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<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

Mahaiwe Presents Paul Taylor Dance Company
Repertory includes three New England premieres

Great Barrington, Mass.— The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company will return to the Mahaiwe for its ninth consecutive summer with performances on Friday, July 22 at 8:00pm and Saturday, July 23 at 3:00pm and 7:30pm. The engagement will include the New England premieres of Paul Taylor’s 143rd dance, *Sullivaniana*, and his 144th work, *Dilly Dilly*, as well as the New England premiere of *The Weight of Smoke* by guest choreographer Doug Elkins. There will also be a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary film about Paul Taylor, *Dancemaker*, on Sunday, July 17 at 3:00pm.

“We are proud to be the Berkshire home for America’s national treasure Paul Taylor Dance Company, and to share fascinating new works and so many favorites by the company,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We are also delighted to offer a one-hour family matinee priced at \$20 for the whole family. This Saturday afternoon special includes *Snow White* and is a wonderful way to share incredible modern dance with young audiences.”

“Outside of New York City, no other community has had such wonderful access to the depth and range of Mr. Taylor’s dances,” said John Tomlinson, Executive Director of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. “Our performances at the Mahaiwe have become one of the most anticipated events of our year.”

The diverse programs will feature Paul Taylor masterworks from various eras, including *Profiles* (1976, commissioned score by Jan Radzynski), *Snow White* (1983, commissioned score by Donald York), *Spindrift* (1993, music by Arnold Schoenberg), *Beloved Renegade* (2008, music by Francis Poulenc), *Sullivaniana* (2015, music by Sir Arthur Sullivan), and *Dilly Dilly* (2016, songs sung by Burl Ives).

Doug Elkins's *The Weight of Smoke* (set to an original score by Justin Levine and Matt Stine, with additional music by George Frideric Handel) was commissioned by Paul Taylor and made on his dancers. Mr. Elkins and Larry Keigwin are the first choreographers to be selected to take part in Taylor Company Commissions, Mr. Taylor's new initiative. In this piece, Elkins investigates the legacy and influence of Paul Taylor's body of work on his own choreography, seeking clues about how time, action, and memory interact in the making of and viewing of dance. The title refers to the opening parable of the film *Smoke* written by Paul Auster—how does one measure the residue of accumulated experience—"the weight of smoke"?

"[Creating this piece] was an honor, a privilege, a joy, a challenge," said Mr. Elkins. "I knew that the dancers were superstars of technique and training, but I didn't know how game they would all be to make something together."

Schedule of Dances

Friday, July 22 at 8:00pm

Snow White, Profiles, Sullivaniana, and Spindrift

Saturday, July 23 at 3:00pm

Family matinee, featuring excerpts from *Snow White* and *Dilly Dilly*, plus a Q&A with a Paul Taylor company member

Saturday, July 23 at 7:30pm

The Weight of Smoke, Dilly Dilly, and Beloved Renegade

In addition, there will be a screening of the 1998 documentary about Paul Taylor, *Dancemaker*, on Sunday, July 17 at 3:00pm. The film follows the choreographer and his dance company over several months. His genius, his roots, his method of working with dancers, and his sometimes-difficult nature are captured in this revealing movie. John Tomlinson, who has worked with Mr. Taylor since 1992, will introduce the screening, offering insights into both the making of the movie and the special aspects of the 2016 PTDC program. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) and free to Mahaiwe members.

Paul Taylor is the greatest living pioneer of American modern dance, with 144 dances made since 1954 when he established the Paul Taylor Dance Company. He continues to offer cogent observations on life's complexities and society's thorniest issues through his dances. A virtuoso dancer for 20 years, Mr. Taylor turned exclusively to choreography in 1974; the dance that followed, *Esplanade*, was hailed an instant classic. His works are performed by the Taylor Company, Taylor 2, and ballet and modern dance companies the world over. In 2015, he established Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance to bring to New York's Lincoln Center—in addition to his own repertoire—great dances of the past and present by other modern choreographers, and works by the next generation of choreographers working directly on his Company. A Kennedy Center honoree, he is the author of the acclaimed autobiography, *Private Domain*.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. The Company has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. Mr. Taylor continues to create at least two new works annually for his 16-member Company.

Tickets

Tickets to Paul Taylor Dance Company concerts are \$25 to \$65 and tickets to the family matinee (sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union) are just \$20 (general admission) *per family* of up to six people total. Additional family member tickets are \$5 each. Tickets for the family matinee are available only through the Mahaiwe box office in person or via 413.528-0100.

In addition, a limited number of \$15 tickets are available for audience members ages 30 and younger to the regular performances through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million people through its doors. The Mahaiwe has now welcomed over 15,000 students from 55 different schools for its school-time performances and residencies.