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**JACOB'S PILLOW PRESENTS CANADA'S RED SKY PERFORMANCE, AUGUST 7-11;
CENTERPIECE OF WEEKLONG CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS DANCE AND CULTURE**

July 22, 2019 – (Becket, MA) Red Sky Performance makes their Doris Duke Theatre debut with the U.S. Premiere of *Trace*, August 7-11. Red Sky is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide, led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde. “Magnificent in the scope of its imagination” (*Globe and Mail*), *Trace* is a highly kinetic contemporary dance work influenced by Anishinaabe sky and star stories, offering a glimpse into Indigenous origins. The U.S. premiere of *Trace* is the centerpiece of The Land On Which We Dance, a landmark gathering of Indigenous dance and culture at Jacob's Pillow, curated by Sandra Laronde in association with Hawaiian dancer/choreographer Christopher K. Morgan and Massachusetts-based Nipmuc Elder Larry Spotted Crow Mann.

“Jacob's Pillow's identity is entwined with the beauty and majesty of our land and natural surroundings. It is important to welcome back to the Pillow the original inhabitants of this land with a landmark celebration that will not only assemble local elders and artists, but also a premiere company like Red Sky Performance, whose work acts as a vehicle for storytelling and transformation,” says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

In an interview with the Smithsonian's *American Indian Magazine*, Laronde says, “The idea of *Trace* came from the notion that all things are traceable and what we leave behind as humans, as a culture, as a nation, and as an individual is our legacy.” In creating the work, Laronde realized all traces have origins, and then began to question the origin of Indigenous people and more specifically, Anishinaabe people. The ideas of *Trace* are shared through athletic choreography for seven dancers performed alongside three musicians, who are saturated by and interact with projected night sky and land. The *Toronto Star* applauds *Trace* as “an original statement about the continuity of continental cultures that speak to each other and to us, across the centuries.”

The Land On Which We Dance, the weeklong celebration of Indigenous past, present, and future, begins on Wednesday, August 7, and concludes on Sunday, August 11. Since its founding in 1933, Jacob's Pillow has engaged with Indigenous peoples, cultures, and traditions, and The Land On Which We Dance serves to revitalize the Pillow's commitment to acknowledging the first known inhabitants of the land through elevating Indigenous work. The Pillow's campus will be illuminated with an exchange of song, dance, and storytelling, bringing together local Indigenous peoples with contemporary artists based in the U.S. and Canada, and inviting all to participate. Sandra Laronde, of the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water), Founder and Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance, has worked with Jacob's Pillow to curate this celebration, in association with Christopher K. Morgan and Nipmuc Elder Larry Spotted Crow Mann. Additional featured artists include Martha Redbone, multi-award-winning blues and soul singer of Cherokee, Choctaw, European, and

African-American descent; and internationally celebrated singer Soni Moreno (Mayan/Apache/Yaqui), among others.

On Saturday, August 10 at 4pm in a free PillowTalk, Sandra Laronde and Christopher K. Morgan will have dialogue about the challenges in maintaining Indigenous dance traditions in today's increasingly diverse world.

ABOUT RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Red Sky Performance is a leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide. Led by Artistic Director Sandra Laronde of the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water), and now in their 19th year, Red Sky's work highlights the originality and power of contemporary performance (dance, theatre, music, and media), enabling new creations to expand the breadth and scope of Indigenous-made work in Canada. Their mission is to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that transform society. They create, produce, and tour original work to expand the ecology of contemporary Indigenous performance. Red Sky drives their passion forward and elevates Indigenous arts and culture in ways that celebrate, uplift, and respect Indigenous culture. Red Sky is dedicated to working with emerging and established artists as they hone their artistic practice, particularly through an Indigenous lens, offering unique opportunities for practitioners to thrive creatively and professionally.

Touring since 2003, Red Sky has delivered over 2,755 performances across Canada including 198 international performances in 17 countries on four continents, including landmark events such as at two Cultural Olympiads (Beijing and Vancouver), opening Canada at World Expo in Shanghai, opening *UNCEDED: Voices of the Land* at the Venice Biennale, and now at Jacob's Pillow. At the same time, Red Sky has remained deeply rooted and invested on a grassroots level and regularly perform in urban, rural, and reserve communities across Turtle Island (Canada and U.S.). Red Sky Performance is the recipient of 12 Dora Mavor Moore awards and nominations, two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, three International Youth Drama Awards from Shenzhen, China, and the Smithsonian Expressive Award, among other recognitions.

ABOUT SANDRA LARONDE

Executive & Artistic Director of Red Sky, Sandra Laronde, M.S.C., O.M.C., B.A. (Hon), Hon. LL.D is originally from the Teme-Augama-Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami, northern Ontario. A highly accomplished arts innovator and cultural leader, Laronde has conceived, developed, produced, and disseminated award-winning productions that are Indigenous, multi and interdisciplinary, and intergenerational. Laronde creates exceptional new work and programming that expands and elevates the ecology of Indigenous arts and culture, contributing to building vibrant Indigenous communities across Canada and worldwide.

Laronde has been widely recognized with numerous awards and distinctions. These include the 2018 Meritorious Service Decoration on behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, a prestigious award recognizing individuals who have made remarkable contributions, who inspire others, and who share a common goal of making a positive difference to Canada; a Doctor of Law, honoris causa from the Senate at Trent University; a finalist for the Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award; a 2014 Vital Ideas (Toronto Community Foundation); the 2013 Victor Martyn Staunch-Lynch Award for Outstanding Artist in Dance (Canada Council); a 2011 Expressive Arts Award (Smithsonian Institute); the City of Toronto and Toronto Life's "Face the Arts" recipient celebrating Cultural Mavericks; the Paul D. Fleck Fellowship in the Arts (Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity); and the Toronto City Council's Aboriginal Affairs

Award. Laronde also participated in the Governor-General's Canadian Leadership program, which celebrates leaders who have made a significant impact on Canada.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

Artistic Director Sandra Laronde visited the Pillow for a residency in May 2019, making connections with local Indigenous representatives for The Land on Which We Dance

Red Sky Performance closed the 2017 Inside/Out Performance Series.

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:

Doris Duke Theatre, August 7-11

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm

Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

\$35, \$45

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.

ALSO THIS WEEK:

Gallim

August 7-11, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

For more than a decade, Brooklyn-based Gallim has embodied human connection through bold, raw, transformative works. A former dancer with Batsheva Dance Company and, most recently, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's first choreographic Artist-in-Residence, Artistic Director Andrea Miller has established herself as a perpetually groundbreaking artist who brings unbridled vulnerability and sensitivity to her work. *New York Magazine* describes, "her viscerally physical movement wrings every inch of life from her dancers—and you'll be holding your breath, too." With uncompromising authenticity, Gallim makes its Ted Shawn Theatre debut with *Boat*, a work influenced by the Syrian refugee crisis and those who are pursuing their hopes for life and safety, and a Pillow co-commissioned world premiere that captures the intoxicating ecstasy of dancing. *Tickets start at \$45.*

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

Gallim in *Blush* in 2009: danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/gallim-dance/blush/

Multimedia essay on Andrea Miller:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/andrea-miller/>

Special Event: The Land on Which We Dance

August 7-11

Indigenous artists Sandra Laronde and Christopher K. Morgan facilitate a landmark gathering of Indigenous dance at Jacob's Pillow. *Related events identified below.*

Re-Mapping Native Space in the Berkshires & Beyond

Aug 7, 4:30pm

FREE

The writings, voices, and homelands of Native people from the Berkshires and western Massachusetts

are highlighted in this conversation with Amherst College professor Lisa Brooks, author of two books about the Indigenous traditions of this region: *The Common Pot* and *Our Beloved Kin: Re-Mapping King Philip's War*.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The Land on Which We Dance

Wednesday, August 7 at 6:15pm

FREE, LIVE MUSIC

This landmark gathering kicks off a week of celebrating contemporary Indigenous artists. The Pillow campus will be illuminated with an exchange of song, dance, and storytelling—bringing together local Indigenous peoples and inviting all to participate in this exchange.

Class with Inside/Out Artist: Stones and Stories with Christopher K. Morgan

Thursday, August 8 at 4pm

FREE

Native Hawaiian choreographer Christopher K. Morgan's dance theater piece *Pōhaku* (the Hawaiian word for stone) incorporates stones in the performance. For this workshop, Morgan shares stories about the role of stones in traditional Hawaiian culture and his own life.

Workshop participants will gather stones according to traditional Hawaiian protocols, including asking each stone for permission to be utilized in the performance. The workshop will incorporate storytelling, moving, and chanting. These same stones then become a part of the *Pōhaku* performance, charged with the energy of the workshop participants. Following the *Pōhaku* performance, the stones are returned to the locations from which they were originally gathered.

Weather permitting, class begins at the Inside/Out Stage and will move throughout campus. In the case of inclement weather, class takes place in the Ruth St. Denis Studio. Open to all ages and experience levels. 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: Christopher K. Morgan

Thursday, August 8 at 6:15pm

FREE, LIVE MUSIC

Choreographer and performer Christopher K. Morgan performs *Pōhaku*, a unique dance and hula performance with live music by electric cellist Wytold and Hawaiian chanter/percussionist Elsie Kaleihulukea Ryder. The show tells the story of Hawaii's colonial past through the choreographer's personal story of his ache for the land he is from, but never lived in.

Christopher K. Morgan & Artists (CKM&A) is a professional contemporary dance company serving as a vehicle for Morgan's choreographic exploration of social and cultural issues. Voted Washington, DC's Best Dance Company in the 2015 *CityPaper* annual poll, the company has garnered support from The New England Foundation for the Arts, The National Performance Network, and The Native Arts and Culture Foundation, among others. CKM&A's work has been declared "direct, transcendent and entrancing" by Pulitzer Prize-winning dance critic Sarah Kaufman of *The Washington Post* and "charming and poignant" by Jennifer Dunning of *The New York Times*.

Storytelling Bonfire

Friday, August 9 after evening performance (around 9:30pm)

FREE

Following the evening performance of Red Sky Performance, the Pillow campus will be illuminated with an exchange of song, dance, and storytelling centered around a bonfire. This event is a moment to bring

together local Indigenous peoples with contemporary Indigenous artists—anchored by the presentation of Toronto-based Red Sky Performance. *In the event of rain, check jacobspillow.org for updates.*

PillowTalk: *Indigenous Dance*

Saturday, August 10 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Sandra Laronde of Red Sky Performance compares notes with Hawaiian Christopher K. Morgan, exploring the challenges of maintaining Indigenous dance traditions in today's increasingly diverse world.

PillowTalk: *Isadora Duncan Forever*

Friday, August 9 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

America's pioneering modern dancer is saluted by Lori Belilove of the Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation, keeper of the flame for generations of aspiring young artists.

Inside/Out Performance Series: *The Art of Isadora*

Sara Mearns, Guest Artist, performs with Lori Belilove & The Isadora Duncan Dance Company

Friday, August 9 at 6:15pm

FREE

New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns' interpretation of the work of Isadora Duncan has been hailed as "a revelation" (*The New York Times*). Capturing the essence of Duncan's feisty and romantic nature, today's pre-eminent Duncan interpreter Lori Belilove has staged *The Art of Isadora* with performance by Belilove herself, Mearns, and the senior members of her Company, which introduces Duncan's signature repertory set to music by Chopin, Brahms, Gluck, Schubert, and Scriabin.

Lori Belilove & The Isadora Duncan Company, critically acclaimed by the international press, performs over 80 authentic dances that highlight the unique qualities of Isadora Duncan's repertoire, from the early lyrical pieces to the tragic solos, all with a purity of style aimed to keep Isadora's original works alive as priceless jewels of American Modern Dance. The Company breathes new life into Duncan's legendary solos and group work through public performance and education programming, most recently at Lincoln Center and New York City Center and on tour in China and Greece. Lori Belilove's direct lineage and prestigious performing career have earned her an international reputation as the premier interpreter and ambassador of the dance of Isadora Duncan. As a third generation Duncan dancer, Belilove is considered the living embodiment of Duncan's grace, power, and mastery of weight. She was coached for performance by 1st generation Duncan Dancers Anna Duncan and Irma Duncan, two of the six adopted artistic daughters of Isadora, also known as the Isadorables, and then with 2nd generation Duncan Dancers Julia Levien, Hortense Kooluris, and Mignon Garland.

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

Saturday, August 10 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: Red Sky Performance

Sunday, August 11 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Led by Red Sky Performance Associate Artists, this master class will provide participants with an energizing and refreshing movement experience. Participants will be led through a series of exercises and prompts including a warm-up, improvisation, repertoire, and Indigenous cultural movement.

Open to all levels 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 Event: Pillow Case

Sunday, August 11 at 11am

Celebrate the magic of Jacob's Pillow at this intimate garden party performance at a private home in Tyringham, which features exclusive performance and company. Taylor Stanley, Principal Dancer with New York City Ballet, performs one of the most talked about solos from Kyle Abraham's critically acclaimed NYCB commission *The Runaway*; Maleek Washington and Timothy Edwards of Camille A. Brown & Dancers perform excerpts from Brown's *ink*, the final work in a trilogy about culture, race, and identity; and Craig D. Black Jr. and Anna Lopez of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago perform excerpts from resident choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo's *Silent Ghost*.

Proceeds will support dance-enhanced community partnerships throughout the Berkshires, dancers attending The School at Jacob's Pillow, nascent choreographers, and the ongoing work of dance research and scholarship. *This event is hosted by Jacob's Pillow Trustee and Community Engagement Committee Chair Jennie Kassanoff & her husband Dan Schulman at their Tyringham home, Wildbrook.*

Special Workshop: Gaga/people

Sunday, August 11 at noon-1pm

Gaga/people classes are open to people ages 16+, regardless of their background in dance or movement; no previous dance experience required. Gaga/people classes offer a creative framework for participants to connect to their bodies and imaginations, increase their physical awareness, improve their flexibility and stamina, and experience the pleasure of movement in a welcoming, accepting atmosphere. Bobbi Jene Smith is leading the class. From 2005-2014, Smith was a member of the Batsheva Dance Company under the Artistic Direction of Ohad Naharin. Smith is a certified Gaga teacher and has taught the repertory of Ohad Naharin in schools and universities around the U.S.

\$20/class; Pre-registration required online or call 413.243.9919 x166. Registration opens Monday at 9am the week of class. Walk-ups are accommodated as space permits.

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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