

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KYLE ABRAHAM, 2019 TAYLOR COMPANY COMMISSION RECIPIENT,  
CHOREOGRAPHS A WORK ON THE PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY**

**NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19, 2018** – Kyle Abraham has begun to choreograph a dance on the Paul Taylor Dance Company (PTDC) through the Taylor Company Commissions program of Paul Taylor American Modern Dance (PTAMD). His work, set to a commissioned score by Jerome Begin, will have its premiere during PTAMD's 2019 New York Season at Lincoln Center.

"Paul Taylor recognized Kyle Abraham as one of the most innovative voices in contemporary dance," said Taylor Artistic Director Michael Novak. "His ability to confront the issues that drive our culture - while simultaneously captivating us with piercing insight and physical dynamism - makes him an invaluable asset to our community. It is an honor to have him work with our company."

Among his many awards, Mr. Abraham is the 2018 Princess Grace Statue Award Recipient, 2017-18 Joyce Creative Residency Artist, 2016 Doris Duke Recipient, 2015 City Center Choreographer in Residence, and 2013 MacArthur Fellow. He began his dance training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, PA. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a B.F.A. from SUNY Purchase and an M.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Mr. Abraham received an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College. He is a visiting professor in residence at UCLA.

Mr. Abraham was named the newly appointed New York Live Arts Resident Commissioned Artist for 2012–2014. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater premiered his *Another Night* at New York City Center in 2012. Rebecca Bengal of *Vogue* wrote, "What Abraham brings to Ailey is an avant-garde aesthetic, an original and politically minded downtown sensibility that doesn't distinguish between genres but freely draws on a vocabulary that is as much Merce and Martha as it is Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson." Mr. Abraham was named the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow, before serving as a choreographic contributor for Beyonce's 2013 British *Vogue* cover shoot.

Mr. Abraham received a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show*, and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010. He was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 To Watch" for 2009, and received a Jerome Travel and Study Grant in 2008. His choreography has been presented at the Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Joyce Theater, The Los Angeles Music Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Théâtre de la Ville, Sadler's Wells, Maison de la Danse, Tanz Im August, On The Boards, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, The Andy Warhol Museum, The Byham and The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, and abroad in Dublin's Project Arts Center and The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum, among many other venues.

In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, A.I.M, Mr. Abraham premiered in 2016 *Untitled America*, a three-part commissioned work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; toured *The Serpent and The Smoke*, a pas de deux for himself and former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan as part of *Restless Creature*; and choreographed for the feature-length film, *The Book of Henry*, for director Colin Trevorrow. Mr. Abraham premiered, *The Runaway*, a new ensemble work for New York City Ballet's 2018 Fall Fashion Gala.

In 2011, *OUT Magazine* labeled Mr. Abraham as the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama."

Current Guest Resident Choreographers Margie Gillis and Pam Tanowitz will also be presented during the 2019 PTAMD New York Season at Lincoln Center. Previous Taylor Company Commission recipients are Doug Elkins, Larry Keigwin, Lila York, Doug Varone and Bryan Arias, whose dances were presented during the 2017 and 2018 Seasons of PTAMD at Lincoln Center.

Major funding is provided by The SHS Foundation. Leadership support is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and Shubert Foundation. Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**About the Paul Taylor Dance Company:**

The Paul Taylor Dance Company is one of the world's most highly acclaimed and sought-after performing arts ensembles. Founded in 1954 by choreographer Paul Taylor, PTDC was led by Mr. Taylor until his death at 88 in 2018, after which dancer Michael Novak became Artistic Director. The Company performs Mr. Taylor's repertoire, comprising 147 dances, as well as those by other choreographers, and has toured to more than 500 cities in 64 countries around the globe. The 2019 Season marks PTDC's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.