

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org**PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS AN ALL-TAYLOR PROGRAM
AT JACOB'S PILLOW IN REMEMBRANCE OF FOUNDER, JULY 24-28**

July 9, 2019 – (Becket, MA) The Paul Taylor Dance Company marks its 18th Pillow appearance with The Celebration Tour, an exclusively Taylor-choreographed program to commemorate the passing of their founder, July 24-28 in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Having created 147 original works over the course of his celebrated career, Paul Taylor is remembered for dances that capture life's joys and tackle some of society's most complex issues. *The New York Times* has praised Mr. Taylor as "one of the most singular and searching imaginations of our time," and remembers him as one who "brought a lyrical musicality, capacity for joy, and wide poetic imagination to modern dance over six decades." The Celebration Tour's Pillow program includes, *Aureole*, *Concertiana*, and *Promethean Fire*, and features archival footage of the Taylor company performing at Jacob's Pillow.

"Mr. Taylor's work was the very first contemporary dance that I ever experienced," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "To this day, I have not forgotten that joyous and visceral performance I witnessed at the age of 13. Pillow audiences have a deep affection for this American master and I knew we had to honor the passing of the great Paul Taylor at the Pillow this summer to help ensure the continuance of his legacy, now in the hands of his hand-picked successor, Michael Novak."

Mr. Taylor's earliest success, the sunny *Aureole*, opens the program as a nod to the company's 1964 Pillow debut. This work, set to Baroque music by George Frideric Handel, encapsulates Mr. Taylor's serenity with a rigorous yet simple solo—originally danced by Mr. Taylor—that "alters our notion of time," (*The New York Times*). With lyricism and white costumes, the work contains "downright beautiful moments in an increasingly dark world," (*The New York Times*) and will "catapult you to a happier time and place" (*The Huffington Post*).

Mr. Taylor's final work, *Concertiana*, is considered "a living flip book of dance history," (*The New York Times*). Dancers are costumed in hand-painted unitards by William Ivey Long and perform to a musical score by Eric Ewazen with movement described as "a hybrid of pedestrianism" (*The Berkshire Eagle*). *Concertiana*, which has never before been performed at the Pillow, reveals that Mr. Taylor was a choreographic genius until the end of his life. The complex, illustrious work has been received as Mr. Taylor's parting gift.

Mr. Taylor's *Promethean Fire*, premiered in 2002, is accepted by some as his greatest accomplishment. This unabashed work set to the orchestral arrangements of Bach features 16 dancers costumed in black velvet. While *Promethean Fire* does not portray a specific historical event, the complex architectural patterns matched with the dancers' powerful emotion resonates with many cruel moments in history, including the tragedy of September 11th, that occurred the year before the work's

premiere. Examining the vast array of emotional colors within the human condition, the work “suggests that we're strong enough to prevail” (*The Los Angeles Times*).

Beyond dance-making, Paul Taylor was an infinitely creative artist in multiple media. Jacob's Pillow salutes his memory with *Assemblages*, an exhibit on display in the lobby of the Ted Shawn Theatre for the duration of Festival 2019 featuring his own idiosyncratic visual works, some on public display for the first time. Assembled mostly from found objects, Mr. Taylor's artworks are joyful, haunting, humorous, bawdy, ingenious, and just as memorable as the dances for which he is best known.

Michael Novak, only the second Artistic Director in the history of the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation upon the death of Founding Artistic Director Paul Taylor, will participate in a PillowTalk on July 27 where he will discuss what lays ahead for the company.

ABOUT PAUL TAYLOR

Paul Taylor, one of the most accomplished artists this nation has ever produced, helped shape and define America's homegrown art of modern dance from the earliest days of his career as a choreographer in 1954 until his death in 2018.

Having performed with Martha Graham's company for several years, Mr. Taylor uniquely bridged the legendary founders of modern dance: Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Doris Humphrey, Martha Graham; and the dance-makers of the 21st Century with whom he later worked. Through his initiative at Lincoln Center that began in 2015—Paul Taylor American Modern Dance—he presented great modern works of the past and outstanding works by today's leading choreographers alongside his own vast and growing repertoire. He also commissioned the next generation of dance-makers to work with his renowned Company, thereby helping to ensure the future of the art form.

ABOUT PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

The Paul Taylor Dance Company has traveled the globe many times over, bringing Mr. Taylor's ever-burgeoning repertoire to theaters and venues of every size and description in cultural capitals, on college campuses and in rural communities – and often to places modern dance had never been seen before. The Taylor Company has performed in more than 500 cities in 64 countries, representing the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries and touring extensively under the aegis of the U.S. Department of State. Michael Novak, member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company since 2010, was named Artistic Director Designate by Paul Taylor in March 2018, and assumed his role in September 2018.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS

Paul Taylor Dance Company has a deep Pillow history, making its 18th appearance this season; the last appearance was in 2017. The first time Paul Taylor himself performed at the Pillow was in 1954 while he was a member of Pearl Lang's company. Paul Taylor Dance Company made its Pillow debut in 1964, with Twyla Tharp making her first professional performances as a member of the company.

Other Pillow "firsts" include the fact that Paul Taylor was the first choreographer to be the subject of a workshop in The School at Jacob's Pillow, with three-week programs in 1982 and 1983, and a two-week program in 1996. Mr. Taylor's second company, known as Taylor 2, made its world debut at the Pillow in 1993 and returned for a residency in 1996. Paul Taylor gave his first exhibition as a visual artist at Jacob's Pillow in 2000, showing his collages of found objects in a show entitled *Assemblages* (reprised this season). That same summer, in honor of Mr. Taylor's 70th birthday, the main company appeared

in the Ted Shawn Theatre for a weeklong engagement while Taylor 2 was in the Duke Theatre, marking the first and only time thus far that both theaters have been given over to the same choreographer.

Watch Paul Taylor Dance Company on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

- Paul Taylor Dance Company in *Airs* in 1982:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/paul-taylor-dance-company/airs/
- Paul Taylor Dance Company in *Esplanade* in 2017:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/paul-taylor-dance-company/esplanade/

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION

- **Paul Taylor Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow**
Ted Shawn Theatre
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

Caleb Teicher & Company with Conrad Tao

July 24-28, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

"One of the brightest lights in tap today," (*The New Yorker*) Caleb Teicher and innovative pianist and composer Conrad Tao collaborate in *More Forever*, a new evening-length work. On a stage filled with a thin layer of sand, dancers explore American dance forms such as tap, vernacular jazz, and Lindy Hop, set to Tao's new contemporary score for piano and electronics. Led by *Dance Magazine's* "Best Emerging Choreographer," Caleb Teicher & Company is known for a unique style of theatricality, humor, emotional expression, and aesthetic exploration. Performing live, Tao is a Lincoln Center Emerging Artist regarded as "shaping the future of classical music" (*New York Magazine*). This highly-anticipated ensemble work was developed in part at the Pillow Lab. *Tickets start at \$35.*

Special Event: Partnering & Science Lab: Reciprocity Collaborative

July 24-28

Sommers Studio transforms into an interactive research laboratory where movement becomes the primary tool of research. Harvard Fellow Ilya Vidrin's Reciprocity Collaborative brings together expertise of Argentinian Tango, Latin/Ballroom Technique, Classical Pas de Deux, and Contact Improvisation to further develop mobile interface technology that investigates the aesthetic ideals and ethical dimensions of partnering. Key collaborators are individuals with diverse perspectives on partnering including Wendy Whelan, Brian Brooks, and Sylvain Lafortune, among others.

Boston-based Reciprocity Collaborative develops technology that stimulates a mindful understanding of bodily movement and sensitizes users to their own modes of physical and verbal communication.

Their work manifests in research in clinical care, community engagement, site-specific performance, interactive art, and more. The collaborative's current research investigates wearable technology for use in movement interventions for diverse populations in artistic, clinical, and professional settings, including professional performers, patients with movement disorders, and individuals who seek to develop strategies to communicate effectively, efficiently, and ethically.

Observation is welcome and encouraged; open observation hours to be announced. Excerpts of the laboratory can be seen as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series and evening performances. Additional related events identified below.

Inside/Out Performance Series: *Tethered* by Reciprocity Collaborative

Wednesday, July 24 at 6:15pm

FREE

Join Ilya Vidrin's Reciprocity Collaborative in the midst of their week-long research as they break down their movement technology for audiences through performances of a series of duets and an open demonstration that brings together expertise of Argentinian Tango, Latin/Ballroom Technique, Classical Pas de Deux, and Contact Improvisation.

Demonstration: Sylvain Lafortune & Annick Hamel

Thursday, July 25 at 8:30pm

FREE

Sylvain Lafortune performed with major classical and modern dance companies around the world before pursuing Graduate and Doctorate studies in the theoretical and practical understanding of partnering. To showcase his research, he brings excerpts from *L'un L'autre*, a stunning new duet originally choreographed with long-time partner Esther Rousseau-Morin. *This demonstration has limited availability, RSVP is required; call Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 413.243.0745 to reserve a space.*

PillowTalk: *The Art & Science of Partnering*

Friday, July 26 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Canadian dancer/teacher Sylvain Lafortune and Boston-based artist/researcher Ilya Vidrin are both examining the role of partnering in dance, sharing their approaches in this collaborative conversation.

Tango Playground

Friday, July 26 after evening performances

FREE

Join ACE and HOLA award-winning Tango choreographer, Valeria Solomonoff, and 2019 USA Stage Tango Champion, Orlando Reyes, as they lead a game-filled evening designed to spark creativity and cultivate connection. For tango and non-tango dancers alike, no previous experience required. *This event has limited availability, reservation required; call Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 413.243.0745 to reserve a space.*

Demonstration: Wendy Whelan & Brian Brooks

Saturday, July 27 at 5pm

FREE

Associate Artistic Director of New York City Ballet and Pillow Trustee Wendy Whelan and choreographer Brian Brooks have been collaborators since Whelan transitioned from a career in ballet to contemporary dance. They revisit their contemporary partnering duets for Reciprocity Collaborative research laboratory. *This demonstration has limited availability, RSVP is required; call Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 413.243.0745 to reserve a space.*

Partnering in Action: Swing Dance Party

Saturday, July 27 after evening performances

FREE

Amidst a week of the aesthetic ideals and ethical dimensions of partnering, Jacob's Pillow celebrates all of the ways dancers partner in swing dance. Caleb Teicher & Company and Festival artists join in this fun and casual evening of swing dance in the Perles Family Studio.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Eisenhower Dance Detroit

Thursday, July 25 at 6:15pm

FREE

Eisenhower Dance Detroit (EDD) is Michigan's premier contemporary dance company, hailed as one of the most outstanding arts organizations in the Midwest. EDD's signature artistry, inventiveness, and collaborative spirit have propelled the company to 28 years of national and international acclaim. Founded by Laurie Eisenhower and now led by Artistic Director Stephanie Pizzo, the company has performed works by well-known contemporary choreographers David Parsons, Lar Lubovitch, Ron de Jesus, and Edgar Zendejas. They perform the perpetually circling *Cues* by Joshua Peugh, founder of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, and Pizzo's *Surge*, a piece that dives deep into the force of tireless strength and unrelenting determination.

Inside/Out Performance Series: *Cage Shuffle* by Paul Lazar

Conceived and Created by Paul Lazar

Text by John Cage; Choreography by Annie-B Parson

Friday, July 26 at 6:15pm

FREE

Cage Shuffle marries the words of John Cage with the choreography of Annie-B Parson and the performance of Paul Lazar in a playful, profound, accessible expression of the joyous interconnectedness of the mind, body, and nature. Through telling and dancing simple, funny, child-friendly stories, *Cage Shuffle* proves John Cage's radically simple precept that things as they are are miraculous. This notion is equally essential and elevating to all who partake of the piece. Founded in 1991, Big Dance Theater is known for its inspired use of dance, music, text, and visual design. The company often works with wildly incongruent source material, weaving and braiding disparate strands into multi-dimensional performance. Led by Artistic Director Annie-B Parson, Big Dance Theater has delved into the literary work of such authors as Twain, Tanizaki, Wellman, Euripides, and Flaubert, and dance is used as both frame and metaphor to theatricalize these writings. Together, Larson and Lazar were the inaugural recipients of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award.

PillowTalk: *Paul Taylor's New Directions*

Saturday, July 27 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

In a forward-looking move before his death this year, Paul Taylor designated dancer Michael Novak as his successor, and Novak now talks about what's ahead.

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

Saturday, July 27 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: Caleb Teicher & Company

Sunday, July 28 at 10am

Ruth St. Denis Studio

Join Evita Arce and Nathan Bugh in an introduction to momentum and rhythm-based partnered dance. Through the fundamentals of Lindy Hop, participants will be introduced to the founding principles of connection, leading, following, momentum, and rhythm that contributes to embodied social dance. *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.*

Special Workshop: Tap

Tuesday, July 30 at 6:30-8pm

Perfect your technique or experiment with a new style. *For intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+; \$20/class; pre-registration 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. The adjacent Norton Owen Reading Room features recent donations and more from the Stephan Driscoll Collection.

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 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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