *Deo*, by Gaga-trained Bobbi Jene Smith and theater-based Maxine Doyle, draws inspiration from the classic myth of Demeter, goddess of harvest and fertility, and Persephone, her daughter who was abducted by Hades. Set to experimental electronic music by Lesley Flanigan, the work for eight women investigates the natural human preoccupation with death, the underworld, and the role that women play in our understanding of mortality, with a movement score in which "vulnerable expressions juxtapose with cold, precise gestures" (*The Dance Enthusiast*).

The Financial Times has claimed that "The dance world would be a poorer place without Graham's company." To showcase the importance of Graham's work beyond the concert stage, iconic works from Martha Graham Dance Company will be presented on and around the grounds of the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts on August 18 from 1-3pm. As part of a special performance engagement at the museum during their time at Jacob's Pillow, the Graham company will perform *Diversion of Angels*, *Lamentation*, *Ekstasis*, and *The 19 Poses*.

ABOUT MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY:

Martha Graham and her Company have expanded contemporary dance's vocabulary of movement and forever altered the scope of the art form by rooting works in contemporary social, political, psychological, and sexual contexts, deepening their impact and resonance.

Always a fertile ground for experimentation, Martha Graham Dance Company has been an unparalleled resource in nurturing many of the leading choreographers and dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins, Pearl Lang, Pascal Rioult, and Paul Taylor. Graham's repertoire of 181 works has also engaged noted performers such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Claire Bloom, Margot Fonteyn, Liza Minnelli, Rudolf Nureyev, Maya Plisetskaya, and Kathleen Turner. Her groundbreaking techniques and unmistakable style have earned the Company acclaim from audiences in more than 50 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Today, the Company continues to foster Graham's spirit of ingenuity. It is embracing a new programming vision that showcases masterpieces by Graham alongside newly commissioned works by contemporary artists inspired by Graham's legacy. With programs that unite the work of choreographers across time within a rich historical and thematic narrative, the Company is actively working to create new platforms for contemporary dance and multiple points of access for audiences.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

One of the foremost American choreographers of the twentieth century, a modern dance pioneer, and the creator of an important technique for training dancers, Martha Graham (1894-1991) studied at the Denishawn School in Los Angeles. There she was inspired by Ruth St. Denis and mentored by Ted Shawn, performing with Denishawn until 1923. Her own company, founded in 1926, became a breeding ground for seminal artists such as Erick Hawkins, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. Although Shawn made many attempts to bring the Graham Company to the Pillow, the only formal appearance during his lifetime was a 1960 lecture-demonstration.

The Company's official Pillow debut in 1984 was an emotional homecoming for Graham, who personally supervised rehearsals of her recently-premiered *Rite of Spring* on this very stage. Now under the direction of former principal dancer Janet Eilber (who has added such works as Nacho

Duato's *Rust* and Mats Ek's *AXE* to the repertory), the company has made five return visits to the Pillow since Graham's death in 1991.

Martha Graham Dance Company on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive

- Martha Graham Dance Company in *AXE* from 2015:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/axe/
- Martha Graham Dance Company in *Rust* from 2013:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/rust/
- Martha Graham Dance Company in *The Rite of Spring* from 2013
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/the-rite-of-spring-2013/
- Martha Graham Dance Company in *Night Journey* from 1994:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/night-journey/

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:

- **Martha Graham Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow**
Ted Shawn Theatre
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Thursday and Saturday 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.
- **Pillow Pop-Up: Martha Graham Dance Company at the Clark Art Museum**
Sunday, August 18 at 1-3pm
225 South St, Williamstown, MA 01267
FREE; Visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor seating.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Sara Mearns: Beyond Ballet

August 14-18, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

New York City Ballet principal Sara Mearns is acclaimed as "a dancer who leaves everything she owns on the stage while realizing movement fully, all the way to her fingertips" (*The New York Times*). As the recipient of a Bessie Award for sustained achievement, Mearns has expanded notions about what it means to be a versatile dancer today. In this Pillow-exclusive engagement, Mearns performs in multiple cross-genre collaborations including the Pillow-commissioned *No. 1*, a duet with Honji Wang created under the artistic direction of Sébastien Ramirez of the French hip-hop duo Company Wang Ramirez; the world premiere of a new duet with postmodern dance's Jodi Melnick; and excerpts from a new work that tells the story of the ancient Greek novel *Daphnis and Chloe* by sought-after choreographer Christopher Williams, designed by Reid & Harriet. *Tickets start at \$55.*

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

Sara Mearns and Russell Janzen in *The Bright Motion* in 2015:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/sara-mearns-russell-janzen/bright-motion/

Community Residency: Urban Bush Women

August 14-18 in Pittsfield

FREE

A series of workshops and events in Pittsfield, driven by community and movement. *Additional details to be announced, visit jacobspillow.org for updates.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Tapped In: Alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow

Wednesday, August 14 at 6:15pm

Thursday, August 15 at 6pm at Pittsfield's Third Thursday in the Dance Zone

FREE

Tapped In brings together standout alums from The School at Jacob's Pillow for an exclusive program. Tap dancers Demi Remick, Jabu Graybeal, and Christna Carminucci will be performing tap solos, with others to be announced.

Demi Remick is a Young Arts Gold Award winner in Dance, one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch," and Presidential Scholar in the Arts nominee who tours worldwide as a tap dance soloist with Postmodern Jukebox and Caleb Teicher & Company.

Jabu Graybeal is an alumnus of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE) and YoungArts Foundation, and has performed with a diverse group of companies including Caleb Teicher & Company and Chloe Arnold's Apartment 33. Under a nomination from Michelle Dorrance, he was hailed by *DanceSpirit Magazine* as a dancer to look for in the next generation of tap.

Christina Carminucci, born and raised in New Jersey, is a New York City-based tap dancer. She began her training with the American Tap Dance Foundation's Tap City Youth Ensemble and has studied extensively under the mentorship of Derick K. Grant. This proud Jacob's Pillow Tap Program alumna has appeared in works by many of today's greats, including Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, Brenda Bufalino, and Jason Samuels Smith, and has danced with a number of notable companies including Michelle Dorrance's Dorrance Dance and Sarah Reich's Tap Music Project. As an emerging, young choreographer, Christina co-produced *On That Note*, and, most recently, produced her first original one-woman show *When the Smoke Clears* at the Triad Theater in NYC. Passionate about sharing her love and knowledge of the art form, she currently teaches at the American Tap Dance Foundation, where she is in her third season as an Artist in Residence and is on faculty at Steps on Broadway.

Class with Inside/Out Artist: Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami

Thursday, August 15 at 4pm

Artists from Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami teach a ballet class on the Inside/Out stage prior to their performance. 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: Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami

Thursday, August 15 at 6:15pm

FREE

Returning to Inside/Out for the second consecutive summer, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami (DDTM) was founded by former Miami City Ballet principals Carlos Guerra and Jennifer Kronenberg.

Praised as “athletic, energetic, sexy” by *The New York Times*, the cutting edge company continues to garner recognition for their profound energy and electricity, offering audiences a fresh, innovative, and diverse ballet experience. They perform *Imagined Notions* by resident choreographer Yanis Pikieris, an exuberant showpiece that highlights the versatility of the dancers to an enchanting score by Karl Jenkins.

Primarily comprised of local artists hailing from Cuba, USA, Venezuela, Brazil, and beyond, the company, its cultural programming, and its collaborative pursuits are especially unique in their distinct reflection of South Florida. Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami has been an ambassador for Miami Arts & Culture, spreading its wings beyond its residence at the beautiful South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center, performing by invitation at Danzar por la Paz Gala in Buenos Aires, Argentina, The Great Friends Dance Festival in Newport, Rhode Island, The International Ballet Festival of Miami, The Joyce Theater, and Jacob’s Pillow. Proud recipient of a 2017 Knight Arts Challenge Award, DDTM has most recently been awarded an inaugural Knight New Works Miami grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

PillowTalk: *Talking Tap*
Friday, August 16 at 5pm
Blake’s Barn
FREE

As co-directors of the Pillow’s new Tap Program, Michelle Dorrance and Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards take the pulse of what’s happening today—in the studio and onstage.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Ayazamana Ecuadorian Dance Group
Friday, August 16 at 6:15pm
FREE

Ayazamana (from the Kichwa word meaning where the soul rests) dance group is mostly composed of new arrival immigrants from Ecuador and first generation Latinx dancers. Their mission is to allow the community to have greater access to Ecuadorian culture through dance, representing vast regions, such as the mountains, the coast, and the Amazon, that compose the small South American Country. Founded in Queens, New York, Ayazamana has performed throughout the tristate area in performances at the Ecuadorian Consulate, Museum of Native Americans, US Open, and the Queens Museum of Art.

PillowTalk: *Martha Graham’s EVE Project*
Saturday, August 17 at 4pm
Blake’s Barn
FREE

Commemorating the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote, Artistic Director Janet Eilber discusses commissioning female choreographers and celebrating Graham's complex and powerful women.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Chance to Dance Live Competition
Saturday, August 17 at 6:15pm
FREE

Jacob’s Pillow’s Chance to Dance viewers’ choice contest is an open invitation for dance artists from around the globe to enter to win an opportunity to perform on the iconic Inside/Out stage. In 2019, over 100 artists applied, six were selected to be featured on the Pillow’s Youtube channel, from which

three were voted by dance fans all over the world to come to Jacob's Pillow. The top three features contemporary MN Dance Company based in Slovenia; Vancouver-based tap company Soleful Dance Company; and Chinese contemporary dance company based in Baltimore, Xing Dance Theater. In this exclusive Inside/Out performance, the three contestants from the crowd-sourced online competition perform in a live competition, scored in real time by audience members.

Sunday Master Class: *Beyond Ballet*

Sunday, August 18 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

New York City ballet principal Ashley Bouder leads a ballet class. *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.*

Pillow Pop-Up: Martha Graham Dance Company at the Clark Art Museum

Sunday, August 18 at 1pm

Williamstown, MA

After a week of performances at Jacob's Pillow, the celebrated Martha Graham Dance Company performs a special site-specific iteration of The EVE Project, a two-year initiative that commemorates the ratification of the 19th Amendment, at the Clark Art Museum in Williamstown, MA. In dialogue with the Clark's idyllic landscape and galleries, the company pairs Graham's *Diversion of Angels*, *Ekstasis*, and *Lamentation* with a contemporary piece titled *19 Power Poses for the 19th*. Visit clarkart.edu.

Gotta Dance: A Benefit for The School at Jacob's Pillow

August 18 at 4pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

LIVE MUSIC

Directed by Michelle Dorrance and Dormeshia, this lively, heartfelt evening showcases choreography and improvisations created in just three weeks by The School at Jacob's Pillow Tap Program. Dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow experience daily, intensive studio work and perform weekly for Festival audiences. They work with artistic directors and choreographers on faculty as well as Festival artists who all represent a wide range of choreographic and performance approaches, traditions, and innovations. Classes, rehearsals, and coaching sessions run 9am to 5pm, six days a week with evenings spent attending Festival events and studying in the Archives. The resources, professional advancement opportunities, and relationships dancers gain at the Pillow help develop the unique resonant voice they each need to succeed as a dance artist. *Tickets start at \$50.*

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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