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**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL PRESENTS
BALLET HISPÁNICO ON THE HENRY J. LEIR STAGE
AND EASTERN WOODLAND DANCES ON THE PILLOW GROUNDS**

July 2, 2021 (BECKET, Mass.) – In the third week of the 2021 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Ballet Hispánico makes its fifth appearance at Jacob's Pillow with a program encompassing five decades of lush and virtuosic dance from July 14-18 on the Henry J. Leir Stage. On July 17, the Pillow will also present a site-specific performance—Eastern Woodland Dances—which includes local Indigenous dancers of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Seneca, Cayuga, and Nipmuc nations. Online performances include the digital premiere of Dorrance Dance on July 15 and continued streaming of Paris Opera Ballet through July 15 and Nrityagram Dance Ensemble through July 22.

“We are thrilled to be able to finally celebrate Ballet Hispánico's 50th Anniversary with a program that shows the range of works these magnificent dancers can perform. We also continue our commitment to showcasing the work of Indigenous artists by presenting the rarely seen dances that were danced in our region centuries ago. And digital audiences will be able to see the premiere of *Ways to Now*, the joyful and whimsical site specific work by Dorrance Dance that takes people to rarely seen (or heard) areas of the Pillow campus,” says Jacob's Pillow Executive & Artistic Director Pamela Tatge.

Additional offerings this week include *PillowTalk: Curatorial Voices* featuring Tatge with the Pillow's new Associate Curators, Melanie George and Ali Rosa-Salas on-site on Sun., July 18, 3:30 p.m. (online premiere July 30 at 4 p.m.), as well as *PillowTalk: Grand Union* with Wendy Perron, former editor of *Dance Magazine*, premiering online on Fri., July 16 at 4 p.m.

Ballet Hispánico will present works by internationally renowned choreographers in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the company, including Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner Annabelle Lopez Ochoa; former director of the National Ballet of Caracas Vicente Nebrada, and a *Dance Magazine* 2011 “25 to Watch”; and former director of Luna Negra Dance Theater Gustavo Ramírez Sansano.

Ochoa's *Tiburones* addresses the discriminatory media portrayal of Latinx culture. With music by Pérez Prado, Dizzy Gillespie, and The Funky Lowlives, the work challenges the power held by the media to diminish the voices of Latinx artists and perpetuate harmful stereotypes. Nebraska's *Batucada Fantástica* is a work comprised of three selected solos that pays homage to Brazilian Carnival. Utilizing everyday motions like waving, walking, and movements from rituals and traditional dances, the work embodies dynamic characterization and emotion. Sansano's lively *18+1* is "a magnificently mambo-driven mixture of the mechanical and the manic" (*Columbus Alive*).

"Ballet Hispánico is the cultural connector for anyone interested in discovering more about our Latinx human experience," said Artistic Director and CEO Eduardo Vilaro. "The work is drenched in the diasporas, history and essences of who we are in the world today" (*Penn State News*).

On Sat., July 17 at 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., local Indigenous dancers of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Seneca, Cayuga, and Nipmuc nations come together on the Pillow grounds in Eastern Woodland Dances, a performance that highlights the breadth of Indigenous performance traditions within the Eastern Woodland region and its diaspora. Performers include Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers, Fresh Water Dancers, and Al & Jake George. This event is curated by local Nipmuc elder Larry Spotted Crow Mann and Annawon Weeden.

In *PillowTalk: Curatorial Voices*, Pamela Tatge is joined by new Pillow Associate Curators Melanie George and Ali Rosa-Salas in discussing how Festival 2021 came into being and the role of dance in a changing world. The talk is moderated by Pillow Scholar in Residence, Brian Schaefer. In *PillowTalk: Grand Union*, dancer and writer Wendy Perron discusses her new book chronicling the seminal 1970s performance group of the same name, remembered today as the "accidental anarchists of downtown dance." The digital on-demand performance by Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, revered as having "among the world's greatest dancers," is also available for viewing (*The New York Times*). Audiences can stream Paris Opera Ballet in Crystal Pite's *Body and Soul* through July 15.

ABOUT BALLET HISPÁNICO

For fifty years Ballet Hispánico has been the leading voice intersecting artistic excellence and advocacy, and is now the largest Latinx cultural organization in the United States and one of America's Cultural Treasures. Ballet Hispánico brings communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through innovative dance productions, transformative dance training, and enduring community engagement experiences.

National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez founded Ballet Hispánico in 1970, at the height of the post-war civil rights movements. From its inception Ballet Hispánico focused on providing a haven for Black and Brown Latinx youth and families seeking artistic place and cultural sanctuary. By providing the space for Latinx dance and dancers to flourish, Ballet Hispánico uplifted marginalized emerging and working artists, which combined with the training, authenticity of voice, and power of representation, fueled the organization's roots and trajectory. In 2009, Ballet Hispánico welcomed Eduardo Vilaro as its Artistic Director, ushering in a new era by inserting

fresh energy to the company's founding values and leading Ballet Hispánico into an artistically vibrant future. Today, Ballet Hispánico's New York City headquarters house a School of Dance and state-of-the-art dance studios for its programs and the arts community. From its grassroots origins as a dance school and community-based performing arts troupe, for fifty years Ballet Hispánico has stood as a catalyst for social change.

Ballet Hispánico provides the physical home and cultural heart for Latinx dance in the United States. Ballet Hispánico has developed a robust public presence across its three main programs: its Company, School of Dance, and Community Arts Partnerships.

Through its exemplary artistry, distinguished training program, and deep-rooted community engagement efforts Ballet Hispánico champions and amplifies underrepresented voices in the field. For fifty years Ballet Hispánico has provided a place of honor for the omitted, overlooked, and oppressed. As it looks to the next fifty years and beyond, Ballet Hispánico seeks to empower, and give agency to the Latinx experience and those individuals within it.

ABOUT EASTERN WOODLAND DANCES

The Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers are a group of musicians and artisans from the tribal communities of Mashpee on Cape Cod and Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard. Their performances of Eastern social songs and dances have educated audiences of all ages in museums, schools, and various multi-cultural events.

Alan George (Cayuga) of the Bear Clan is a Wampum holder and Faithkeeper of the Allegheny, Seneca at the Coldspring Longhouse on the Allegheny Reservation. His son, Jake George (Seneca) of the Turtle Clan is a member of Seneca nation, a language teacher and Wampum helper alongside his father. They are both champion smoke dancers who strongly believe in their traditions.

The FreshWater Dancers have come together to revive Nipmuc/k youth and tribal adults. By braiding their traditions such as dances, regalia, and knowledge together while sharing with those in other territories, they hope to bring together the traditions of honoring ancestors and communities.

JACOB'S PILLOW CONNECTIONS

Ballet Hispánico first appeared at the Pillow in 1984 in the Ted Shawn Theatre, and returned in 1998, 2009, and 2017. They also performed in a co-presentation by Jacob's Pillow and MASS MoCA in 2006. They were slated to appear in the canceled 2020 season, and the Company's 50th anniversary was saluted in an online PillowTalk with Eduardo Vilaro, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and AnaMaria Correra in July 2020.

Nipmuc elder Larry Spotted Crow Mann and the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers performed at the Pillow in a week-long landmark celebration in 2019 entitled "The Land on Which We Dance." Jacob's Pillow has engaged with Indigenous peoples and culture since its founding in

1933, and continues to seek ways to provide sustained support of Indigenous performance and further explore the history of the land.

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

- Ballet Hispánico in *Tito on Timbales* in 2009:
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/ballet-hispanico/tito-on-timbales/>
- Ballet Hispánico in *Línea Recta* in 2017:
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/ballet-hispanico/linea-recta/>
- The Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers in *Calumet* and *Eastern Blanket Dance* in 2019:
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/wampanoag-nation-singers-and-dancers/calumet-and-eastern-blanket-dance/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION

Ballet Hispánico

Henry J. Leir Stage, July 14-18

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 6:00pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 2:00pm

\$45

Available to watch online July 29 - August 12; Online premiere July 29 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now; online at jacobspillow.org and via phone 413.243.0745.

Eastern Woodland Dances

Pillow Grounds

Saturday, July 17 at 12:00pm and 3:30pm

\$25

This performance is at a single site with chairs under a tent, facing artists on grass.

Local Indigenous dancers of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Seneca, Cayuga, and Nipmuc nations come together to highlight the breadth of Indigenous performance traditions within the Eastern Woodland region and its diaspora. Performers include Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers, Fresh Water Dancers, Al & Jake George, and more. This event is curated by local Nipmuc elder Larry Spotted Crow Mann and Annawon Weeden of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Narragansett, and Pequot nations.

ALSO THIS WEEK

ON-SITE EVENTS

Sunday Workshop: Ballet Hispánico

Sunday, July 18 at 10:00am

The Great Lawn Tent

\$20 (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/workshop-ballet-hispanico-2021/>)

Open to all levels, ages 16+.

The initial influences of Afro-Cuban dance can be traced back to the Yoruba people of Western Africa. The ancestral dance traditions evolved into different Cuban rhymes such as Mambo, Cha-cha-cha, and Rumba to name a few. Join Ballet Hispánico's Lyvan Verdecia in a celebration of the rich diversity of Afro-Cuban dance forms while moving to the beats of the drums.

Please wear comfortable clothes to move in. Participants are welcome to dance barefoot or in socks.

PillowTalk: Curatorial Voices

Sunday, July 18 at 3:30pm

Blake's Barn

FREE (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/pillowtalk-curatorial-voices-2021-onsite/>)
Executive and Artistic Director Pamela Tatge joins new Pillow associate curators Melanie George and Ali Rosa-Salas in discussing how Festival 2021 came into being and the role of dance in a changing world.

PillowTalks are a curated series of entertaining and informative discussions with choreographers, writers, filmmakers, and cultural experts. Moderated by Pillow Scholars, PillowTalks provide an opportunity to gain behind-the-scenes insight into the field of dance. Hour-long PillowTalks take place on-site at Blake's Barn Sundays at 3:30pm at Blake's Barn (next to the Box Office), and are free and open to the public with advance registration. Recordings of online PillowTalks will be shared throughout the summer, premiering Fridays at 4pm.

ONLINE EVENTS

Dorrance Dance Plays the Pillow

Online premiere with live chat July 15 at 7:30pm Eastern

Digital On-Demand | July 15-29

FREE: (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/dorrance-dance-2021-online/>)

This is an online presentation of a live event which occurred at Jacob's Pillow June 30 – July 4

In a site-specific world premiere, Dorrance Dance explores the unique and enchanting environment of the Pillow grounds. These special daytime performances will take audiences on a roving journey that showcases the Pillow's campus in a never-before-seen (nor-heard) way.

PillowTalk: Grand Union with Wendy Perron

Digital screening debuts July 16 at 4:00pm

FREE: (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/pillowtalk-grand-union-2021-online/>)

This is an online film presentation of a live event occurring at Jacob's Pillow July 4.

Remembered today as the "accidental anarchists of downtown dance," this seminal 1970s performance group is chronicled in a new book by Wendy Perron.

PillowTalks are a curated series of entertaining and informative discussions with choreographers, writers, filmmakers, and cultural experts. Moderated by Pillow Scholars, PillowTalks provide an

opportunity to gain behind-the-scenes insight into the field of dance. Hour-long PillowTalks take place on-site at Blake's Barn Sundays at 3:30pm at Blake's Barn (next to the Box Office), and are free and open to the public with advance registration. Recordings of online PillowTalks will be shared throughout the summer, premiering Fridays at 4pm.

ONLINE-ONLY EVENTS

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

Online premiere with live chat July 8 at 7:30pm Eastern

Digital On-Demand | July 8-22

\$15 (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/nrityagram-dance-ensemble-2021/>)

Travel to a lush ten-acre village of dance on the outskirts of Bangalore to see a Pillow-exclusive virtual performance by the internationally renowned Indian classical dance company, Nrityagram Dance Ensemble. India's first modern Gurukul, Nrityagram is a one-of-a-kind community where dance is a way of life, founded by Protiima Bedi in 1990. Today, it is home to the internationally renowned Indian classical dance ensemble.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as having "among the world's greatest dancers, Upādāna: An offering will give audiences access to the company and their Nrityagram Dance Village like never before. The Odissi dance company performs works choreographed by Surupa Sen and set to a score by Pt. Raghunath Panigrahi. Ancient wisdom, sacred rituals, and divine transformation are unveiled and interpreted by electrifying dance. Sen will also lead audiences in a rare, behind-the-scenes look at Nrityagram Dance Village, home to Nrityagram Dance Ensemble that has inspired global audiences for over 30 years.

Virtual Class: Families Dance Together

Friday, July 16 at 3:00pm Eastern

All Fridays July 9-August 27 - ONGOING

FREE (To register; <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/families-dance-together-2021/>)

All levels and ages welcome. We are happy to offer this class free of charge.

Experience the joy of creating simple dances from the comfort of your home in this intergenerational 45-minute movement class, designed for movers of all ages to enjoy together. From kids to adults, we invite you to get your whole household moving! Led by artists of Dance Exchange.

No special preparation needed; simply register, gather your movers, click the Zoom class link, and start dancing. We encourage you to find a safe, open space to move in and make sure to modify any movement as needed.

Taking place at Jacob's Pillow since 2001, Families Dance Together is an annual, treasured movement program led by Artist Jeff Bliss, in collaboration with the Becket Arts Center.

Zoom link required to join class; link will be sent to RSVPs by 10:30am Eastern on the day of class or provided on the website after 10:30am the day of class.

Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) at Jacob's Pillow DELving Mini Workshops

Saturday, July 17 10am-12:30pm Eastern

Zoom (To register;

<https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/online-event-delving-mini-workshop-july-2021/>)

\$20; financial assistance available

Join Ann Biddle (Director of DEL at Jacob's Pillow), Felice Santorelli (DEL Facilitator), and Nicholas Van Young (Associate Director, Dorrance Dance) in the exploration of dance education practices dedicated to artistry, collaboration, and music and dance-making in a 2.5-hour embodied and interactive Zoom workshop. Inspired by the newly created work by Nicholas Van Young with original music by Dorrance Dance musicians and developed in residence at the Pillow Lab this past winter, participants will draw links to body percussion and movement through engaging in embodied exploration, playful discovery, and collaborative artistry.

FESTIVAL 2021 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—ONGOING

Blake's Barn, June 30-August 29, open Wed.-Sat. 12-8 p.m., Tuesday and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

FREE

***Build Me a Theater*; exhibition**

Ted Shawn's instructions to architect Joseph Franz provide the title for this examination of all the Pillow's performance spaces, past and present. Artifacts and images from the Ted Shawn Theatre, Doris Duke Theatre, Henry J. Leir Stage, and the Bakalar Studio create a kaleidoscopic celebration of live performance at the Pillow.

Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room

This spacious, informal library and reading room allows ticketed 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 newly expanded 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 in the Reading Room, 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, celebrating its 89th Festival in 2021. The Pillow announced its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance in June 2017 through a five-year strategic plan titled Vision '22. The grounds of Jacob's Pillow—the traditional lands of the Agawam, the Nipmuc, the Pocumtuc, and the Mohican—offer a magnificent natural stage for dance. 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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