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High-resolution photographs are available for download at
<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

Mahaiwe Presents Paul Taylor Dance Company

Great Barrington, Mass.—The Mahaiwe will celebrate its eleventh consecutive season of performances by Paul Taylor Dance Company on Friday, July 6 at 8:00pm and on Saturday, July 7 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. After the Friday evening program, the company's new Artistic Director Designate Michael Novak will be interviewed by Walter Jaffe and Paul King, co-founders of the Portland, Oregon-based White Bird dance organization.

“We are thrilled to be the Berkshire home for the iconic Paul Taylor Dance Company,” says Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We are also proud to be honoring our veterans with such a special program and we look forward to introducing Michael Novak to our community.”

Paul Taylor recently announced that he has created a new artistic position at the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation, appointing Taylor Company Dancer Michael Novak to be the Artistic Director Designate effective July 1, 2018. Mr. Taylor will continue as the Foundation Artistic Director and will continue to choreograph new dances on his Company and prepare Mr. Novak to be the future Artistic Director of the Taylor organization.

Michael Novak, who will perform at the Mahaiwe, has an academic background in dance history. He graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University in 2008 with a B.A. in Dance and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He has a background in classical, jazz, tap and

contemporary dance forms. His passion for modern dance began during his studies at Columbia. Mr. Novak was invited to join the Taylor Company in 2010. His debut season earned him a nomination for the 2011 Clive Barnes Foundation Dance Award. He will continue to perform with the Paul Taylor Dance Company while working with Mr. Taylor on his new duties as Artistic Director Designate.

One of the seminal artists of our time, Paul Taylor continues to shape the homegrown American art of modern dance that he has helped define since becoming a professional dancer and pioneering choreographer in 1954. Mr. Taylor has choreographed 147 dances, many of which have attained iconic status and have been celebrated throughout the world. The Company has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. The Mahaiwe program will include three pieces:

New England premiere of “Concertiana” (2018). Set to a violin concerto by contemporary composer Eric Ewazen, this dance contrasts agitated and explosive solos and duets with slower-moving groups in silhouette, suggesting the full range of human emotions.

Set to music by Bedřich Smetana, “Gossamer Gallants” (2011) incorporates movements inspired by blue-bottle flies, dragonflies, and other insects. The comedic dance compares mating rituals of the insect world with that of humans, in which the female of the species is often the stronger, predatory partner.

“Company B” (1991) evokes the exuberant rhythms of the 1940s through the hit songs of the Andrews Sisters, as well as the era’s grim and persistent shadow of war. The dance is about both soldiers implicated directly in campaigns of war and the experience of their loved ones who sacrifice their normal lives vicariously through the military service of their loved ones. Mothers, fathers, siblings, children, and lovers all pay the price when a service member is called to duty, and more, if they don't return.

The Mahaiwe and PTDC are offering veterans special half-priced tickets (discount code: VetThanks) to all three performances. Tickets are \$5 to \$95. CBT Architects and Greylock Federal Credit Union are sponsors of the Paul Taylor Dance Company engagement at the Mahaiwe.

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org or call 413.528.0100.

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 1,500 events and welcomed over half a million people through its doors. More than 20,000 students from 61 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe's school-time performances and residencies. For more information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

About the Berkshires

Less than three hours from New York City and Boston, the Berkshires offers culture and adventure year-round. The surrounding mountains provide plenty of opportunity for outdoor excursions in all seasons while world class culture and entertainment, along with a deeply rooted food culture and an array of lodging options amidst picturesque towns, set this region apart. For more information, visit berkshires.org.

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