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**Jacob's Pillow and NOWNESS partner for release of new film series, *Body Language*, celebrating artists breaking cultural barriers in dance
The films will be released on Dec. 3, Dec. 6, and early 2022**

Dec. 3, 2021 — BECKET, Mass. — Jacob's Pillow has partnered with global arts and culture video platform NOWNESS for the release of three films, commissioned by Jacob's Pillow and NOWNESS in a series titled *Body Language*, centered around the theme of breaking cultural boundaries in dance.

The first film, which was directed by Leo Pfeifer and will be released on Dec. 3, features performance artist Bill Shannon, who moves through New York City landscapes using dance, skateboarding, and his crutches.

The second film, directed by Jean Liu and set to be released on Dec. 6, features three New York City-based performing art troupes whose practice is rooted in Guang Chang Wu – Chinese square dancing. Manhattan Performing Arts Troupe, Team ZhiQing, and Team Red Dance Studio/Eva Dance Studio, together reflect on their love for dance and heritage.

The third film will premiere in the new year. Directed by Haley Anderson, this film will feature Virginia-born Irish dance sensation Morgan Bullock, whose unique style bridges the centuries-long tradition of Irish dance and contemporary hip-hop culture.

The 3-5 minute films were curated by Ali Rosa-Salas and Melanie George, associate curators at Jacob's Pillow, and the Pillow's series producer is Ali Rosa-Salas.

"The artists featured in this series exemplify that dance is a fundamental form of communication, one that welcomes vulnerability, complexity, and wonder into the conversation," Rosa-Salas said.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with NOWNESS on the *Body Language* film series," said Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director, Pamela Tatge. "NOWNESS' mission of promoting excellence in storytelling aligns with our desire to provide a platform to make artists' stories visible in new and inventive ways. We're excited to share this series with the world."

The films will first premiere on the NOWNESS website and social media channels, and after 15 days, will be shared on the Jacob's Pillow YouTube channel and other platforms.

You can watch the first in the series of films on NOWNESS [here](#).

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. Jacob's Pillow rests on the traditional lands of the Agawam, the Nipmuc, the Pocumtuc, and the Mohican and

honors their elders past, present, and future. 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. 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 Executive and Artistic Director since 2016 is Pamela Tatge. For more information, visit www.jacobspillow.org.

ABOUT NOWNESS

NOWNESS is a global platform for the culturally curious, creating and curating the best in video content. Providing an inimitable lens on Architecture, Design, Fashion, Art, Travel, Food and Lifestyle, NOWNESS has set the standard for what excellence in digital storytelling looks like for nearly a decade. Collaborating with the best directors in visual culture, NOWNESS films break new ground in terms of themes, approach and execution cutting through noise and garnering global critical acclaim.

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