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**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE AWARD WINNER FAYE DRISCOLL
RETURNS TO DORIS DUKE THEATRE WITH
*THANK YOU FOR COMING: PLAY, AUGUST 1-5***

July 23, 2018 – (Becket, MA) 2018 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient Faye Driscoll returns to the Doris Duke Theatre August 1-5 with the second installment of her *Thank You For Coming* trilogy. *Play*, an ensemble work praised as a "tour de force of performance and direction" (Brian Seibert, *The New York Times*), explores the connection, complication, and alienation embedded in the stories we tell, re-tell, remember, and forget.

"Last summer, Faye Driscoll delighted and surprised audiences with the first installment of her Thank You For Coming Series, blurring the lines between audience and performer in a gentle and humorous way. She was awarded the 2018 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award because of the important questions she is asking as an artist/philosopher. We're thrilled to present the next installment of *Thank You For Coming* to continue our journey into her world," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

Driscoll's *Thank You For Coming* series poses performance as a ritual act where we sense that we do not exist in a vacuum. Through it, she challenges the notion of what a traditional theater space is by pulling the audience in and giving them their own role.

In this strange and enthralling collage of gesture, image, voice, and persona, where the physical and aural exist in a slippery relationship, performers ventriloquize, shape-shift, and speak through and for each other. Caroline Palmer of *The Minneapolis Star Tribune* calls *Thank You For Coming: Play*, "antic, often hilarious physical storytelling." Driscoll herself describes it as "a mind game" where she deconstructs and reconstructs gestures, body language, and speech to study human communication.

"Performers sing, fight, frolic and make love in bursts, like rapid fire flip-books of human emotion," Driscoll says of her work. "Awkward virtuosic bodies teeter on the edge of high art and slapstick. A viewer might experience a roller coaster of joy, outrage, arousal and discomfort ... Embarrassment and exhilaration live side by side."

In the *Thank You For Coming* series, Driscoll extends the sphere of influence of performance, creating a communal space where everything is questioned, heightened, and palpable. Praised by Wendy Perron of *Dance Magazine* as "the most engaging performance I've seen in a long time," the *Thank You For Coming* trilogy's two current iterations have been commissioned and presented nationally and internationally by acclaimed presenters over the past four years, including Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project.

About Faye Driscoll

Faye Driscoll is a Bessie Award-winning performance maker who has been hailed as a “startlingly original talent” (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*) and “a postmillenium postmodern wild woman” (Deborah Jowitt, *The Village Voice*). *Thank You For Coming* is the umbrella title for a series of works that Driscoll began creating in 2012. Her work has been presented nationally at the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, The Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston, MCA/Chicago, and BAM/Brooklyn Academy of Music and internationally at La Biennale di Venezia, Festival d’Automne à Paris, Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, Melbourne Festival, Belfast International Arts Festival, Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens, and Centro de Arte Experimental (Universidad Nacional de San Martín) in Buenos Aires. Driscoll has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Creative Capital award, a NEFA National Dance Project Award, MAP Fund Grant, a French-US Exchange in Dance Grant, Jerome Foundation Grant, a Foundation for Contemporary Art Grant, a Doris Duke Artist Award, and a US Artists Doris Duke Fellowship. She recently choreographed for Young Jean Lee’s *Straight White Men* on Broadway and for *Madeline’s Madeline* a film, currently in theaters, by Josephine Decker. The third and final part of Driscoll’s *Thank You For Coming* series will premiere in Peak Performances at Montclair State University in April 2019. All three works will come together in a culminating event in 2020.

Jacob’s Pillow Connections

Faye Driscoll is the 2018 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award Winner, a prestigious award recognizing her influence as a choreographer and performer. Driscoll was a student of the Modern Traditions Workshop in The School at Jacob’s Pillow in 1994. As a performer, Driscoll toured with Doug Varone & Dancers, performing with them at the Pillow in 2001. She made her Pillow debut as a choreographer in 2017 with the work *Thank You For Coming: Attendance*.

Related videos on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive:

Faye Driscoll in Thank You For Coming: Attendance in 2017:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/faye-driscoll/thank-coming-attendance/>

PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

Faye Driscoll

Doris Duke Theatre, August 1-5

Wednesday-Saturday at 8:15pm;

Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm

GA \$35

A limited number of \$20 Under 35 tickets are available; adults ages 18-35 are eligible. One ticket per person; each guest must show valid I.D. when picking up tickets at Will Call.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

August 1-5, Wednesday-Saturday at 8pm; Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 2pm

Ted Shawn Theatre

On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, world-renowned Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC) returns to Jacob’s Pillow with a diverse program featuring today’s leading contemporary choreographers including Crystal Pite, resident choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo, and founder Lou

Conte, among others. Praised as a “near-perfect storm of movement, music, and choreography” (*Los Angeles Times*), HSDC brings an eclectic repertoire performed by an impeccably strong, technically-driven ensemble of dancers to the Ted Shawn Theatre. An audience favorite since their Pillow debut in 1983, HSDC has performed at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in more than a dozen seasons. *Tickets start at \$45.*

Related videos on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive:

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in N.N.N.N. in 2016: <https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/hubbard-street-dance-chicago/n-n-n-n/>

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in Nine Sinatra Songs in 1993:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/hubbard-street-dance-chicago/nine-sinatra-songs/>

Inside/Out Performance Series: Kinetic Light

Wednesday, August 1 at 6:15pm

FREE

Working in the disciplines of art, design, architecture, and social justice, Kinetic Light creates, performs, and teaches at the intersections of disability, dance, and race. They present the work *Under Momentum*, which celebrates the joy of being in continuous motion, the allure of speed, and the beautiful futility of resisting gravity. Performed on and around a set of exquisitely engineered ramps, this program of solos and duets ranges through explorations of balance, stillness, and falls as Kinetic Light’s disabled dancers release into the forces of acceleration, gravity, and torque. Dynamic grace and athleticism are on full display in these works. Extraordinary partnering facilitated by the dynamic combination of slopes and wheels reveal the power of trust and the emotionally compelling relationships of bodies and technology.

Monica Bill Barnes & Company in *Happy Hour*

August 2-4, Thursday 5pm & 9pm; Friday 9pm; Saturday 5pm

Sommers Studio

Monica Bill Barnes & Company transforms Sommers Studio into an after-work office party hosted by company member Robbie Saenz de Viteri with a karaoke machine and dime store decor. Dressed in a pair of everyday men’s suits, Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass hijack the party playing two instantly familiar guys. It’s a subversive move, leading audiences to question our expectations of women on stage, with a free drink in their hands and microwave popcorn in the air. *The New York Times* lauds, “like all good happy hours this one has plentiful munchies and libations. And like the best ones, it offers abundant laughter.” *Happy Hour* continues Monica Bill Barnes & Company’s mission to bring dance where it doesn’t belong. *Tickets \$35.*

Weekend OUT

August 3-5

Our annual LGBTQIA+ celebration includes free events, a historical tour honoring Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, a Trey McIntyre film hosted by McIntyre himself, a special performance by dancer/poet Ian Spencer Bell, and a Saturday night dance party hosted by Tyler Ashley, The Dauphine of Bushwick.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Boston Dance Theater

Thursday, August 2 at 6:15pm

FREE

Under the co-artistic direction of Jessie Jeanne Stinnett and award-winning, Dutch-Israeli choreographer Itzik Galili, Boston Dance Theater (BDT) is Boston's first contemporary dance repertory company with international ties at the leadership level. With a commitment to presenting works of socio-political relevance that challenge the edges of current world issues, BDT matches the talents of Boston-based dancers with those of acclaimed global choreographers in a tour de force of performative dynamism, community connection, and trans-national ambassadorship.

The program includes *Deeper Inscription* (working title), a new quintet by New York City-based Sidra Bell, that frames the female body as a radical kaleidoscope with the capacity to create common ground for a shared movement vocabulary. BDT also performs Yin Yue's *Today for Now*, set to the music of iconic singer/songwriter Janis Joplin. This new work explores a meeting of inner sensitivity and outward wildness. Vigorously physical and unapologetically loud, the work unveils a tribe of dancers tasked with driving one another forward as they join forces to celebrate an unbroken lineage of upstanding women.

PillowTalk: Award-Winning Faye Driscoll

Friday, August 3 at 5pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

Recipient of this year's coveted Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, choreographer Faye Driscoll recounts her journey from Pillow student in 1994 to acclaimed artist today.

Inside/Out Performance Series: Chance to Dance Contest Winner IndianRaga

Friday, August 3 at 6:15pm

FREE

IndianRaga, based in Cambridge, MA, is devoted to presenting high-quality Indian classical dance to a wider audience. The company provides a platform for artists across the U.S. and the world to collaborate across styles and reach audiences through a unique online platform. They are the winners of Jacob's Pillow's 2018 Chance to Dance viewers' choice contest, a crowd-sourced online competition that allows dance fans from around the world have a say in who gets to perform as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series; they received over 1,000 online votes.

PillowTalk: 40 Years of Hubbard Street

Saturday, August 4 at 4pm

Blake's Barn

FREE

In celebration of the company's 40th anniversary, dance critics and longtime observers reflect on many memorable appearances since their 1983 Jacob's Pillow debut, with video highlights.

Special Workshop: Class with Monica Bill Barnes

Saturday, August 4 at 10am

Ruth St. Denis Studio

Monica Bill Barnes steps out of her *Happy Hour* performance for this special workshop. *For intermediate/advanced dancers ages 16+; \$20/class; pre-registration required.* Participants younger than 18 will require a parent/guardian's signature on a liability waiver.

Inside/Out Performance Series: The School at Jacob's Pillow Musical Theatre Dance Program

Saturday, August 4 at 6:15pm

FREE

Performers studying in the Musical Theatre Dance Program are participating in the development of a new musical being created by Director/Choreographer Chet Walker, Playwright Shaun McKenna, and Composer/Lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Tonight's presentation features numbers created on The School's performers for *Boy on the Roof*, following a week in the Perles Family Studio.

Join us August 19 for *Gotta Dance: New Faces for Broadway*, a benefit for The School at Jacob's Pillow held in the Ted Shawn Theatre. This performance, directed by Chet Walker and his team of assistants and collaborators, is the result of The School's performers creating original numbers at the same fast pace and rigor required to audition for and mount Broadway productions.

Sunday Master Class: Faye Driscoll

Sunday, August 5, 10am

Doris Duke Theatre

Faye Driscoll and artists 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 Weekend OUT Performance: Ian Spencer Bell

Sunday, August 5 at 1:15pm

Sommers Studio

FREE

Ian Spencer Bell performs the brief prelude *Ode to Billy Joe and Marrow*, a deeply moving solo set to original poems about Bell's experience growing up queer in Virginia, in Sommers Studio as a special performance during Weekend OUT. *Limited capacity.*

Sunday Film Series: *Gravity Hero*

Sunday, August 5 at 4:30pm

Blake's Barn

Explore the work of Trey McIntyre, from one of America's most celebrated dance careers to the decision to close down his wildly successful dance company. McIntyre personally hosts this screening of his new film, a poignant chronicle of what led him to an impossible decision, and the terrifying, thrilling, liberating outcome. *Tickets \$10.*

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 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 11, 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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