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**CIE ART MOVE CONCEPT BRINGS ABSTRACT
HIP-HOP TO JACOB'S PILLOW, JULY 18-22**

July 18, 2018 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow presents Cie Art Move Concept in the Doris Duke Theatre, July 18-22, an international company that combines breakdancing, hip-hop, mime, and circus arts into a genre-blurring tour de force of movement and motion. Acclaimed as "a thrilling fusion of hip-hop and contemporary dance" (*The New York Times*), Cie Art Move Concept makes a rare U.S. appearance with physically breathtaking, emotionally-driven work that showcases technical virtuosity. Led by prominent French hip-hop figures—acclaimed choreographer Mehdi Ouachek and champion breakdancer Soria Rem—Cie Art Move Concept presents excerpts from the trio *Exit* and the powerful ensemble work *Nibiru*.

"When I first saw the work of Cie Art Move Concept, I was in awe of the way Mehdi Ouachek and Soria Rem approach hip-hop as a fluid and nuanced language that has the ability to take the audience on a poignant, surprising and uplifting journey" says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Recently on tour throughout Bolivia, *Exit* is the first work that Cie Art Move Concept performs at their Jacob's Pillow debut. *Exit* tells the story of three strangers and how their deepest desires, delusions, and sorrows silently impact their daily lives. Dressed in suits with cigarettes in hand, the dancers transform the stage into an abstract world that is hazy yet familiar, as they dance around a bench illuminated by dozens of hanging light bulbs. Ranging from percussive body isolations and breakdancing to sustained stillness and moving in slow motion, the choreography in *Exit* is a reflection of men seeking the balance between power and softness through a humorous lens.

Created in 2014, *Nibiru* "pushes the boundaries of hip-hop and contemporary dance, fusing subtlety and virtuosity in an astonishing concept. Spectators will be transported on an unequivocal journey" (*West France*). The word "nibiru" comes from the ancient Akkadian language, meaning crossing or a transition point. In astronomy, the term refers to an equinox. Throughout *Nibiru*, the dancers cross paths, form groups, and transition from individual solos to ensemble sections. Projections of red and gold circles surround the dancers like constellations—as they orbit around, with, and through each other. The choreography pushes the limits of the body, challenging the dancers to perform incredible lifts, acrobatics, and breakdancing with precision and control.

Both pieces exemplify Rem and Ouachek's talent for mixing genres and creating unique blends of dance and art. *The Terrace* praises, "Virtuosity is part of their trademark, but they are especially attentive to the fact that dance, beyond the techniques, is a stripping of oneself." Cie Art Move

Concept's mission is to relate the extreme physicality of breakdancing with the powerful emotions that people experience in their everyday lives. As a couple in life and on stage, Ouacheck and Rem transcend the boundaries and codes of hip-hop choreographers. Together, they have worked for contemporary dance companies, television shows and films, and celebrities including Madonna and Mariah Carey.

Cie Art Move Concept's presentation at the Pillow is supported by FUSED: French U.S. Exchange in Dance, a program developed by FACE Foundation, and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States with major funding from the Florence Gould Foundation, Institut Français, the French Ministry of Culture, and private donors. Additional support for women artists has been provided by Foundation CHANEL.

ABOUT CIE ART MOVE CONCEPT

Ouachek and Rem met around 2005 in France and later became a couple, founding Cie Art Move Concept in 2009. They have performed throughout France and around the world. The duo has worked with and for the founder of Cirque du Soleil Franco Dragone, Slava Polunin of the Slava Snow Show, the Peking Opera, the National Ballet of Florence, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Kamel Ouali, Redha, and Marie Agnès Gillot. In addition, they often collaborate with artists Kader Attou and Andres Marin.

Ouachek, a renowned artist known internationally for his unique style and as a co-founder of Cie Art Move Concept, is part of the global, abstract hip-hop scene. Originally from the Paris region, his rich professional career has led him on various artistic horizons that make him an exceptionally well-versed creator. From the Classical National Ballet to the Peking Opera House, from Madonna to Kamel Ouali, Ouachek is sought-after as both a dancer and choreographer around the world. Rem is a world champion breakdancer and known as the leading b-girl in France. In Paris, Rem worked extensively with the successful French band Most Wanted Posse. From contemporary companies to television shows, company co-founder Rem is commissioned by artists from all over the world, including by Kamel Ouali, Robbie William, Jamie King, Mariah Carey, and Nike International.

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Cie Art Move Concept at Jacob's Pillow

Doris Duke Theatre, July 18-22

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:15pm

Saturday & Sunday at 2:15pm

\$45, \$35, \$25

A limited number of special Under 35 discounted tickets are available for each performance for patrons ages 18-35. Tickets are \$20 in the Doris Duke Theatre. One ticket per person; each guest must show valid I.D. when picking up tickets at Will Call.

Tickets are on sale now; online at jacobspillow.org, via phone 413.243.0745, and at the Jacob's Pillow Box Office at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223.

ALSO THIS WEEK

Dorrance Dance

Ted Shawn Theatre, July 4-8

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm

Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm

“One of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today,” (*The New Yorker*) Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award winner and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow Michelle Dorrance returns, marking Dorrance Dance’s fifth Festival engagement in six years. This Festival fan-favorite “pushes the boundaries of tap while exposing its true nature: that it is music” (*The New York Times*).

The iconic tap troupe will perform their newest, groundbreaking work *Myelination*, featuring an original live score by Donovan Dorrance and Gregory Richardson with vocals by eclectic soul vocalist Aaron Marcellus, and a world premiere commissioned by Jacob’s Pillow, rooted in solo tap work. The world premiere was developed in part through a residency at the Pillow Lab and is made possible by the support of Jim Chervenak. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Inside/Out Performance Series: Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

Wednesday, July 18 at 6:15pm

Thursday, July 19 at 6pm at Pittsfield’s Third Thursday in the Dance Zone

FREE; LIVE MUSIC

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company returns to the Inside/Out stage for the second time, just before they bring traditional Mexican folklorico to downtown Pittsfield’s Third Thursday on July 19. Celebrating the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through its unique artistic vision, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company performs as a family of dancers, musicians, and teachers—named after the Aztec word for clan (Calpulli). They present excerpts of the work *Boda Mexicana* (Mexican Wedding), compiling over 15 years of the company’s repertoire to tell a story that spans time and place by bringing together native and Hispanic celebrations and rituals.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Breton Follies

Thursday, July 19 at 6:15pm

FREE

One of New York City’s most celebrated on-the rise immersive dance theater companies, Breton Follies is the incubator for in-house choreographer Breton Tyner-Bryan, a CUNY 2018 Artist in Residence, New York Theater Barn Choreography Lab recipient for new musicals, AMDA commissioned artist, and Chance to Dance contest finalist at Jacob’s Pillow. With a cinematic approach to movement, the company’s vernacular is rooted in classical ballet, cabaret, and latin rhythms, while honoring the style and sounds of 1940s–1970s musical theater. Celebrating the female form while debunking behavioral expectations based on gender, this program explores humanity as expressed through the characters that inhabit the world of Breton Follies.

PillowTalk: *Launching the Pillow Lab*

Friday, July 20 at 5pm

Blake’s Barn

FREE

A central focus of the Pillow’s new year-round activities is the Pillow Lab, offering research and creative time to dance artists, some of whom discuss its impact.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Wylliams/Henry Dance Company

Friday, July 20 at 6:15pm

FREE

Hailed as one of the most captivating dance troupes in the Midwest, The Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company (WHDC) proudly calls Kansas City home. Known for its diverse artists,

the company's mission is to present the best of American contemporary dance through exposure to nationally renowned and emerging artists. WHCDC has a bold, athletic style with repertoire ranging from the lyrical to the avant garde. The company does not shy away from using dance as a vehicle to address social issues to spark perspective and speak to the human spirit. Performances are given in both conventional and non-traditional spaces to introduce contemporary dance to audiences in urban and rural communities.

PillowTalk: *Dance We Must*

Saturday, July 21 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

A current exhibit at the Williams College Museum of Art focuses on Jacob's Pillow's extensive collections of costumes, sets, and other artifacts, discussed here by the curators.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program

Saturday, July 21 at 6:15pm

FREE

Dancers of the Contemporary Program are apprentices, advanced pre-professionals, and early-career professionals from leading dance companies and training centers around the world. They will present choreography set on them by Ronald K. Brown, Founder and Artistic Director of EVIDENCE.

Program Director Milton Myers guest teaches and choreographs internationally, and is on faculty at The Ailey School and The Juilliard School. Joining him to coach and mentor the dancers during their second week of study in the Perles Family Studio are: Deborah Wingert, prize-winning choreographer, ballet teacher and lecturer; Aya Kaneko, School alumna and Myers assistant; and John Levis, Music Director.

Sunay Master Class: Cie Art Move Concept

Sunday, July 22 at 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Artists of Cie Art Move Concept will teach a 90-minute master class open to all intermediate and advanced dancers ages 16 and over. Quiet observation is welcome; \$15 per class or \$80 for a 6-class card. Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver.

Pre-registration is required at jacobspillow.org.

Special Workshop: Tap with Dorrance Dance

Sunday, July 22 at 11:30am

Take a 90 minute tap class with an artist of Dorrance Dance. For all tap experience levels ages 16+; Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver. *\$20/class; pre-registration required.*

FESTIVAL 2018 EXHIBITS & ARCHIVES—ONGOING

Gotta Dance, Too!

Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26

Open Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tues noon to 5pm; FREE

This select group of original movie posters follows up on the hugely popular 2014 *Gotta Dance* exhibit with a different set of rarities from the collection of award-winning design director Mike Kaplan. More than 75 vintage posters feature classic films and stars like Fred Astaire, Josephine Baker, Gene Kelly, and other screen legends, excitingly illustrated in vibrant color.

Dance of the Ages

Ted Shawn Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26

Open 60 minutes prior to every performance

FREE

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of *Dance of the Ages*, a culminating achievement by Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, this exhibit also highlights a full reconstruction of the work to be performed by Adam H. Weinert at Jacob's Pillow, September 21-23. The exhibit features images, memorabilia, and costumes from the original 1938 production, many on view for the first time.

Paramodernities/Revelations

Doris Duke Theatre Lobby, June 20-August 26

Open 60 minutes prior to every performance

FREE

Netta Yerushalmy has created a new performance work entitled *Paramodernities* with its premiere on deconstructing classic dances by pioneering choreographers. Historic Pillow images from one of these, Alvin Ailey's iconic *Revelations*, are displayed here and juxtaposed with Christopher Duggan's new photos and text from Yerushalmy's 2018 re-examination, premiering August 8-12.

Jacob's Pillow Archives/Norton Owen Reading Room

Blake's Barn, June 20-August 26

Open daily, Wed-Sat noon to final curtain (approx. 10pm) and Sun-Tue noon to 5pm

FREE

This spacious, informal library and reading room allows impromptu 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 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.

Collaborative Exhibit at Williams College Museum of Art

Dance We Must: Treasures from Jacob's Pillow, 1906-1940

June 29-November 11

FREE

The Williams College Museum of Art has created an eye-popping new exhibit with costumes, set pieces, and other historic artifacts from the collections at Jacob's Pillow. On view through November 20, this exhibit offers a rare chance to see items from the dawn of American modern dance, tracing the evolution of this contemporary art form. *More information at wcma.williams.edu*

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 86th Festival in 2018. 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. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and over 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs. The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S., encompasses the

diverse disciplines of Ballet, Contemporary, Musical Theatre Dance, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Gaga in 2018). 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. For more information, visit www.jacobspillow.org.

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