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JACOB'S PILLOW BRINGS FREE POP-UP PERFORMANCES TO BERKSHIRE COUNTY WITH ON THE ROAD SERIES

July 1, 2022 – (BECKET, Mass.) – Jacob's Pillow will offer four free Pillow Pop-Up performances in Berkshire County between July 15-21. Versa-Style Dance Company will perform July 15-17 in North Adams, Becket, and Great Barrington, and Mambo Royalty will perform as part of Pittsfield's Third Thursdays series on July 21.

Jacob's Pillow and On the Road program partners—including NAACP Berkshires, Becket Arts Center, Cultural Pittsfield, and the municipalities of Great Barrington, Pittsfield, North Adams, and Becket, and lead sponsor Milltown Foundation — encourage the public to pack a blanket or outdoor chair and invite family and friends to enjoy these hour-long pop-up performances.

"We're so grateful to our community partners and Mill Town Foundation for working together to bring Jacob's Pillow back on the road to four cities and towns in Berkshire County, and we're excited to have audiences witness dance companies from our region alongside a high-energy hip-hop company from Los Angeles, and mambo stars from the Bronx," said Pamela Tatge, Executive and Artistic Director of Jacob's Pillow. "We need the joy and community-building power of dance now more than ever, so bring a picnic and get ready to dance with us!"

"The city of Pittsfield is thrilled to be a part of Jacob's Pillow's dynamic 'On the Road' series," said Linda Tyer, Mayor of the City of Pittsfield. "This event, which will be part of the city's Third Thursday festivities this month, is just one of the many ways that Jacob's Pillow has demonstrated its steadfast commitment to expanding access to arts and dance in Pittsfield, an effort that allows more members of the community to experience and enjoy premium and extraordinary dance theater."

Berkshire-based artists will include Berkshire Dance Theatre and dysFUNKcrew performing in North Adams, The Funkbox Studio performing in Pittsfield, BSKE Dance Community Group performing in Great Barrington, and Berkshire-based performers in Becket to be announced.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Versa-Style Dance Company: ORIGINS of Hip-Hop consists of high-energy, unadulterated hip-hop movement that explores and pushes the boundaries of the origins and roots of street vernacular dances such as Locking, Popping, Hip-Hop, and Krump. Audiences will walk away with a different view on Hip-Hop dance culture and will be vividly immersed into the depth and beauty that unites us all.

Mambo Royalty will perform with a group of six salsa dancers, in collaboration with Pittsfield's Third Thursday Celebration. Mambo Royalty is led by Eddie Torres Jr., son of legendary Latin dancer Eddie Torres and flamenco dancer Nélica Tirado, whose career highlights include performances at Madison Square Garden, Harvard University, and featured appearances with the Recording Academy/Grammys, MTV, Access Hollywood, and Lincoln Center; and Princess Serrano, who spent countless hours training and studying in various Latin companies including Fuego Dance Company, Art in Motion, and Iroko, and whose recent projects include the Warner Brothers movie *In The Heights* as a dancer and Latin choreographer.

ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW ON THE ROAD:

All performances are offered at no cost to the public and no RSVP is required to watch these performances. Programming for these events is subject to change. Donations are welcome and will support Jacob's Pillow's mission in dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation, and in harnessing the community-building power of dance. On the Road event partners include NAACP Berkshires, Becket Arts Center, and Cultural Pittsfield.

Lead support for Jacob's Pillow On the Road is generously provided by Mill Town Foundation. Additional support provided by Berkshire Bank Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation, City of Pittsfield, the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, and Pittsfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council.

EVENT DETAILS:

In the event of rain, performances may be canceled or moved indoors; in the event of inclement weather, please go to jacobspillow.org for cancellations and rain plans. No RSVP required. To share your interest and receive updates about "On the Road" and other Jacob's Pillow Pop-Up events around Berkshire county, sign up at <https://jacobspillow.prospect2.com/f/23>

North Adams

River Grove Park – Corner of River and Houghton streets
Fri., July 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Great Barrington

Town Hall Park, 334 Main St.
Sat., July 16 at 1 p.m.

Becket

North Becket Park – Maple Street
Sun., July 17 at 1 p.m.

Pittsfield

The Common, 100 First St.
Thurs., July 21 at 5:30 p.m.

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 celebrating its 90th Anniversary Season. Jacob's Pillow acknowledges that it rests on the unceded

lands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok, and recognizes the Agawam, Nipmuc, and Pocumtuc who also made their homes in Western Massachusetts. We honor their Elders past, present, and future. Each Festival includes national and international dance companies and 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.

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