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**CAL PERFORMANCES CELEBRATES
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP
WITH *TRANSITIONS*, A GRAND FINALE PERFORMANCE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 7:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Middle-school participants in the tuition-free six-week dance program demonstrate their New Skills in a Free Performance on the UC Berkeley Campus

BERKELEY, June 30, 2011—Proudly observing the tenth summer of the **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances**, the 2011 session of the nationally acclaimed youth program culminates in a 56-camper strong performance titled *Transitions* **Thursday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Complete with professional staging, lights, costumes and live music, the performance showcases the youths' training in ballet, jazz, modern and African dance. The camp was conceived by **Alvin Ailey**, founder of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, and is locally produced by Cal Performances under the direction of **David McCauley**. Dance instruction is combined with personal development and creative communications classes and field trips. The tuition-free camp admits underserved middle-school students from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts. Tickets for the performance of *Transitions* are free and available to the public at the Zellerbach Hall ticket office (see page 2).

“AileyCamp is arts education at its very best,” says Cal Performances' Director **Matías Tarnopolsky**. “Over the past 10 years, more than 700 campers have had transformative learning experiences, through which they have developed not only artistic skills, but also, and fundamentally, life skills.

David McCauley, who has served as Director of the camp since its beginning in the 2001-2002 season, has titled this year's end-of-camp performance *Transitions* because “our universe operates on a model of creation and change and our 11 to 14 years-olds are the very

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definition of transition.” He explains, “Right before our eyes they are changing from children to young adults. We are proud to be part of this evolution, teaching young people to make responsible, thoughtful choices about their futures and using the discipline of dance to do so.”

For the first time, members of the **Young Musicians Program** (YMP), also located on the UC Berkeley campus, will perform with AileyCampers on August 4. YMP identifies gifted young musicians in middle and high school who are not able to afford the specialized training essential to the development of their innate talents.

The Thursday, August 4 performance is free and open to the public. Tickets may be obtained in person at Cal Performances’ Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus starting Tuesday, July 20, 2011; remaining tickets may be available at the door, depending on demand.

BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP AT CAL PERFORMANCES

The first AileyCamp was founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; there are now ten camps throughout the country. **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** opened its doors in June 2002; it is the only AileyCamp on the West Coast and on a major university campus. This summer, camp is made up of 11 boys and 45 girls who receive two meals each day, a camp uniform and dance clothes plus participate in a curriculum that includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz and West African dance. Dance and creative communications classes deepen the students’ awareness of their potential for self-expression; personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, personal hygiene, decision-making and goal-setting. “I will not use the word *can’t* to define my possibilities,” is just one of the affirmations repeated daily to reinforce their goals, build self-confidence, and guide them on a path to becoming a productive and motivated individual. AileyCamp is not a training ground for professional dancers but instead uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem and critical thinking skills in underserved 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. An important aspect of the program’s success is providing positive adult and peer role models. “When camp is finished, students will leave with

valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment that will help them navigate through the challenging years ahead,” McCauley says.

David W. McCauley began his dance training while a student, first at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has trained in ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic dancing. As a dancer based in New York City, McCauley spent 15 years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as student, instructor and performer. He also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. Since 1990, he has been a resident of San Francisco, and has performed with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company. Recently, McCauley became an adjunct faculty member of the Center for Art, Religion, and Education, an affiliated center of the Graduate Theologian Union in Berkeley. A full time staff member at Cal Performances who also serves as a teaching artist, he has directed Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances since its inauguration.

Rica Anderson is the Education and Programs Administrator and a Teaching Artist for Cal Performances and the AileyCamp Administrator. Prior to Cal Performances, she headed the Educational Theater Programs for Kaiser Permanente; was School Liaison and a Teaching Artist at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts; created educator guides for KQED’s *Spark* program; and participated in Harvard’s Project Zero Classroom. New to camp is **Zahide Atli**, the administrative assistant, she is pursuing a BA in Rhetoric at UC Berkeley.

Returning instructors include **Naomi Johnson Diouf** (African dance), West African dance and culture teacher at Berkeley High School and Artistic Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Oakland; **Derrick Minter** (modern dance), longtime AileyCamp teacher and dance professor at the University of Oklahoma; **Priya Shah** (ballet), a former faculty member of Ballet Pacifica Academy with a MFA in Dance and a BA in Psychology; **Zari Le’on** (jazz dance), dance instructor at Grand Canyon University, Middlebury College, Mills College and Scripps College and founder and creative director of Zari Le’on Dance Theater; and **Shawn Nealy** (personal development), a percussionist with a Masters of Education from UCLA and a

teacher with multiple years in the classroom in the Los Angeles, Oakland and Fremont Unified School Districts. Returning musicians include pianist **Frederick Harris** and percussionists **Madiou Sao Diouf** and **Darian LaFoucade**.

New teaching staff includes **Lina Assad Cates** (guidance counselor), a mental health counselor and art therapist with an MA from The George Washington University and currently working as a middle school-based mental health therapist for Fred Finch Youth Center in Oakland; and **Erika Padilla-Morales** (creative communications), MFAs in Screenwriting and Creative Writing, currently a Media Arts Coach with Streetside Stories supporting educators and young people through video.

In addition to David McCauley and drummer Madiou Sao Diouf, one other staff member has been with the camp since it first opened: **Yejide Najee-Ullah** (group leader), a 14 year-old camper in 2002 who has since returned each summer to enrich the lives of new campers. She recently graduated from Smith College in Anthropology with a minor in Third World Development Studies, she has studied in Salvador, Bahia and Brazil.

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances, now in its 105th season, is the performing arts presenter and producer at the University of California, Berkeley, and is the largest organization of its kind in Northern California and one of the most influential in the nation. Under the artistic leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, Cal Performances co-commissions and presents world, American and West Coast premieres each season, utilizing five venues, including Zellerbach Hall and Playhouse, Hertz Hall and the venerable Greek Theater. Over 200 performances and educational programs each year bring more than 300,000 people to campus. Artists from around the world appearing at Cal Performances include Mark Morris, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Renée Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma, Angélique Kidjo, Laurie Anderson, Dave Brubeck and Ravi Shankar. Celebrated international companies include the Vienna Philharmonic, Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Gate Theater of Dublin, American Ballet Theatre and the Kirov and Bolshoi ballet companies and orchestras,

among many others. Cal Performances' extensive Education and Community Programs include talks, lecture/demonstrations and symposia open to the public plus *Cal Performances in the Classroom* offers professional workshops for classroom teachers and teaching artists who work along side teachers in their K-12 classrooms. 20,000 students come to Zellerbach Hall each season to see special one-hour *Schooltime* performances.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Cal Performances gratefully acknowledges Lead Community Partner **Bank of America** for their major support of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. Additional support provided by **Jesse and Laren Brill**, the **Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund**, **Kenneth and Frances Reid**, the **William A. Settles Trust for AileyCamp**, and the **Zellerbach Family Foundation**, among others.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2011 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances

Transitions

David McCauley, director

AileyCamp campers, accompanists and instructors

Young Musicians Program

Program: The 56 campers of the 2011 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *Transitions* at Zellerbach Hall in a 90 minute free performance.

Tickets: Admission is free. Advance admission tickets are subject to availability and can be obtained at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall starting Monday, July 18, 2011. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

– Cal Performances –