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BOSTON BALLET CLOSES JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL 2019, AUGUST 21-25

August 7, 2019 — (Becket, MA) Boston Ballet returns to Jacob's Pillow for the first time in over a decade, performing in the Ted Shawn Theatre, August 21-25. Under the artistic directorship of Mikko Nissinen since 2001, Boston Ballet is recognized worldwide for repertoire that is "one of the most eclectic in the country" (*The New York Times*). Boston Ballet's program includes excerpts of William Forsythe's critically acclaimed *Playlist (EP)*, which pairs Forsythe's daring choreography to a soundtrack pulled straight from today's top charts; as well as *Pas de Quatre* and *Rodin* by Russian classical choreographer Leonid Yakobson; and resident choreographer Jorma Elo's *Bach Cello Suites*.

"We are thrilled to welcome back to end Festival 2019 with Boston Ballet, a fellow Massachusetts-based cultural institution with an international profile. We're excited to present excerpts of William Forsythe's newest work, showcase Jorma Elo's masterful choreography, and present ballets by Leonid Yakobson for the first time at Jacob's Pillow," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

An international visionary and choreographer credited with revolutionizing ballet, Forsythe fuses contemporary ballet and pop music by artists including Khalid, ABRA, and Lion Babe/Jax Jones in *Playlist (EP)*. Originally choreographed for Boston Ballet's critically-acclaimed *Full on Forsythe* program that premiered in March this year, *Playlist (EP)* was Forsythe's first world premiere for an American company since 1992, as part of a long-term partnership with Boston Ballet. The work is "an eclectic showcase of Forsythe's talent, (*WBUR*)" labeled by Forsythe himself as "neo-classical ballet" (*WBUR*). Boston Ballet performed *Playlist (EP)* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, France in April 2019, to rave reviews.

Pas de Quatre, premiered in 1971 and based upon a famous 19th century ballet, boasts ethereal elegance with music of strings and harp by Vincenzo Bellini, from his opera, *Norma*. A tribute to romanticism, Yakobson's classical work featuring four dancers has been hailed as "a revelation" (*The Arts Fuse*). In contrast, Yakobson's *Rodin* is an example of his experimental choreography. Taking inspiration from the sculptures of French artist Auguste Rodin and set to music by Debussy and Alban Berg, the work "persever[es] against conformity and convention" (*Fjord Review*). A contemporary of George Balanchine, Yakobson's career took a different path as he chose to stay in Russia where his often-subversive choreography was challenged and censored by the totalitarian regime. His work profoundly influenced a generation of dancers including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Natalia Makarova, and Maya Plisetskaya.

Bach Cello Suites, set to Bach's Cello Suites Nos. 1 & 2, is "certainly cerebral" (*The Patriot Ledger*). Hailing from Finland, internationally sought-after and award-winning choreographer Jorma Elo created this work for Boston Ballet in 2015. The ballet features ten dancers accompanied onstage by Sergey

Antonov, the acclaimed, award-winning Russian cellist.

Boston Ballet, “unified, with great artistic talent and an international reputation,” (*Danza Ballet*) will be a part of the Pillow’s annual Summer Send-Off celebration. An epic, final dance party of the summer immediately follows the Saturday evening performance on August 24 on the Great Lawn, as a wrap up to Jacob’s Pillow’s Festival 2019 season.

ABOUT BOSTON BALLET:

E. Virginia Williams founded Boston Ballet in 1963, making it the first professional ballet company in New England. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith (Max) Hodges, The Company is comprised of 69 dancers of 11 nationalities, representing the highest caliber of international talent on the Boston stage. They present a broad repertoire, including timeless classical ballets and innovative contemporary ballets from choreographers including William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, John Neumeier, Wayne McGregor, Mark Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, Justin Peck, Alexander Ekman, and Boston Ballet Resident Choreographer Jorma Elo. For more than five decades, they have mesmerized audiences with a sweeping repertoire, which spans from cherished 19th-century classics to contemporary show-stoppers.

JACOB’S PILLOW CONNECTIONS:

Boston Ballet made their Pillow debut in 1962, returning multiple times in the 1960s, ‘70s, and ‘80s, including a rare two-week engagement during Ted Shawn’s final season in 1971. They made a special appearance as part of the 1997 Gala and their last performance at the Pillow was in 2004. This is the first time Jakobson’s choreography will be performed at Jacob’s Pillow.

Boston Ballet on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive

- Boston Ballet in *Plan to B* in 2004:
danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/boston-ballet/plan-to-b/

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION:

- **Boston Ballet at Jacob’s Pillow**
Ted Shawn Theatre
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm
\$78, \$65, \$45
Saturday evening Summer Send-Off: \$88, \$75, \$55
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.

Performances to the Saturday evening performance include admission to Summer Send-Off celebration.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Urban Bush Women

August 21-25, Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

Doris Duke Theatre

In this choreographic riff, Urban Bush Women return to Jacob's Pillow drawing inspiration from the musical life and spiritual journey of legendary composer and saxophonist John Coltrane. "...More than a tribute to a jazz icon. It immerses the audience in what it is to be an artist" (*The Washington Post*). *Walking with 'Trane* highlights the ensemble's genuine movement to a score inspired by the iconic album *A Love Supreme*. Celebrating their 35th anniversary, the revolutionary Urban Bush Women seeks to bring the untold and under-told histories and stories of disenfranchised people to light through dance, founded by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, recipient of the 2017 Bessie Award for Lifetime Achievement. *Tickets start at \$35.*

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

Urban Bush Women in *Self-Portrait* in 1998:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/urban-bush-women/self-portrait/

Explore Themes & Essays on Jawole Willa Jo Zollar on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/african-diaspora/jawole-willa-jo-zollar/

danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/women-in-dance/jawole-willa-jo-zollar-2/

Inside/Out Performance Series: NEW DIALECT

Wednesday, August 21 at 6:15pm

FREE

After a decade performing internationally with artists such as Aszure Barton and the Cullberg Ballet, acclaimed dancer Banning Bouldin returned to her hometown, Nashville, TN, to form NEW DIALECT. Since 2013, Bouldin and her collective have gained national recognition for their efforts to contribute to the evolution of contemporary dance through imaginative, socially relevant outreach and performances. As resident choreographer, Bouldin has created 11 original works for her company, including her most personal work to date, *The Triangle*, which takes its inspiration from her own experience battling and making peace with multiple sclerosis. The work poignantly combines conceptual fashion and dance theater in a series of moving portraits that reimagine the agency of disability and otherness. NEW DIALECT recently premiered *The Triangle* alongside Roy Assaf's *GIRLS* (U.S. premiere) to sold out audiences at OZ Arts Nashville. They will make their Pillow debut with an excerpt of *The Triangle*.

Inside/Out Performance Series: American College Dance Association Highlights

Thursday, August 22 at 6:15pm

FREE

For the fourth consecutive year, American College Dance Association (ACDA) presents highlights from its regional festivals, supporting and promoting the wealth of talent and creativity from college and university dance departments. Each spring, regional conferences are hosted around the country with performances, workshops, panels, and master classes. At each conference, a panel of expert adjudicators select works in an anonymous process to be performed at a gala performance which concludes the conference. The dances are choreographed by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and guest artists. Selected works from each region go on to be presented at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts before highlights are selected for the Inside/Out stage.

PillowTalk: *Laura Young: Boston Ballerina*

Friday, August 23 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Janine Parker's book about Laura Young explores her triumphs as a leading light of Boston Ballet during its formative years, and they both tell the story here.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Jean Appolon Expressions

Friday, August 23 at 6:15pm

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Boston-based Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE) celebrates and advances Haitian folkloric dance by building a contemporary cultural community that produces professional performances, educational opportunities, and dance training for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. JAE will be performing an excerpt of *Vwayaj (The Travel)*, its latest portrayal of the immigrant experience. After years of political tremor, Appolon has woven his personal story together with those of other immigrants into this evening-length production. Dancers will tell these stories through bold Haitian contemporary dance set to evocative music composed by Haitian electronic music artist Val Jeanty. At the heart of *Vwayaj* is an inquiry into some of the most basic questions of the human experience: Where is home? What do we sacrifice when we leave home? What are we seeking on the other side? How do we create support within community?

PillowTalk: Mikko Nissinen in Boston

Saturday, August 24 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

As Artistic Director of Boston Ballet since 2001, Nissinen has literally brought the company into the 21st century, with a vitality now on full display.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Mozaik Dance

Saturday, August 24 at 6:15pm

FREE

Closing this year's Inside/Out Performance Series, Mozaik Dance brings together three women through a mix of popping, contemporary dance, and an influence of street styles. Dancers and choreographers Sun Kim, Manon Bal, and J9 collaborate to explore differences and commonalities.

Sun Kim hails from Korea and has won Step Ya Game Up and Book of Styles in the style of Popping. She has also danced for Madonna, Sir Elton John, Cirque du Soleil, and more. Manon Bal comes from France, studied at the Ailey school, and dances with Ephrat Asherie Dance as a principal dancer. J9 has immersed herself in both the underground and commercial scenery of New York City. She fuses Street Styles together and has danced for Madonna, 070 Shake, and Spotify.

Summer Send-Off

Saturday, August 24 at 10pm

The ultimate end-of-summer celebration! After evening performances of Boston Ballet and Urban Bush Women, dance the night away with desserts, drinks, and a dance party. *Sponsored by Berkshire Photo Booth. Tickets start at \$45 including performance; \$25 party-only tickets available.*

Sunday Master Class: Urban Bush Women

Sunday, August 25 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Urban Bush Women will teach a 90-minute master 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.*

Sunday Film Series: *Transmissions: Roots to Branches*

Sunday, August 25 at 4:30pm

Blake's Barn, FREE

A sneak preview of a documentary film exploring the art form of jazz dance, paying homage to its lineage, celebrating its many re-interpretations, and using a fast-moving kaleidoscope of movement and music to inspire dancers of tomorrow. Featuring an all-star cast of jazz dance legends, this screening will be introduced by one of the film's collaborators, Melanie George.

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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