

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations & Communications Manager

413.243.9919 x132

ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org

**UMANOOVE/DIDY VELDMAN MAKES U.S. DEBUT
AT JACOB'S PILLOW, JULY 17-21**

July 3, 2019 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents the U.S. debut of London-based company Umanoove with *The Happiness Project* in the Doris Duke Theatre, July 17-21. Created and performed in collaboration with celebrated Romanian violinist/composer Alexander Balanescu, Didy Veldman's theatrical, full-length work explores the eternal search for fulfillment, praised as "a joy at every turn" (*Scotland Herald*). *The Guardian* lauds, "marking the long-awaited launch of Veldman's own company, it promises even better things to come."

"Didy Veldman has a deep relationship with the Pillow, I am thrilled to present the U.S. debut of her new company—*The Happiness Project* is a lovely, eloquently textured work that is joyous and deeply moving," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Internationally renowned Dutch dance artist and DanceEast Choreographic Development Award recipient, Didy Veldman launched her own company in 2016 with *The Happiness Project*. Featuring four dancers described as "fabulous, theatrically expressive, as well as technically assured" (*The Guardian*), *The Happiness Project* takes the audience on a journey through varying manifestations of our search for happiness. Violinist Balanescu takes his own form in the work as a musician who moves through the dancers, "shadowing them as if urging them to feel even more intently" (*The Guardian*).

In Veldman's own words, "*The Happiness Project* examines the idea of happiness as something we strive for, as something fleeting, and as something that can be very elusive or even absent." Love, inclusion, and commercialization are some of the many themes explored through the use of props—four boxes are shifted around the stage, a plastic sheet flows through the space, and a translucent cloak is worn by the dancers as clever solos and duos unfold. The work explores how each individual deals with seeking happiness, and "encourages its audience to experience dance as a surge of emotion" (*The Guardian*).

After a performance career spanning 14 years with Scapino Ballet, Geneva Ballet, Alias Company, and Rambert Dance Company, and creating over 45 works for 25 leading international companies including Cullberg Ballet, Goteborg Ballet, and Icelandic Dance Company, Veldman created *The Happiness Project* in 2016, marking a new beginning with her own company Umanoove. The company title Umanoove is a nod to her desire to discover movement, combining the words human, move, you, and manoeuver.

ABOUT UMANOOVE/DIDY VELDMAN

Based in London, Didy Veldman created Umanoove in 2016. Through Umanoove, Veldman seeks to explore and discover to develop her own theatrical movement language. She collaborates closely with different art forms and creates work that is touching, engaging, physical, theatrical, humorous, and accessible. Veldman finished touring her new production *The Knot* throughout the U.K., Jersey, and Copenhagen in 2018. She is currently in research and development at DanceEast in the U.K. for her new work, *@Home*, with two dancers and composer Sabio Janiak, made possible with support from ACE and DanceEast.

Didy Veldman, born in 1967, was trained in numerous techniques at the Scapino Academy in Amsterdam. She worked with international choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Christopher Bruce, Kim Brandstrup, Nils Christie, Glen Tetley, Robert Cohan, Lindsey Kemp, and many others. She began choreographing in 1987, creating work for Scapino Ballet, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, and Britain's Rambert Dance Company.

Veldman also has a keen interest in teaching contemporary classes and workshops. She has taught contemporary classes at the National Ballet School in Amsterdam; The Royal Ballet School in London; Codarts in Rotterdam; The Ballet Boyz in London; McDonald College in Sydney, Australia; Rambert Dance Company and Rambert School; London School of Contemporary Dance; The Prix de Lausanne; and the Youth American Grand Prix in New York, among others.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

Didy Veldman first presented her choreography at Jacob's Pillow in 2005 when Les Grands Ballets Canadiens performed *TooT*. She has since presented other works, and has been a Guest Artist Choreographer for The School at Jacob's Pillow in 2010, 2013, and 2018, and is Co-Director of the Contemporary Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow during Festival 2019.

Explore a multimedia essay on Didy Veldman on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

- ***Women in Dance* by Maura Keefe:**
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/didy-veldman/

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:

- **Umanoove/Didy Veldman at Jacob's Pillow**
Doris Duke Theatre, July 17-21
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm
\$45, \$35

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:

Mark Morris Dance Group

July 17-21, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

Hailed as "the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical" (*The New York Times*), Mark Morris is celebrated for deep, witty, poetic dance and an unwavering commitment to live

music. “A tour de force of artistic storytelling” (*The Los Angeles Times*), this audience favorite returns to the Ted Shawn Theatre for the first time in five years with seven performances, having amassed one of the most extensive Pillow performance records of any artist, appearing more than 20 times since 1986. In a special remounting, the company performs *Prelude and Prelude*, an early work set to Henry Cowell that has not been performed since 1992; excerpts from *Words*, lauded as “expressing poetry beyond words” (*Wall Street Journal*); the beloved *Grand Duo*, considered “one of the masterpieces of the late 20th Century” (*The Guardian*); and a new work set to music by French composer/pianist Erik Satie. *Tickets start at \$45.*

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

Mark Morris Dance Group in *Crosswalk* in 2014:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/crosswalk/

Mark Morris Dance Group in *Deck of Cards* in 1987:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/mark-morris-dance-group/deck-cards/

Multimedia essay on Mark Morris and music:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/men-in-dance/mark-morris-musician/>

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.*

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.

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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