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The Royal Ballet Comes To Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival For One Week Only This Summer

**The Royal Ballet will take over the festival's indoor and outdoor stages,
marking the company's only U.S. engagement in 2024**

November 15, 2023 (BECKET, Mass.)— Jacob's Pillow announced today that one of the world's great ballet companies, The Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom, will appear at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival for the first time, as the company's sole stop in the United States in 2024. To celebrate this milestone, Jacob's Pillow will for the first time feature daily back-to-back performances from one company in multiple venues, with one program on the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage, and another distinct program in the historic indoor Ted Shawn Theatre.

The 2024 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival will run for nine weeks, beginning Wednesday, June 26 and ending on Sunday, August 25. The Royal Ballet will take over the festival for week two, with multiple performances each day beginning Wednesday, July 3 and ending Sunday, July 7. Full festival programming will be announced in early 2024.

The Royal Ballet is one of the most famous and celebrated ballet companies in the world. Based in London, England, the company has been in residence at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden since 1946. The company was founded by Dame Ninette de Valois in 1931—the same year that modern dance pioneer Ted Shawn purchased the rural farm property in Massachusetts that would become the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Now in its 92nd year, Jacob's Pillow runs the oldest continually-operating dance festival in the United States. Each year, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival features national and international dance companies in free and ticketed performances, as well as talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs, based in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts.

“The stars have aligned so that for the first time in our 92 years, The Royal Ballet will finally grace the stages of Jacob’s Pillow,” said Pamela Tatge, Executive and Artistic Director. “It is such an honor to have this be their exclusive U.S. engagement in 2024, and it has been thrilling to work with Director Kevin O’Hare to design what will feel like a Pillow takeover by the Ballet. In addition to performances both indoors and outdoors, there will be workshops, talks, and film screenings, so that we can all appreciate the artistry and worldwide contributions of this magnificent company to the field of dance.”

The Royal Ballet’s celebrated repertory is drawn from 19th-century ballet classics as well as the distinctive English works of its Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, and continues to resonate with audiences strongly today through the striking contemporary sensibility of Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon.

A World Premiere by Wayne McGregor created especially for Jacob’s Pillow will feature alongside works by the company’s other associated choreographers and will also include the U.S. Premiere of *Secret Things* by American choreographer Pam Tanowitz. Royal Ballet Principals Matthew Ball, Mayara Magri, Marcelino Sambé, Anna Rose O’Sullivan, and Sarah Lamb will perform in this engagement along with a vibrant array of the company’s dancers. The opening night on Wednesday, July 3 will also include Principal dancer Natalia Osipova in Ashton’s evocation of Isadora Duncan. Programming and dates are subject to change.

Kevin O’Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, comments, “We are delighted to be making our first visit to Jacob’s Pillow which, with its fantastic pioneering heritage, has made such an impact on international dance. It’s wonderful to shine a light on our own history and dance making, celebrating The Royal Ballet’s repertory past and present in this inaugural visit. We can’t wait for our dancers to connect with American audiences in this stunning location—what better setting to share our mutual love of the art form?”

Full festival programming, including additional dance companies and full details on event dates and times, will be announced by February 2024. Tickets will go on sale in the spring, first to Jacob’s Pillow Members over a period of several weeks, then to the general public. To learn more about membership and early access to Festival 2024 tickets, visit jacobspillow.org/membership. For the most up-to-date festival programming announcements, visit jacobspillow.org/festival. Year-round dance lovers can engage with multimedia from Jacob’s Pillow—including playlists, essays, a monthly podcast, and on-demand video—on the main website (jacobspillow.org), on-demand video hub (watch.jacobspillow.org), and online portal to the Archives (danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org).

ABOUT THE ROYAL BALLET:



**ROYAL
BALLET**

Under the directorship of Kevin O’Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today’s most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide.

The Company’s extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, a compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre. Guest

choreographers Kyle Abraham, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Cathy Marston, Arthur Pita, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Pam Tanowitz and Twyla Tharp have also created work for the Company.

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, which will celebrate its 92nd season in Summer 2024. Jacob's Pillow acknowledges that it rests on the ancestral homelands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok or Mohican people. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors and elders past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all. In addition, we acknowledge the Nipmuc, the Wampanoag and other tribal nations who also made their homes in what is now known as Massachusetts.

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, a prestigious professional dance training center, advances the careers of the upcoming generation of performers and choreographers; during the Festival, 100 international dancers evolve as artists in ballet, choreography, contemporary, musical theatre, tap, and other genres, and year round, artist faculty and accomplished alumni nurture younger dancers in a series of Jacob's Pillow 360 workshops and intensives offered in partnership with leading dance institutions worldwide. 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. Through its 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.

Jacob's Pillow is grateful to its global community of supporters and Members for their ongoing support for our mission. Major institutional support for Jacob's Pillow is provided by the Alphadyne Foundation, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Arison Arts Foundation, Arnhold Foundation, Barr Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, Ford Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, Mellon Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Mill Town Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and Jacob's Pillow Business Partners (as of October 26, 2023).

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