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**Jacob's Pillow Expands Year-Round Programming
To Include First-Ever Spring Season
And New Online Dance Education Courses**

**Renowned artists Irene Rodríguez and Hari Krishnan's inDANCE
will present works in the newly-opened Doris Duke Theatre**

**The School at Jacob's Pillow, under the direction of Gerald Casel,
launches its digital education program for dance audiences with two
online courses, led by esteemed dance experts Wendy Perron and Kate Mattingly**

Performance tickets now on sale; course registration now open

[View season artists and online leaders](#)

February 3, 2026 (BECKET, Mass.)—Jacob's Pillow is pleased to announce its inaugural spring season, featuring two weekends of fully-produced performances in the newly opened Doris Duke Theatre. The Pillow will present the world premiere of Compañía Irene Rodríguez's *Flamenco Soul*, as well as the Pillow debut of Hari Krishnan's *ROWDIES IN LOVE* performed by inDANCE, developed in part during a Pillow Lab. Tickets are now on sale to the general public at jacobspillow.org.

Compañía Irene Rodríguez will perform *Flamenco Soul* from Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26. In this intimate and magnetic solo dance performance, accompanied by live music from a three-person ensemble, Rodríguez will exhibit a nonstop energy and virtuosic power, with surround seating and state-of-the-art acoustics immersing audiences in the rhythm and passion of these renowned artists.



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The following weekend, Hari Krishnan and his company inDANCE will return to Jacob's Pillow from Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3, to present *ROWDIES IN LOVE*, a vibrant, sensual work for eight male contemporary dancers that was developed in part during a 2024 Pillow Lab residency. Featuring an inventive, rigorous movement vocabulary that unites the Indian classical dance form Bharatanatyam with contemporary dance from queer, global perspectives, the evening-length exploration of love is set to an innovative modern soundscape by award-winning composer Niraj Chag.

“Cuban-born Irene Rodríguez is a thrilling choreographer and performer who has wowed Pillow audiences for nearly a decade as a true force of nature on stage,” said Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director Pamela Tatge. “And Hari Krishnan is making work that is unlike anyone else's, queering Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance with a new vocabulary that's all his own. We look forward to welcoming them and their companies back to the Pillow for two unforgettable performance weekends.”

In addition to these spring performances, Jacob's Pillow will launch two newly-developed online dance courses: **Dance History 101** and **Experiencing Dance**.

The first of Jacob's Pillow's new online courses, **Dance History 101**, will run from March 17 through April 21. Led by Pillow alum, renowned dance writer, and former editor of *Dance Magazine* Wendy Perron, with additional special guest speakers to be announced, the course will explore key moments in the history of dance in the United States, drawing on rich and diverse resources from the Jacob's Pillow Archives. Participants will engage in guided discussions, shared viewings, and optional readings while examining forms ranging from modern, contemporary, and postmodern dance to ballet, tap, jazz, and dances of identity. Along the way, the course will center various artistic and choreographic voices, featuring artists such as Alvin Ailey, Bill T. Jones, Eiko Otake, George Balanchine, Joanna Haigood, José Limón, Kinetic Light, Loie Fuller, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Savion Glover, Ted Shawn and Ruth St. Denis, and Trisha Brown.

The second of Jacob's Pillow's new online courses, **Experiencing Dance**, will run from April 28 through June 2. The course will be led by dance educator Kate Mattingly, Ph.D., a Pillow alum who serves as assistant professor of dance at Old Dominion University and is author of *Shaping Dance Canons*. Experiencing Dance will examine distinct approaches to experiencing and



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interpreting dance as an audience member, drawing from the work of artists featured in Jacob's Pillow's upcoming Festival 2026 programming. Designed for life-long learners who want to deepen their dance-going experience, the course will explore how meaning is shaped by aesthetics, artists' intentions, and the historical, political, cultural, and social contexts in which performances are created, archived, and accessed.

Both courses will consist of weekly 90-minute sessions held on Tuesdays at 6pm Eastern and are open to dance enthusiasts, students, scholars, and patrons of all backgrounds. No prior dance experience in dance is required, making this an ideal entry point for anyone interested in enhancing their relationship to dance. Registration is now open at jacobspillow.org.

"For decades, Jacob's Pillow has deepened public appreciation of dance through our audience engagement programs," said Tatge. "We are expanding our education offerings by providing more online, ensuring that audiences around the world can connect with the art of dance enhanced by the resources of the Jacob's Pillow Archives. It's a natural extension of the work that we have done for our in person audiences and expands our year-round educational offerings of The School at Jacob's Pillow."

TICKETED PERFORMANCE & ONLINE COURSE DETAILS

Tickets are on sale now; online at jacobspillow.org

Compañía Irene Rodríguez: *Flamenco Soul*

April 24-26; Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm
Doris Duke Theatre | General Admission | Tickets at \$81.50 including fees
Refreshments available at the Doris Duke Theatre Bar
Pre-show talk: 20 minutes before each performance
Post-show talk: following Saturday night performance

inDANCE: *ROWDIES IN LOVE*

May 1-3; Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm; Saturday and Sunday at 2pm
Doris Duke Theatre at Jacob's Pillow | Assigned Seating | Tickets from \$61.50 including fees
Refreshments available at the Doris Duke Theatre Bar
Pre-show talk: 20 minutes before each performance



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Post-show talk: following Saturday night performance

Dance History 101, led by Wendy Perron

March 17 – April 21; Weekly 90-minute sessions on Tuesdays @ 6pm ET

Virtual | Registration deadline on March 1 | Pricing: \$300 per participant for 6 sessions

Experiencing Dance, led by Kate Mattingly

April 28 – June 2; Weekly 90-minute sessions on Tuesdays @ 6pm ET

Virtual | Registration deadline on April 1 | Pricing: \$300 per participant for 6 sessions

ABOUT COMPAÑÍA IRENE RODRÍGUEZ

Founded in Havana in 2012, Compañía Irene Rodríguez has emerged as a vital force shaping the evolution of flamenco and Spanish dance in Cuba and beyond. Under the direction of principal dancer and award-winning choreographer Irene Rodríguez, the company forges a distinctive choreographic language rooted in classical Spanish dance and flamenco, showcasing contemporary movement, theatricality, and Cuban musical and cultural traditions. This fusion of tradition and modernity has earned the company recognition around the world, as well as appearances on major stages including Lincoln Center, New York City Center, The Joyce Theater, the Kennedy Center, and at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, where the company appeared in 2017 and 2019. At Jacob's Pillow, Rodríguez has also performed in the annual Gala in 2020 and 2022 and the Doris Duke Theatre opening program in 2025.

A longtime educator, festival director, and artistic leader named “an intense, exacting dancer” by *The New York Times*, Irene Rodríguez has worked extensively with Ballet Nacional de Cuba and as a choreographer with U.S. companies such as Kansas City Ballet and Dayton Performing Arts Alliance. In 2018, she was awarded the Orden de Isabel la Católica, one of Spain's highest civilian honors, and the following year she served as Director of the Flamenco and Spanish Dance Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow. Now based in the United States, she continues to tour internationally, advancing a flamenco aesthetic that is unapologetically contemporary and unmistakably her own.



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Watch clips on Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive.

Compañía Irene Rodríguez, 2017:

<https://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org/compania-irene-rodriguez/pena-negra/>

ABOUT HARI KRISHNAN/inDANCE

Hari Krishnan is a choreographer, dancer, scholar, and educator who is currently a professor in the department of dance at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Described as a “maverick gadfly [who] scoffs at tradition, turns things upside down and shakes out all the cobwebs” (*Toronto Star*), Krishnan is a Bessie and Dora Award-nominated dance artist whose choreography is technically rigorous, subversive, political, and fused with contemporary sensibilities. He recently received a Guggenheim Fellowship (2024), a Jacob's Pillow Lab Residency (2024), Wesleyan's Provost Research Award (2023) and a National Dance Project Grant (2022).

inDANCE is a progressive dance company whose works span a large range of choreographic styles, from Bharatanatyam to contemporary dance from global perspectives. Led by artistic director Hari Krishnan, inDANCE disrupts the familiar and pioneers work that is unique, producing eccentric, sensual, and virtuosic dance that provokes and entertains. *The New York Times* has described the company's “scorching” performances as “a raucous blend of classical steps, both Western and Indian.”

Watch *Inside the Pillow Lab* on Jacob's Pillow On Demand.

Hari Krishnan/inDANCE:

<https://watch.jacobspillow.org/detail/videos/inside-the-pillow-lab-film-series/video/6352063757112?autoStart=true>

ABOUT WENDY PERRON

Wendy Perron is a dancer, choreographer turned writer, educator, historian, and curator. A member of the Trisha Brown Company in the 1970s, she choreographed 40+ works for her own group. Wendy has taught dance composition, technique, improvisation, or dance history at Bennington College, Princeton University, Rutgers University, SUNY Purchase, Jacob's Pillow, and



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an MFA graduate seminar at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has also taught workshops and lectured internationally. In addition to *Dance Magazine*, where she was Editor in Chief from 2004 to 2013, she has written for *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Dance Index*, and journals in Europe and China. As Associate Director of Jacob's Pillow in the early 1990s, she co-directed the International Improvisation Workshop. Perron returned last summer to curate a major exhibit celebrating archivist Norton Owen's 50 years at the Pillow. The "Dance Historian Is In" series at the NY Public Library for the Performing Arts has invited her to give lectures on four different subjects. Wesleyan University Press has published both her books: *Through the Eyes of a Dancer: Selected Writings* (2013) and *The Grand Union: Accidental Anarchists of Downtown Dance, 1970–1976* (2020). She currently teaches dance history at The Juilliard School and performs with Yoshiko Chuma and the School of Hard Knocks.

ABOUT KATE MATTINGLY

Kate Mattingly has taught and written about dance for 20 years. Her undergraduate degree from Princeton University is in the history and theory of architecture. Mattingly's MFA in Dance is from New York University, and her doctorate in performance studies with a designated emphasis in new media studies is from the University of California, Berkeley. Her writing has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Dance* and *Pointe* magazines, *The Washington Post*, and the academic journals *Performance Research*, *Mapping Meaning*, *Dance Chronicle*, *Convergence*, *International Journal of Screendance*, *Dance Research Journal*, and the *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*. Her book about dance criticism, *Shaping Dance Canons*, was published by the University Press of Florida in 2023.

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 will celebrate its 94th season in Summer 2026. 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.



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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 the disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production through seasonal internships and a year-round Administrative Fellows 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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