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**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP & MUSIC ENSEMBLE  
RETURNS TO JACOB'S PILLOW, JULY 17-21**

July 3, 2019 (Becket, MA) — Mark Morris Dance Group & Music Ensemble returns to Jacob's Pillow's Ted Shawn Theatre, July 17-21, restaging both new and beloved repertory. "A tour de force of artistic storytelling" (*The Los Angeles Times*), this audience favorite is renowned for deeply witty and poetic dance and has amassed one of the most extensive Pillow performance records of any artist. Mark Morris Dance Group & Music Ensemble performs *Prelude and Prelude*—a work that has not been performed anywhere since 1992—the new work *Sport*, excerpts from *Words*, and the company classic *Grand Duo*.

"Mark Morris Dance Group has been deeply connected to Jacob's Pillow for decades, and each time they visit, they bring new magic. We are honored to present the company with a special remounting of *Prelude and Prelude*, which will be a unique experience for Pillow audiences," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

*Prelude and Prelude*, an early work that premiered in 1984, had been retired since 1992. Choreographed to Henry Cowell's *Set of Two for Violin and Harpsichord*, *Prelude and Prelude* features a nine-dancer ensemble with an opposing soloist. The dancers physicalize a score of textures, which visually manifest as spatial shifts and geometrically-shaped movement.

A new work set to a cycle of short piano pieces composed by French pianist Erik Satie, *Sport* consists of 20 musically-charged movement vignettes. The work was created using sketches and poems that inform a detailed score depicting various sports and leisure activities. *Sport* will have its world premiere at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival a week before it is performed at Jacob's Pillow.

The dancers and music ensemble perform an excerpt from *Words*, a piece set to the musical composition of Felix Mendelssohn. *Words* was commissioned by New York City Center for their 2014 Fall for Dance Festival and features costumes designed by former Mark Morris Dance Group company member, Maile Okamura. *The New York Times* acclaims, "...the dance shows us how much [Morris] can do with a simple, near-pedestrian dance vocabulary and a phenomenally diverse grasp of basic dance musicality."

Final on the Festival program is *Grand Duo*, a piece composed of four movements: *Prelude*, *Stampede*, *A Round*, and *Polka*. The finalized work premiered in 1993, but the fourth section, *Polka*, was choreographed first in a choreographic residency at Jacob's Pillow and premiered a year prior. Regarded as "one of the most viscerally charged passages in the annals of modern dance" (*The Boston Globe*) and "one of the masterpieces of the late 20th Century" (*The Guardian*), the dancers embody Lou Harrison's *Grand Duo for Violin and Piano* in orderly revel and transcending power.

On Friday, July 19 at 5pm, a free PillowTalk will feature Mark Morris discussing his career and looking ahead to his company's 40th anniversary in 2020, in conversation with Jacob's Pillow Scholar-in-Residence Seth Williams.

#### **ABOUT MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP & MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) has been called "the preeminent modern dance organization of our time" (Yo-Yo Ma), its members receiving "highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity" (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. Through its community programming, the Dance Group provides educational opportunities in dance and music to people of all ages, with and without disabilities, while on tour internationally and at home at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY.

The MMDG Music Ensemble, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group—"With the dancers come the musicians...and what a difference it makes" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. The musicians also participate in the Dance Group's off-stage programs to deepen community engagement at home and on the road.

#### **ABOUT MARK MORRIS**

Mark Morris is hailed as "the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical" (*The New York Times*). He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) in 1980 and has since created over 150 works for the company. He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at The International Festival of Arts & Ideas, Lincoln Center, and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). In 2013 he served as Music Director for the Ojai Music Festival. Morris also works extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera and The Royal Opera, and Covent Garden, among others.

Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received 11 honorary doctorates to date. He has taught at the University of Washington, Princeton University, and Tanglewood Music Center. He is the subject of a biography, *Mark Morris*, by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Morris's memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace and published by Penguin Press, will be released October 22, 2019.

Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and has served as an Advisory Board Member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. He has received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, in 2001 to provide a home for his company, rehearsal space for the dance community, programs for local children and seniors, and dance classes for students of all ages and abilities.

## JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS

Mark Morris first appeared at the Pillow in 1982 as a soloist, performing Ted Shawn's *Mevlevi Dervish* as part of the 50th anniversary celebration. This solo was again performed by the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002 for the Pillow's 70th anniversary.

Mark Morris taught at The School at Jacob's Pillow in 1983 and 1984 and was commissioned to create new works, including *Ponchielliana* (Ballet Project) and *Come on Home* (Jazz Project). A number of students he worked with during those summers became early members of his company.

The School at Jacob's Pillow has conducted two Mark Morris workshops, led by Morris himself and members of his company, in 1989 and 1990.

Mark Morris Dance Group has amassed one of the most extensive Pillow performance records of any artist, appearing more than 20 times since 1986. The company's most recent Pillow appearance was in 2014.

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

- Mark Morris Dance Group in *Crosswalk* in 2014:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/crosswalk/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/crosswalk/)
- Mark Morris in *Deck of Cards* in 1987:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/deck-cards/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/deck-cards/)
- Essay by Seth Williams on Mark Morris's musicality:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/men-in-dance/mark-morris-musician/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/men-in-dance/mark-morris-musician/)

## PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION

**Ted Shawn Theatre, July 17-21**

**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:

**Umanoove/Didy Veldman**

**July 17-21, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Dutch choreographer Didy Veldman launched her company Umanoove in 2016 with *The Happiness Project*, a choreographic investigation of western society's endless search for fulfillment. The London-based company makes their U.S. debut with this intricate, physical, and theatrical full-length work for four dancers, made in collaboration with celebrated violinist/composer Alexander Balanescu, who performs live. "Joy at every turn" (*Scotland Herald*), the dancers of Umanoove are praised for the way in which their "skillful, shared sense of exploration keeps things fresh and engaging" (*The Times*). Veldman is a prominent figure in the European contemporary dance scene, known for her performance career with Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève (Switzerland) and Rambert Dance Company (Britain) as well as choreography credits that boast over 45 works for 25 leading international companies. *Tickets start at \$35.*

Explore Themes & Essays on Didy Veldman on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/didy-veldman/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/didy-veldman/)

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Ice Dance International**

**Wednesday, July 17 at 6:15pm**

**FREE; LIVE MUSIC**

Led by Artistic Director Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International (IDI) brings “ice” dance to the Inside/Out stage for the first time in Pillow history. IDI exists to showcase and promote ice dancing as an international performing art form that blends dance and skating, bringing the highest caliber of the art form to communities across the United States. Sharing the joy, flight, and flow of skating, the company has created two American Public Television specials currently airing on PBS nationwide called *The World of Ice Dance International* and *In Flight: The Art of Ice Dance International*. The specials feature ice dances by Pillow favorites Trey McIntyre and Edward Villella, along with Benoit Richaud and Douglas Webster.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Bombshell Dance Project**

**Thursday, July 18 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Bombshell Dance Project is a Dallas-based dance company founded in 2016 by Artistic Directors Emily Bernet and Taylor Rodman under a mission to promote the female choreographic voice. In their work *Like a Girl*, the company reimagines the phrase “fight like a girl” through contrasts in athleticism and power dynamics. Bombshell Dance Project has been presented by the Dallas Arts District, Barnstorm Dance Festival, Austin Dance Festival, Dallas Dances, and The Dance Gallery Festival, and also actively commissions work by female choreographers through its second company.

**PillowTalk: Mark Morris: A Life in Dance**

**Friday, July 19 at 5pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

From early dance studies in Seattle and starting a New York career at nineteen, Mark Morris looks ahead to his company's 40th anniversary in 2020.

**Inside/Out Performance Series: Teelin Irish Dance Company**

**Thursday, July 18 at 6pm at Pittsfield's Third Thursday in the Dance Zone**

**Friday, July 19 at 6:15pm**

**FREE**

Based in Columbia, Maryland, the Teelin Irish Dance Company has graced stages locally, nationally, and internationally with world class Irish step dance. Under the vision of Director Maureen Berry, recipient of the 2009 Individual Artist Award for Choreography from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) and the 2016 Howie Award from the Howard County Arts Council, the company's innovative style fuses traditional Irish step dance with contemporary dance. In addition to numerous performances at public, private, and corporate events, Teelin Irish Dance Company is also well known for its original productions of feature-length stage shows: *Portraits of Ireland* (2006-2011), *StepDance* (2012-2013), *Sláinte* (2014), and *Celtic Storm* (2016-2019). Prestigious venues for these productions include the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore, Stephens Hall Theatre at Towson University, the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, and the Meyerhoff Auditorium at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

**PillowTalk: *Physics & Dance***

**Saturday, July 20 at 4pm**

**Blake's Barn**

**FREE**

Dancer/choreographer Emily Coates and physicist Sarah Demers, both Yale faculty members, create a dialogue between art and science in a new book about their two disciplines.

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

**Saturday, July 20 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: Umanoove/Didy Veldman**

**Sunday, July 21 at 10am**

**Doris Duke Theatre**

Led by Didy Veldman, this class will focus on a mixture of contemporary techniques, warming up the body slowly by incorporating floor work, and structural exercises. Participants will experience a grounded movement language which utilizes the breath and natural flow of the body while focusing on body and spatial awareness and transfer of weight. *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).*

**Dance for PD®**

**Sunday, July 21 at 11:45am**

**Sommers Studio**

**FREE**

Dance for PD® founding teacher David Leventhal from the Mark Morris Dance Group leads a free movement class for people with Parkinson's, their families, friends, and care partners. In Dance for PD® classes, participants explore movement and music to increase coordination, balance, flexibility, and strength through ways that are enjoyable, stimulating, and creative. No dance experience is required. In chairs, at a barre or standing, participants will explore elements of modern dance, ballet, tap, creative improvisation, folk and social dancing, and Mark Morris company repertory in a supportive environment, led by professional dancers and musicians.

For more information and registration: [eventbrite.com/e/dance-for-pd-at-jacobs-pillow-tickets-64306190547](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dance-for-pd-at-jacobs-pillow-tickets-64306190547)

#### **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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