



NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS | NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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**Jacob's Pillow Invites Audiences Into
the Development of the Reimagined Doris Duke Theatre
with New In-Depth Film**

**6-Minute Film Explores the Innovative Performance Space
Scheduled to Open in the Berkshires in 2025
with New Interviews, Renderings, and Animations**

July 31, 2024 (BECKET, Mass.)—Jacob's Pillow is excited to invite fans into the development of their reimagined Doris Duke Theatre with the release of a new film that offers a substantive update on the bold new theater and makerspace for dance scheduled to open in 2025 on the site of the original Doris Duke Theatre, at the organization's historic site in the Berkshires.

The film details key design decisions that have shaped this visionary project, and provides a bold visual look at the new building's advanced technological capabilities, flexible performance spaces, and sustainable and accessible design.

The video is available to watch online at jacobspillow.org/duke, alongside design renderings, 360-degree virtual reality views, and details on the new building's capital campaign: *Dance Unleashed*. Renderings can also be downloaded directly, for press use, from Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UOo33TPb-DN7GzkYbUwg9AqrsBLIjlqG?usp=sharing>

"This initiative sets out to impact the future of dance, both here on our historic campus and across the globe," explains Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director Pamela Tatge in the film. "For over 90 years, Jacob's Pillow has been a sanctuary for dance, where artists, scholars, and dance enthusiasts gather to celebrate the art form. As we look ahead to our second

century, this new theater amplifies our commitment to being a global crossroads for dance, fostering creativity, community, and digital exploration in an increasingly interconnected world.”

The new Duke Theatre’s versatile black box space is intended as an enhanced haven for artists, according to Tatge. “This flexible design will support a wide range of artistic expressions, from immersive experiences at the intersection of dance and technology to in-the-round performances, opening the doors to endless creative possibilities.”

The film also includes commentary from Sydney Skybetter—a choreographer and design consultant on the project who works closely with innovative dance artists who are integrating emerging technologies such as AI, VR, and robotics into their dancemaking—and from Vincent Vigilante, Director of Facilities at Jacob’s Pillow. This coming fall, Jacob’s Pillow expects to make first announcements about the artists and events that compose the building’s inaugural season of programming, planned for 2025.

A HUB FOR GLOBAL DANCE, BY A WORLD-CLASS DESIGN TEAM

Netherlands-based architecture firm Mecanoo, led by their renowned Creative Director and Founding Partner Francine Houben, is serving as the lead architect for the new building project, in partnership with New York-based architecture firm Marvel as the U.S.-based architect of record and landscape designer. Theater, acoustic, and experience consultants Charcoalblue are supporting the project. Jeffrey Gibson, Choctaw/Cherokee, is serving as a consultant on the building’s relationship to the site and Indigenous values, a key element of the building’s design.

The design of the new Doris Duke Theatre will embrace the Pillow’s diverse history to create an accessible and inclusive space for dance, dialogue, collaboration, and education. The new building will maintain the intimacy of the original studio theater—which was lost to fire in November 2020—while incorporating a digital backbone. The ability for the facility to adapt to different programmatic needs as well as future technical upgrades will be key to the theater’s purpose as a makerspace and digital lab, and will ensure long-term resiliency and growth.

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, the Jacob's Pillow Dance 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, 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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