



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 Presents  
Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca  
in Their First Festival Appearance in 22 Years**

**KanKouran West African Dance Company, kNonAme Artist/Roderick George, and  
The School at Jacob's Pillow Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble  
Present One-Night-Only Performances**

**Roderick George to Receive the First-Ever Jacob's Pillow Men Dancers Award**

July 18, 2024 (BECKET, Mass.)— Week 8 of this summer's Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival will feature beloved New York-based flamenco artists Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca, who will perform at the Festival for the first time since 2002. Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca will appear for five days in the historic Ted Shawn Theatre, from Wednesday, August 14 through Sunday, August 18. The program is a showcase for the work of Martín Santangelo and Bessie-award winning dancer and choreographer Soledad Barrio, and will feature their newest work, *Searching for Goya* (2023), which is inspired by the transformative art of Spanish romantic painter Francisco de Goya, as it references the prolific Spanish artist's response to the turbulent social and political changes occurring in the world around him.

Week 8 of the Festival will also include powerful performances on the Henry J. Leir Stage. KanKouran West African Dance Company from Washington, D.C. will perform on Wednesday, August 14, sharing uplifting dances that blend U.S. and West African traditions and practices.

On Thursday, August 15, Jacob's Pillow will present American dancer and choreographer Roderick George and his company, kNonAme Artist, in their Jacob's Pillow debut. As part of this appearance, George will receive the inaugural Jacob's Pillow Men Dancers Award, which is given

to a choreographer of any gender expression who creates an innovative work that is to be performed by men dancers at Jacob's Pillow, in honor of Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers. kNonAme Artist will perform excerpts of *The Missing Fruit* and *Venom*, which examine the effects of racial and public health violence in relation to BIPOC communities, adapted for the Pillow's outdoor stage.

The final performance of Week 8 on the Henry J. Leir Stage will showcase *The School At Jacob's Pillow Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble*, directed by program directors Sekou McMiller, Luis Salgado, and Karla Puno Garcia. In addition, this outdoor performance will be offered as a free livestream as part of this summer Jacob's Pillow Live series, allowing audiences everywhere to tune in and enjoy the performance. All tickets for the one-night-only performances on the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage are based on a "Choose What You Pay" model.

"It is exciting to welcome Noche Flamenca back to Jacob's Pillow after more than 20 years," said Pamela Tatge, Executive and Artistic Director at Jacob's Pillow. "This performance features all of their signature elements: the incomparable Soledad Barrio, the spellbinding footwork of their dancers, virtuosic musicians, and dramatic flair. Also this week, we are thrilled to host Roderick George's debut at Jacob's Pillow. He danced here with Cedar Lake in 2006 and has had a remarkable career in Europe since then. He is one of the most important new choreographers on the scene today, and it is for this reason that he will receive our inaugural Men Dancers Award."

Jacob's Pillow is pleased to offer free, family-oriented programming for the community. Jacob's Pillow's annual Community Day will take place on Friday, August 16, with family-friendly afternoon activities and tours around the campus. Later that evening at 6pm, audiences will gather for a free performance on the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage, featuring Berkshire-region artists Eventual Dance Company, Luana Dias David, and student dancers from Berkshire Hills Music Academy.

On Saturday, August 17, a PillowTalk will be held in Blake's Barn featuring Noche Flamenca's Artistic Director, Martín Santangelo, and Anne Leonard, a curator at the Clark Art Institute, discussing the synergy between visual art and dance. On Sunday, August 18, a Workshop with Festival Artists of Noche Flamenca will take place as they teach Soledad Barrio's language in movement technique. Workshops are open to participants ages 16+.

## **ABOUT SOLEDAD BARRIO & NOCHE FLAMENCA**

Bessie Award-winning dancer and choreographer Soledad Barrio and her husband, artistic director and choreographer Martín Santangelo, formed Noche Flamenca in 1993 in Madrid, Spain. Alastair Macaulay wrote for *The New York Times* that “there has been no company I have been so glad to discover as Noche Flamenca and, above all, its lead dancer, Soledad Barrio. I can think of no current ballet star in the world as marvelous as she.”

Flamenco is rooted in dance, song, and music traditions from Sephardic Jews, North African people, and Roma people from Andalusia. It is a form that is, in the company’s words, “born of ancestral cultural repression and racial expulsion.” Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca’s mission combines onstage performance with educational outreach and residencies to educate people of all backgrounds, and ultimately “evoke in them the vivid and expansive sea of passion and emotion that is flamenco.”

After two back-to-back Pillow seasons in 2000 and 2001, Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca’s performance in Festival 2024 marks the company’s long-awaited return. The program will include an excerpt of their newest work, *Searching for Goya* (2023), inspired by the transformative art of Francisco de Goya, as it references the prolific Spanish artist’s response to the turbulent social and political changes occurring in the world around him, its relevance to our present times, and its revelations of human nature. Hailed by critics around the world, Noche Flamenca performs regular seasons in New York City, including at Lincoln Center, The Joyce Theater, Joe’s Pub at The Public Theater, and at its home base at the West Park Presbyterian Church. The company has received awards from the National Dance Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Bessies, and *Dance Magazine*, among many others.

**Related content on Jacob’s Pillow Dance Interactive:**

**Noche Flamenca, 2000:**

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/noche-flamenca/20420/>

**ABOUT KANKOURAN WEST AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY**

A beloved home for West African dance in Washington, D.C., KanKouran comes to Jacob’s Pillow this summer after celebrating their 40th anniversary last year. The company—whose members are from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean—is dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional West African culture.

KanKouran was formed by Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. The company’s wide-ranging appeal and sense of community has made it a creative cornerstone for generations of dancers, students, and

musicians who have studied with KanKouran over the decades. While KanKouran has performed at venues including The Kennedy Center, National Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and a myriad of universities, this will be their Jacob's Pillow debut.

### **ABOUT KNONAME ARTIST / RODERICK GEORGE**

Founded in Berlin and now based in New York, kNonAme Artist is the company created by Roderick George, an accomplished American dancer and choreographer who has performed with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and abroad with Basel Ballet/Theater Basel in Switzerland, GöteborgsOperans Danskompani in Sweden, and The Forsythe Company in Frankfurt, Germany.

At the Pillow, George will present an excerpt of *The Missing Fruit* and *Venom*. *Venom* is a work inspired by the lasting impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the present erasure of the LGBTQIA+ community, exposing how the queer community faced silencing, isolation, being forced into hiding, and death through fear, media, and 'God's reckoning,' while at the same time finding ways to uplift each other using the underground nightlife as a sanctuary. *The Missing Fruit* explores how the manifestation of racial and public health violence affects Black Americans and other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities through an interdisciplinary artistic production rooted in contemporary dance.

George is the recipient of the inaugural Jacob's Pillow Men Dancers Award, given to a choreographer of any gender expression who creates an innovative work that is to be performed by men dancers at Jacob's Pillow, in honor of Jacob's Pillow founder Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers.

### **ABOUT THE SCHOOL AT JACOB'S PILLOW MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE**

Performances by The School at Jacob's Pillow Performance Ensembles provide an inside look at The School experience and feature repertoire created on the dancers by leading choreographers who serve as program faculty. This performance is a culmination of the 2024 Musical Theatre Program, led by Choreographer/Directors Sekou McMiller, Luis Salgado, and Karla Puno Garcia.

Dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow are apprentices, trainees, pre-professionals, and early-career professionals from around the world. The School's professional advancement programs are held onsite during the Festival to nurture the artistic voices and growth of the next generation of dance artists.

## PERFORMANCE & TICKET DETAILS

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

### **Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca – Indoor Program**

August 14-18; Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8pm; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2pm  
Ted Shawn Theatre | Tickets from \$65

### **KanKouran West African Dance Company – Outdoor Program**

Wednesday, August 14 at 6 pm  
Henry J. Leir Stage | Choose What You Pay; Rain or Shine Tickets from \$35

### **kNonAme Artist/Roderick George – Outdoor Program**

Thursday, August 15 at 6 pm  
Henry J. Leir Stage | Choose What You Pay; Rain or Shine Tickets from \$35

### **The School at Jacob’s Pillow Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble– Outdoor Program**

Saturday, August 17 at 6 pm  
Henry J. Leir Stage | Choose What You Pay; Rain or Shine Tickets from \$35

*Can’t make it in-person? Join us for the **FREE livestream** of The School at Jacob’s Pillow Contemporary performance at 6pm.*

<https://stream.jacobspillow.org/schoolcontemporary24>

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

### **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

### **Community Day**

Friday, August 16 from 3-6pm | FREE

Everyone is invited to this kid-friendly, all-ages Friday afternoon, featuring movement classes as well as dance-themed children's activities and tours. At 6pm, the outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage will present Berkshire-region dance artists.

### **Artists of the Berkshires**

Friday, August 16 at 6pm

Henry J. Leir Stage | FREE

The outdoor Henry J. Leir Stage hosts Berkshire Regional Artists for a special one-day-only performance as part of Jacob's Pillow's annual Community Day. Tickets to this performance and all Community Day programs are free. Performance will feature works from Eventual Dance Company, Luana Davis David, and students of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy.

### **PillowTalk: Searching for Goya**

Saturday, August 17 at 4pm

Blake's Barn | FREE

Noche Flamenca's Martín Santangelo consulted with prominent art curators in conceptualizing the company's *Searching for Goya*, and this discussion pairs Santangelo with Anne Leonard, the Clark Art Institute's Manton Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, to focus on the synergy between visual art and dance.

### **Workshop with Festival Artists: Noche Flamenca**

Sunday, August 18 from 10-11:30am

Open to all dance experience levels, ages 16+

Join Soledad Barrio in this workshop focused on corporal and footwork technique, followed by a choreographed sequence. Wear comfortable clothing and hard soled shoes or sneakers; no bare feet, please.

## **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. *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).

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