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## **JACOB'S PILLOW HOSTS DANCE WE MUST: A VIRTUAL EVENT TO SUPPORT JACOB'S PILLOW**

**Featuring the announcement of 2020 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner, Live Performances, and Pop-Up Visits by Artistic Directors from around the world**

May 20, 2020 (Becket, MA)—Jacob's Pillow hosts **Dance We Must: A Virtual Event Supporting Jacob's Pillow** on June 20th at 7pmEDT. Co-hosted by Pillow Trustees Kyle Abraham and Wendy Whelan, this event is free, open to all, and will be streamed on Jacob's Pillow's website and social media channels. **Dance We Must** highlights include the announcement of the recipient of the 2020 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award; performances by Kyle Abraham's A.I.M, Michelle Dorrance, Irene Rodríguez, Daniel Ulbricht & Danielle Diniz, and Calvin Royal III; and Pop-Up Visits by Artistic Directors of acclaimed dance companies from around the world.

"This special Virtual Pillow event will connect our audience and dance fans from around the world with the joy and transformative power of dance and help us navigate these uncertain times together. Dance We Must will support the Pillow in continuing to serve as a beacon for dance while helping the communities we serve across the globe and in our region," says Jacob's Pillow Executive & Artistic Director Pamela Tatge.

Dance We Must features the presentation of the 2020 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, which comes with a cash prize of \$25,000, which the artist can use in any way they wish. Presented to an artist with exceptional vision and achievement annually, past recipients include Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Faye Driscoll, Liz Lerman, Camille A. Brown, Michelle Dorrance, and Kyle Abraham.

The event's performances include the world premiere of a solo from Kyle Abraham's newest work for his company [A.I.M](#); a special virtual commission by award-winning tap dancer [Michelle Dorrance](#); a new work by acclaimed Spanish dancer [Irene Rodríguez](#); a performance from ABT soloist and alumna of The School at Jacob's Pillow [Calvin Royal III](#); and a duet between New York City Ballet principal [Daniel Ulbricht](#) and partner [Danielle Diniz](#), among others.

The title of this event is derived from Pillow Founder Ted Shawn (1891-1972), who published a series of lectures under the same title in 1940. In this book's opening chapter, Shawn declares that, "as long as there is life there is movement, and to move is hence to satisfy a basic and eternal need." Shawn's founding vision still informs the Pillow's activities to this day, and the adoption of his words to describe this event underlines the institution's core principles.

Dance We Must supports Jacob's Pillow's mission to support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation; and will be pivotal in supporting the organization's future. Jacob's Pillow cancelled its 2020 Festival on March 31, for the first time in the festival's 88 year history, in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and in accordance with state and federal mandates. Nearly 50% of its annual revenue comes from Festival ticket sales and ancillary activities. The Season Opening Gala would have occurred on the same date as Dance We Must, June 20th.

### **EVENT DETAILS**

Dance We Must: A Virtual Event Supporting Jacob's Pillow

Saturday, June 20th at 7pmEDT

FREE and open to all; Online registration required.

RSVP at [jacobspillow.org/events/dance-we-must/](https://jacobspillow.org/events/dance-we-must/) to receive event details and to be kept up to date on the evening's program.

Members of the press interested in attending can RSVP directly to Nicole Tomasofsky at

[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@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, Musical Theatre Dance, Photography, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Street & Club Dances in 2020). 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](https://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](https://www.jacobspillow.org).

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