

**FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**SARA MEARNS PERFORMS *BEYOND BALLET* IN  
JACOB'S PILLOW EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTION, AUGUST 14-18**

July 29, 2019—(Becket, MA) In the Jacob's Pillow-exclusive production *Sara Mearns: Beyond Ballet*, New York City Ballet principal Sara Mearns performs in multiple cross-genre collaborations in the Doris Duke Theatre, August 14-18. Acclaimed as a "a dancer who leaves everything she owns on the stage while realizing movement fully, all the way to her fingertips" (*The New York Times*) and the recipient of a Bessie Award for sustained achievement, Mearns has expanded notions about what it means to be a versatile dancer today. Mearns performs *No. 1* with Honji Wang of the French hip-hop duo Wang Ramirez; the world premiere of *Opulence into part 2* with Jodi Melnick, choreographed by Melnick; a new solo by Christopher Williams from the developing ballet *Daphnis & Chloé*; Liz Gerring's *Duet* alongside Ashley Boudier; and Martha Graham's *Ekstasis*, reimaged by Virginie Mécène.

"Sara Mearns is arguably one of the most extraordinary dancers of our time in great measure because of her deep curiosity and interest in exploring new movement worlds that challenge her. We are thrilled to have been an artistic home for her investigations and are delighted to produce a performance that unites innovative dancers and choreographers who value artistic exchange," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Created in 2017, *No. 1* is a Pillow-commissioned work that brings together French hip-hop duo Wang Ramirez (Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez), recipients of two Bessie Award recognitions (2013 award for Outstanding Performers and 2017 nomination for Outstanding Production) and Sara Mearns. Developed at Jacob's Pillow as part of the Creative Development Residency program under the artistic direction of Wang Ramirez, *No. 1* is a dialogue between Mearns and Wang, who communicate through their seemingly disparate movement vocabularies. As Mearns hovers in pointe shoes and Wang slides in sneakers, the two interact playfully by imitating and initiating the other's movement. Dance critic Deborah Jowitt says "...[Mearns and Wang] display their different senses of the same steps, sometimes in synchrony, sometimes patterning them as a question-and-answer session" (*DanceBeat*). *No. 1* received additional development and co-commissioning support from Fall for Dance Festival (New York City Center) and Fall for Dance North Festival (Toronto).

In the world premiere of *Opulence into part 2*, a new duet choreographed by and performed with postmodern dancer Jodi Melnick, Mearns explores idioms through a postmodern movement lexicon. A recipient in the first group of Doris Duke Impact Awards and two-time Bessie Award winner for Sustained Achievement in Dance (2001 and 2008), Melnick had a close collaborative relationship with the late Trisha Brown. Designing intricate movement to explore the dynamic relations between human beings, "Melnick smudges the line between being and doing with it often appearing like the movement happens to the mover" (Erin Bomboy, *Dance Enthusiast*). Mearns and Melnick met during Danspace Platform 2015, curated by Judy Hussie-Taylor and Claudia La Rocco.

Their creative relationship continued in 2016 when Mearns was craving to work with a female choreographer. She approached Melnick, who creates highly celebrated works with a refined vocabulary of nuanced, silky, everyday movement that Mearns wanted to experience. The duo went on to have a residency at Jacob's Pillow and then at the Guggenheim's Works & Process series.

In a new solo by Christopher Williams from his developing ballet *Daphnis & Chloé*, Mearns plays Chloé, a shepherdess made to dance for her pirate captors. Hailed as "one of the most exciting choreographic voices out there" (*The New York Times*), Williams' work commingles elements of mythology, folklore, and literature with contemporary movement, puppetry, and intricate costumes. Set to Maurice Ravel's 1912 composition for the Ballets Russes, Williams' developing designer-driven project reimagines the original ballet through a contemporary queer lens with costumes by Reid & Harriet Designs. Costumers Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung (of Reid & Harriet Designs) curated an evening of dance based in costumes at the Guggenheim Museum Works & Process, where excerpts from *Daphnis & Chloé* premiered in May 2019.

*Duet* is a pas de deux for Mearns and fellow New York City Ballet principal Ashley Bouder, choreographed by modern choreographer and Jacob's Pillow Dance Award-Winner Liz Gerring with music by Michael J. Schumacher. The duet originally premiered to music by Anna Webber in a triple bill of female artists at Symphony Space in 2017. *Duet* was deemed by Alastair Macaulay of *The New York Times* to be "the evening's most remarkable and most experimental piece."

Mearns also performs Virginie Mécène's reimagining of Martha Graham's monumental solo *Ekstasis*. Believed to be Graham's 37th choreographic creation dating back to 1933, Graham stated that the genesis of *Ekstasis* emerged from a pelvic thrust gesture that she discovered one day, which is now a foundational movement characteristic of her technique. Mearns performed the reimagined solo in April 2019 at The Joyce Theater with the Martha Graham Dance Company as part of their annual gala and The EVE Project, the Company's season theme celebrating female empowerment and the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

## **ABOUT SARA MEARNIS**

Sara Mearns, originally from Columbia, South Carolina, has been dancing since the age of three. Mearns entered the School of American Ballet in the Fall of 2001 and became an apprentice with New York City Ballet in the Fall of 2003. She joined the corps de ballet in June 2004, was promoted to soloist in 2006, and to principal dancer in 2008. Mearns is known for her roles as the Swan Queen in *Swan Lake* and for Balanchine ballets including *Jewels* (Diamonds) and *Symphony in C*, among countless others. She has originated roles in ballets by choreographers including Justin Peck, Kyle Abraham, Alexei Ratmansky, and Christopher Wheeldon, to name a few, and has appeared as a guest artist with the Paul Taylor Dance Company with *Dances of Isadora* (Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation), The Martha Graham Company (2019 Gala in *Ekstasis*), The Ashley Bouder Project (*Duet* by Liz Gerring) and Company Wang Ramirez (*No. 1*). Mearns appeared in *New Bodies*, a collaboration with Jodi Melnick, which performed at the Spoleto Festival in South Carolina and at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. At New York City Center, she has appeared in the Fall for Dance Festival (2013, 2014, 2017, 2018), where she most recently performed the piece *Dances of Isadora Duncan – A Solo Tribute*, and the 2018 Balanchine Festival. Mearns was a guest artist alternating the role of Victoria Page in the U.S. premiere of Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes*. She recently collaborated with Pam Tanowitz Dance in *Time is forever dividing itself toward innumerable futures*, a world premiere performed outside at the 2019 River to River Festival in New York. She is a Benois de la Danse and Princess Grace Award nominee and winner of the 2018 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer. This past May, Mearns received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University

of South Carolina. Mearns made her musical theatre debut as the Angel in New York City Center Encores! / *Married an Angel* in March 2019, directed and choreographed by her husband, Joshua Bergasse. In April 2019, Mearns was a performer in the *Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event* in New York City, celebrating what would have been Merce Cunningham's 100th birthday. This coming fall Mearns will premiere in a new commissioned piece by Kim Brandstrup at the Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center.

### **ABOUT COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ**

Under the direction of internationally renowned choreographers Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez, Company Wang Ramirez produces dance-theater pieces that splice together genres as divergent as hip-hop, ballet, contemporary dance, and martial arts. The company's unique choreographic language—with means of expression built on technical virtuosity, poetry and humor—has been recognized with numerous awards such as two New York Bessie Award recognitions and the 1st and Special Audience Award at the International Contemporary Dance Competition in Hannover. Wang & Ramirez have earned invitations to collaborate with big-name artists from the dance, plastic arts, film, and music worlds, including Madonna, Nitin Sawhney, Akram Khan, Rocío Molina, New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns, Constance Guisset, Osgemeos, Andy Serkis, and Hussein Chalayan, among others.

In 2016, Wang and Ramirez were commissioned by Sadler's Wells to direct and perform a hybrid piece of dance-musical theatre made to Nitin Sawhney's album *Dystopian Dream*. The duo's latest commission will see them appear alongside choreographer, acrobat, and dancer Yoann Bourgeois in a program named *Beyond*, performed by the GöteborgsOperans Danskompani. Company Wang Ramirez has produced more than nine highly-demanded and critically acclaimed works including *Monchichi* (2010), *Borderline* (2013), *EVERYNESS* (2016), *No.1* (2017), and *W.A.M.* (2018). The Company tours in numerous cities around Europe, Asia, America, and beyond.

### **ABOUT HONJI WANG**

German Korean choreographer and performer, Honji Wang is recognized as an artist who brings contemporary and hip-hop together in an exceptionally organic fashion. Her dance language is an abstraction of hip-hop and has influences of earlier martial arts and ballet training. Wang's first collaboration with Sébastien Ramirez, a duet titled *AP15*, was in 2010. Soon after, she became Co-Artistic Director of Company Wang Ramirez and ever since the duo has been creating larger scale works that have established them in the contemporary dance scene. Wang was selected in Madonna's final auditions and earned an invitation to tour and perform in the *Rebel Heart Tour*. Wang has also collaborated with flamenco dancer Rocío Molina, with British choreographer Akram Khan, as well as with New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns in a series of duets. In 2014, Wang was appointed Associate Artist at L'Archipel, National Theater of Perpignan and in 2018 at Théâtre de la Ville in Paris.

### **ABOUT JODI MELNICK**

Jodi Melnick is a NYC-based choreographer, dancer, and teacher. Melnick designs intricate movement to explore the exquisite nature and dynamic relationships between human beings. She uses the profound expression of the dancing body and lucid performing instincts to drive the creative process. The work is transformed through the phenomenon of dancing.

Her work has been presented both nationally and internationally. Melnick's critically acclaimed *New Bodies 2016/18*, made on NYC Ballet principal dancers Sara Mearns, Jared Angle, Gretchen Smith, and Taylor Stanley, originated at Jacob's Pillow and went on to be performed at the Guggenheim Museum in NYC, and the Spoleto

Festival in S.C. Her work has been presented at BAM's Fisher as part of the Next Wave Festival; City Center's Fall for Dance; The Joyce Theater; New York Live Arts (NYLA); The Kitchen; La Mama; Jacob's Pillow; American Dance Festival; The Yard; Vail International Dance Festival, commissioned by Damian Woetzel and Yo Yo Ma; Barnard College; Sarah Lawrence College; George Washington University; DanceBox in Kansai, Japan; the opening of the Dublin Dance Festival; Belfast, Ireland; St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia; and Tallinn, Estonia.

In 2012, Melnick had the esteemed privilege collaborating with Trisha Brown, and performing the solo *One of Sixty-five Thousand Gestures*. Melnick's rich history of working with a vast array of significant artists include dancing in the Twyla Tharp Dance company (1990-94, 2009); with Mikhail Baryshnikov (2005-08); and continued creative experiences with Sara Rudner, David Neuman, Yoshiko Chuma, John Jasperse, Vicky Shick, Beth Gill, Elena Demyanenko, Rashaun Mitchell, Jon Kinzel, Paul Kaiser, Liz Roche, Charles Atlas, David Michalek, Yvonne Rainer, and Sibyl Kempson.

Melnick is honored with a Doris Duke Impact Award (2014), a Guggenheim Fellow (2012), a Jerome Robbins New Essential Works Grant (2010-2011), a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant (2011), two Bessie Awards for sustained achievement in dance (2001 and 2008), a Gibney DIP Residency Grantee, and a two-year extended Life grantee awarded from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Center (LMCC). Melnick is a 2019 Center for Ballet Arts residency fellow.

Melnick teaches master classes, technique, improvisation, and composition workshops throughout the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Asia. Currently, she is an adjunct professor of dance at Barnard College at Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College (undergraduate and graduate), and The Trevor Day School (middle and high school).

### **ABOUT CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS**

Christopher Williams, hailed as "one of the most exciting choreographic voices out there" (*The New York Times*), is a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" award-winning choreographer, dancer, and puppet artist who has created over thirty original and collaborative works in New York City and abroad since 1999. In addition to touring internationally in France, England, Italy, Spain, Holland, Colombia, Russia, and Malawi, as well as nationally in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Kalamazoo, Princeton, Carlisle, and Interlochen, his works have been presented in many New York City venues including Lincoln Center, City Center, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, La MaMa, P.S. 122, HERE Arts Center, the 92nd Street Y, and Judson Church. His recent commissioners include New York Live Arts, Opéra Royal du Château de Versailles/Opéra National de Bordeaux, English National Opera, Teatro Real/Perm Opéra & Ballet Theater, Danspace Project, Philadelphia Dance Projects, American Opera Projects, Reid & Harriet Design, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The Blanket, and HERE Arts Center's Dream Music Puppetry Program. Williams has received fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Center for Ballet and the Arts, and the Bogliasco Foundation for multiple residencies at the Liguria Study Center for Arts & Humanities in Bogliasco, Italy, and has also held creative residencies at Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, Captiva Island via the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Anderson Center, the White Oak Plantation, Kaatsbaan, Yaddo, and The Yard.

Since graduating from Sarah Lawrence College and the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, he has danced for Douglas Dunn, Rebecca Lazier, Tere O'Connor, Yoshiko Chuma, John Kelly, Sally

Silvers, and Mina Nishimura, among others, and as a puppeteer, has worked with the award-winning master puppeteer Basil Twist and Dan Hurlin.

#### **ABOUT LIZ GERRING**

Liz Gerring was born in San Francisco in 1965 and grew up in Los Angeles where she began studying dance at age 13. Gerring studied at the Cornish Institute in Seattle and in 1987 received a B.F.A. from The Juilliard School. Gerring formed the Liz Gerring Dance Company in 1998 and has been presenting her work in New York City and abroad continuously since that time. Gerring was awarded the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award in June 2015 and a Joyce Theater Residency the same year. Between 2013-18 she was commissioned for three works in collaboration with composer Michael J. Schumacher for Peak Performances at the Kasser Theater in Montclair, NJ. In 2017-18 she was awarded a City Center Choreographic Fellowship and in 2019, was one of five artists to receive the Cage Cunningham Fellowship from the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Gerring is currently working on a project for the ICA in Boston with composer John Luther Adams. She lives in New York City and upstate NY with her husband Kirk Radke, her three children, two dogs, and a cat.

#### **ABOUT ASHLEY BOUDER**

Ashley Boudier was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and began her ballet training at the age of six at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet with Marcia Dale Weary. After attending the 1999 Summer Program at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet, she was invited by SAB to continue her training during the Winter Session. As a student, Boudier performed featured roles in Balanchine's *Danses Concertantes* and *Stars and Stripes* for the School of American Ballet's 2000 Annual Spring Workshop. Boudier was named an apprentice with New York City Ballet in June 2000 and became a member of the corps de ballet that October. She was promoted to the rank of soloist in February 2004, and in January 2005, Boudier was promoted to principal dancer.

#### **JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:**

Honji Wang and Sara Mearns performed a work-in-progress of *No. 1* at the 2017 Season Opening Gala. This work was commissioned by the Pillow and developed at Jacob's Pillow as part of the Creative Development Residency program.

Company Wang Ramirez performed the full-evening *Monchichi* in the Doris Duke Theatre in 2015.

Mearns made her Pillow debut at the 2015 Season Opening Gala. She returned the same year for a residency with Jodi Melnick.

Liz Gerring is a winner of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award (2015). After first performing on *Inside/Out* in 2006, her company presented seasons in the Doris Duke Theatre in both 2012 and 2015.

Christopher Williams was a dancer in the Pillow's Choreographer-Composer Lab in 2001, and he also performed at Jacob's Pillow with Basil Twist and Rebecca Lazier.

Jodi Melnick shared a program in the Doris Duke Theatre with David Neumann in 2011, and her work was also performed by OtherShore on *Inside/Out* in 2012.

Ashley Boudier made her Pillow debut performing the work of Avi Scher on *Inside/Out* in 2010.

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

- Sara Mearns and Russel Janzen in Justin Peck's *The Bright Motion* (2015):  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/sara-mearns-russell-janzen/bright-motion/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/sara-mearns-russell-janzen/bright-motion/)
- *Liz Gerring, Women in Dance* by Maura Keefe:  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/liz-gerring/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/liz-gerring/)
- Liz Gerring Dance Company in *glacier* (2015):  
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/liz-gerring-dance-company/glacier/>
- Company Wang Ramirez in *Monchichi* (2015):  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/company-wang-ramirez/monchichi/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/company-wang-ramirez/monchichi/)
- Jodi Melnick in *Fanfare* (2011):  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jodi-melnick/fanfare/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/jodi-melnick/fanfare/)

**PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:**

**Doris Duke Theatre, August 14-August 18**  
**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm**  
**Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm**  
**\$65, \$55**

*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:**

**Martha Graham Dance Company**

**August 14-17, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Thursday and Saturday at 2pm**

**Ted Shawn Theatre**

Imbued with the legacy of modern dance pioneer Martha Graham, this acclaimed American company returns to Jacob's Pillow with *The EVE Project*, in celebration of female power and the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. This two-year project presents a comprehensive range of Graham's classics alongside new commissions by some of today's leading female voices, providing entrée into today's most pressing conversations. Featured works on the program include Graham's iconic *Appalachian Spring* and all-female *Chronicle*, as well as a suite of *Lamentation Variations* and the new work titled *Deo*, by *Sleep No More's* choreographer Maxine Doyle and former Batsheva dancer Bobbi Jene Smith. *Tickets start at \$45.*

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

Martha Graham Dance Company in *AXE* in 2015:

[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/axe/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/axe/)

Martha Graham Dance Company in *Night Journey* in 1994:

[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/night-journey/](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/martha-graham-dance-company/night-journey/)

**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](http://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 in an exclusive program. Tap dancers Demi Remick, Jabu Graybeal, and Christina 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 a 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 has performed with numerous tap artists and companies and currently teaches at the American Tap Dance Foundation, where she is in her third season as an Artist in Residence.

**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](http://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 Pikiaris, 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 as part of Jacob's Pillow's Inside/Out series. 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, U.S. 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](http://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 combines Graham's *Diversion of Angels*, *Ekstasis*, and *Lamentation* with a contemporary piece titled *19 Power Poses for the 19th*. Visit [clarkart.edu](http://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 from 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](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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