



NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS | NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS CONTACT:**

Kendall Lockhart, Public Relations & Communications Coordinator

[pr@jacobspillow.org](mailto:pr@jacobspillow.org)

**Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival  
Welcomes The Royal Ballet for a Historic Takeover  
on Indoor and Outdoor Stages**

**Performances from July 3-7 mark the company's first-ever  
appearance at Jacob's Pillow — their sole U.S. engagement this year**

June 12, 2024 (BECKET, Mass.)— Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival proudly presents one of the most celebrated and renowned companies in the world, The Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom, for a historic week-long takeover during Week 2 of this summer's 92nd season.

Considered “one of the supreme treasures of the international dance world” (*The Boston Globe*), The Royal Ballet's first engagement in the United States since 2019 will be a five-day-only appearance at Jacob's Pillow. The company's debut at Jacob's Pillow will run Wednesday, July 3 through Sunday, July 7, and will feature two different programs each day: one in the historic Ted Shawn Theatre, and another on the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage. Limited tickets remain for these engagements.

As part of Jacob's Pillow Live—a new livestream series showcasing artists from this summer's festival—the Saturday performance by The Royal Ballet will be livestreamed for free, thanks to major support from the Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation. Livestream access will be available from 8-10pm Eastern on Saturday, July 6. Pre-registration for the livestream is encouraged at [jacobspillow.org/live](https://jacobspillow.org/live). This livestream will include access to a free “Encore” stream released the following week, allowing an additional 24 hours to watch the performance again on-demand.

Week 2 of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival will also feature a free PillowTalk with Director of The Royal Ballet, Kevin O'Hare, on Saturday, July 6, at which time O'Hare will discuss directing one of the world's most famous companies and his desire to bring his dancers to Jacob's Pillow

for the first time. On Sunday, July 7, Jacob's Pillow will also offer a public workshop led by Deirdre Chapman of The Royal Ballet that is centered on *For Four*—a work by the company's Artistic Associate, Christopher Wheeldon—which will be presented as part of The Royal Ballet's repertoire in the Ted Shawn Theatre.

The presentation of The Royal Ballet at Jacob's Pillow is made possible with lead underwriting support from Emily Blavatnik and the Blavatnik Family Foundation, in addition to major support from the Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation, Jeffrey Davis and Michael Miller, and other generous supporters.

Off-site, Jacob's Pillow is partnering with Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington for a one-night-only screening of *Romeo and Juliet: Beyond Words* on Friday, July 5. Produced by former dancers and International Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, and shot on location in Hungary in 2019, this cinematic adaptation of Kenneth MacMillan's searingly dramatic ballet masterpiece features dancers from The Royal Ballet. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org).

"We are beyond excited to welcome The Royal Ballet for this immersive week-long takeover of our indoor and outdoor stages," said Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director, Pamela Tatge. "This will be a rare opportunity to witness the brilliant dancers of The Royal Ballet perform classical works of the ballet cannon, alongside inventive contemporary works including a historic world premiere. Together with Director Kevin O'Hare, we are creating what will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for festival audiences, many of whom will be seeing the company for the first time. This has already become an unforgettable collaboration, and we are eager to welcome the world to the Pillow to see it."

The Ted Shawn Theatre indoor program, which incorporates live music, will feature the U.S. Premiere of *Secret Things* by American choreographer Pam Tanowitz and a World Premiere by The Royal Ballet's Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor, created especially for Jacob's Pillow, alongside works by Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan, and Christopher Wheeldon. Royal Ballet Principals Matthew Ball, Sarah Lamb, Mayara Magri, Anna Rose O'Sullivan, and Marcelino Sambé will perform in this engagement along with a vibrant array of the company's dancers. Principal dancer Natalia Osipova will perform on opening night (Wednesday, July 3).

The Henry J. Leir Stage outdoor program will feature a series of solos and duets from classical repertoire and works by Frederick Ashton, Wayne McGregor and Christopher Wheeldon. Principal dancer Natalia Osipova will perform on opening night (Wednesday, July 3). Other select Royal Ballet Principals to be announced will perform in this engagement along with a vibrant array of the company's dancers.

On Saturday, July 6, The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Performance Ensemble will open the evening program beginning at 5:15pm. Ticket holders are invited to arrive early to enjoy this additional performance as part of their ticket purchase.

Casting for each performance will be announced two weeks in advance. The full indoor and outdoor program by The Royal Ballet can be found at [jacobspillow.org/festival](http://jacobspillow.org/festival).

## **ABOUT THE ROYAL BALLET**

Based in London, England, The Royal Ballet 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 company'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.

Despite performing at Jacob's Pillow for the first time this year, The Royal Ballet's connections with Jacob's Pillow span decades. Alicia Markova, the first prima ballerina of The Royal Ballet (formerly the Vic-Wells Ballet), relocated to the U.S. to dance with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and American Ballet Theatre. During this time, she teamed up with Vic-Wells Ballet Principal, Anton Dolin, to rent Ted Shawn's farm and studio, known as Jacob's Pillow. The two stars hosted a residency for American Ballet Theatre—recruiting many American Ballet Theatre dancers to rehearse and perform onsite—as well as an International Dance Festival and School. These events led directly to the formal incorporation of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the building of the Ted Shawn Theatre. Markova herself performed on a number of programs and continued to have involvement in Jacob's Pillow for the rest of her life, culminating in her role as honorary co-chair of the 65th Anniversary Season in 1997.

English choreographer and dancer, Antony Tudor—who trained at and choreographed for The Royal Ballet and went on to choreograph for other influential companies—created several of his works at the Pillow, beginning with the iconic *Pillar of Fire* in 1941. He later premiered or coached other works here throughout the 1940s and 50s.

Critically-acclaimed American choreographer (and this year's Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Recipient) Pam Tanowitz first appeared at Jacob's Pillow in 2016, with an engagement by Pam Tanowitz Dance. A work by award-winning British choreographer Wayne McGregor, The Royal

Ballet's Resident Choreographer, was taught and performed at the Pillow in 2022 by The School at Jacob's Pillow's Contemporary Ballet Program.

**Watch clips on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive:**

- Alicia Markova, 1941:  
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/alicia-markova/sugar-plum-fairy-variation-nutcracker/>
- The Summer of 1941:  
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/themes-essays/what-is-dance/when-the-ballet-came-to-jacobs-pillow/>
- Antony Tudor's *Lilac Garden*, 1953:  
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/national-ballet-of-canada/lilac-garden-jardin-aux-lilas/>
- Pam Tanowitz Dance, 2016:  
<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/pam-tanowitz-dance/story-progresses-dream-glittering-surfaces/>

**PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS**

*Tickets are on sale now; online at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org) and via phone at 413.243.0745*

**The Royal Ballet – Outdoor Program**

July 3-7; Wednesday through Saturday at 5:30pm; Sunday at 12pm

Henry J. Leir Stage | Tickets from \$50

**The Royal Ballet – Indoor Program**

July 3-7; Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre | Tickets from \$65

**PERFORMANCE NOTES:**

- *The Dying Swan* will only be performed on Wednesday, July 3.
- The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Performance Ensemble will open the outdoor evening program on Saturday, July 6 with a performance beginning at 5:15pm. Ticket holders are invited to arrive early to enjoy this additional performance as part of their ticket purchase.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

### **FANTASY MEETS REALITY: THROUGH THE EYES OF A DENISHAWN DANCER**

July 4-5; Thursday and Friday at 4:30pm

Blake's Barn | FREE Public Tour

Co-curator Phil Chan will offer free public tours of this exhibition, curated by Chan and Caroline Hamilton. This exhibition builds upon last year's initial look at Denishawn's 1925-26 Asian tour. With newly-discovered treasures, this re-examination of the tour focuses on the experiences of three Denishawn dancers: Ernestine Day, Mary Howry, and Jane Sherman. Included are costumes they retained, objects they purchased, and words they wrote—challenging viewers to ponder what it means to share culture with integrity. *Regular scheduling: Blake's Barn; open Tue-Sun, noon through final curtain.*

### **Morning Classes**

June 25-28; Tuesday through Friday, 9-10am

Open to all dance experience levels, ages 16+. Offered weekly through the summer in Sommers Studio. \$12 per class; \$50 for 5 class card. Pay via online pre-registration or cash/card at the door.

- **Ballet:** Tuesdays through August 20
- **Contemporary:** Wednesdays through August 21
- **West African Dance & Spiritual Well-Being:** Thursdays through August 22
- **Hip-Hop/Street Styles:** Fridays through August 23

### ***Romeo and Juliet: Beyond Words* Film Screening**

Starring The Royal Ballet

Friday, July 5 at 8pm

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington

\$15

Experience a cinematic reimagining of the best-known love story of all time, in this 2019 film directed by former dancers and International Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, known for their 2008 *Pillow* appearance as the Ballet Boyz.

Shot on location in the streets of Hungary, and set to a unique recording of Sergei Prokofiev's original score, this cinematic costume drama features dancers from The Royal Ballet, and stars William Bracewell as Romeo and Francesca Hayward as Juliet in their feature film debuts. Nunn and Trevitt have restaged Sir Kenneth MacMillan's remarkable 1964 choreography in an

audacious first in contemporary filmmaking: what *The Guardian* calls a “vibrant, up-close take on one of the Royal Ballet’s best-loved gems.” The Mahaiwe screening is introduced live by Christopher Saunders, The Royal Ballet’s rehearsal director, who plays Lord Capulet. Tickets are available at mahaiwe.org.

### **Workshop: Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) at Jacob’s Pillow**

Saturday, July 6 from 9:30am-12:30pm

*Pre-registration is strongly encouraged online or by calling 413.243.0745*

DELve into an interactive and embodied workshop linked to The Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom and explore the nationally-acclaimed DEL pedagogy model to investigate a choreographer’s work through multiple entry points.

DEL at Jacob’s Pillow connects dance educators, college dance students, classroom teachers, and professional dancers to the DEL model of dance education. Workshops are facilitated by Ann Biddle and Felice Santorelli. \$49; registrants offered a 20% discount on same-day matinee performances in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Pre-register at [jacobspillow.org](http://jacobspillow.org). Ages 16+; no prior dance experience required.

### **In Studio Pause in the Process Showings by The School**

Saturday, July 6 from 1-1:45pm

Join Artist Faculty and School dancers for informal sharings of their work in the Perles Family Studio. Seating is limited; priority entry given to visitors who pre-register online. *Also on Instagram Live.*

### **PillowTalk: The Royal Ballet**

Saturday, July 6 at 4pm

Blake’s Barn | FREE

As director of one of the world’s most famous and celebrated companies, Kevin O’Hare talks about his desire to bring his dancers to Jacob’s Pillow for the first time, in conversation with Scholar-in-Residence Theresa Ruth Howard.

### **Workshop with Festival Artists: The Royal Ballet**

Sunday, July 7, 10-11:30am

Open to all dance experience levels, ages 12+

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged online or by calling 413.243.0745.

Join Repetiteur of The Royal Ballet Deirdre Chapman and Pianist and Head of Music Rob Clark in a workshop centered on Christopher Wheeldon’s *For Four*, a work presented as part of The

Royal Ballet's performance in the Ted Shawn Theatre. Ballet experience is not required, but beneficial. Wear comfortable clothing and ballet flats, socks, or dance sneakers.

### **Family Music and Dance**

Sunday, July 7 from 10:30-11:30am

Ages 0-5 years old

Join cherished local teacher Sandy Russell for a taste of the Music Together® program, igniting children's natural passion for music and movement. \$20 per class/per family.

## **FESTIVAL EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES – ONGOING**

### **JOHN LINDQUIST: AS OF TODAY**

It's impossible to overstate how the photographs of John Lindquist (1890-1980) have shaped public perception of the Pillow's first four decades and influenced all subsequent photographers here. Now the institutional home for Lindquist's body of work, Harvard University's Houghton Library has digitized many thousands of images, and we are able to learn more about our past through these carefully-selected new prints, many of which are being exhibited for the first time. This exhibit will be discussed in a freePillowTalk on Sunday, August 11 at 4pm. *Blake's Barn; open Tue-Sun, noon through final curtain.*

### **ROYAL BALLET CONNECTIONS**

Even as this season marks The Royal Ballet's Pillow debut, the links between these two iconic dance institutions run deep. Some of the evidence is on display here, in rare photos and footage spanning the decades. From Alicia Markova and Antony Tudor to contemporary artists including Pam Tanowitz and Wayne McGregor, the shared histories are surfaced and celebrated. *Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby; open Tue-Sun, noon through final curtain.*

### **FANTASY MEETS REALITY: THROUGH THE EYES OF A DENISHAWN DANCER**

Curated by Phil Chan and Caroline Hamilton, this exhibition builds upon last year's initial look at Denishawn's 1925-26 Asian tour. With newly-discovered treasures, this re-examination of the tour focuses on the experiences of three Denishawn dancers: Ernestine Day, Mary Howry, and Jane Sherman. Included are costumes they retained, objects they purchased, and words they wrote—challenging viewers to ponder what it means to share culture with integrity. Co-curator Phil Chan will offer free public tours of this exhibition on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 at 4:30pm. *Blake's Barn; open Tue-Sun, noon through final curtain.*

### **Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room**

This spacious, informal library and reading room allows visitors to view videos, browse through books, access the Pillow's computer catalog, or peruse permanent collections of Pillow programs and photographs from the Archives. The Reading Room and new Special Collections Room also feature recent donations and more archival treasures from the Stephan Driscoll Collection. *Blake's Barn; open Tues.-Sun., noon through final curtain.*

### **Online Exhibit: Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive**

This evolving online resource features breathtaking video highlights of Pillow performances from the early 1930s through today, with an expanded section of multimedia essays featuring talks, photos, and other exclusive content organized into various themes.  
[danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://danceinteractive.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, which celebrates 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.

Founded by Ted Shawn in 1933, 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 its seasonal internship 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 highlighted online at [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR JACOB'S PILLOW IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY: Arison Arts Foundation, Barr Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Doris Duke Foundation, Ford Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, Mellon Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. *As of June 1, 2024.*

**#####**