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**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY CELEBRATES
15 YEARS OF BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP
JUNE 27 - AUGUST 5, 2016**

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp, Cal Performances' leading artistic literacy program, is one of many transformative education and community programs provided to the community free of charge

New AileyCamp junior leadership program provides opportunity for camp alumni to participate as mentors

Berkeley, CA: June 15, 2016— Cal Performances at UC Berkeley is proud to celebrate 15 years of producing **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp**, the centerpiece of the arts presenter's extensive free-of-charge artistic literacy, education, and community outreach programs, which are based on a commitment to enable the public to engage more deeply with works of art. This year's 50 AileyCamp middle-school students will begin the tuition-free, six-week personal development program on June 27, and will demonstrate their new skills and celebrate the completion of the 15th annual Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp with a final showcase performance titled *The Beauty of Their Dreams* on **Thursday, August 4 at 7pm** in **Zellerbach Hall**. Complete with professional staging, lighting, costumes, and live music, the performance celebrates the campers' explorations of ballet, jazz, modern, and African dance.

As Cal Performances' dedicated educational program for underserved middle-school students, AileyCamp uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical thinking skills. Students will participate in the full-scholarship day camp, which admits middle-school students from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and Albany unified school districts.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances 2016

New this year, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp will include a **junior leadership program**. Unique to Cal Performances' AileyCamp, the program provides a select group of high-school-aged AileyCamp alumni the opportunity to participate in AileyCamp in a leadership role. Under the mentorship of AileyCamp teaching staff, the inaugural group of four AileyCamp alumni will assist instructors as well as coach younger campers.

“Cal Performances is strongly committed to artistic literacy as a goal in all of our community and education programs. Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp realizes this vision every summer by immersing a large group of children into the world of the performing arts through dance. AileyCamp is a flagship program among Cal Performances' many educational and community offerings, which range from full-credit university courses and master classes with acclaimed artists, to SchoolTime performances for K-12, and workshops for teachers in our local schools,” said Matías Tarnopolosky, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances. “Under the leadership of director David McCauley, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp guides students as they find and develop their artistic voices, putting them in the creative driver's seat as they work for several weeks to bring to the stage a stunning performance. In the process, generations of students have learned to develop positive work ethics and build their confidence. Although it is only one summer in their lives, the impact for the participants is lasting and, crucially, transformative.”

The camp was conceived by **Alvin Ailey**, founder of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, and is locally produced by Cal Performances. AileyCamp was brought to the West Coast 15 years ago when seasoned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater alumnus David McCauley was tapped by Cal Performances to lead the program in Berkeley.

“With our location on the UC Berkeley campus and the support of a world-class arts presenter like Cal Performances, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is truly uniquely positioned to empower young people,” said McCauley. “By being on the UC Berkeley campus, and by interacting with AileyCamp alumni who have gone on to college or even returned to AileyCamp in a mentorship role, we are helping students see the myriad avenues their lives can take. The perseverance, discipline, and openness to learning that is instilled in

AileyCampers stays with them throughout their lives, transforming the way they interact with their friends, family, and communities, and carrying them through the next phases of their lives.”

In the 15 years since its launch, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has touched the lives of over 900 young people in the Bay Area.

“In a chaotic world, students need to find their core, and Cal Performances and AileyCamp provide an environment in which they can evolve and expand,” said Donn Harris, California Arts Council chairman. “Students return from AileyCamp enriched and matured; they have learned about themselves, their depths, their abilities; they have glimpsed their heights, and their glorious potential. Once they have seen that, pushing toward it is no longer work, but something more natural, something internalized and embedded. The community impact of this work is immeasurable, and it is good that some things are immeasurable, beyond the usual scoring and rating—we know when something special is in our midst.”

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2016 finale performance of *The Beauty of Their Dreams* will be held on **Thursday, August 4 at 7pm in Zellerbach Hall**. The performance is free and open to the public. Tickets may be obtained in person at Cal Performances’ Ticket Office in Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus starting Tuesday, July 19. There is a limit of four tickets per person; remaining tickets may be available at the door.

ABOUT CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches over 150,000 people annually through concerts, campus, and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances’ season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (**R**esearch and **D**evelopment **I**nitiative in **C**reativity **A**rts and **L**earning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances 2016

world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. Artists performing in 2016-17 include Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble, Mark Morris Dance Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Mikhail Baryshnikov, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Zakir Hussain, Takács Quartet, Emanuel Ax, Joyce DiDonato, and Kronos Quartet, among many others.

Cal Performances' artistic literacy programs are recognized nationally as model engagement strategies for grades K-12 and for the Berkeley campus community. These programs include SchoolTime performances for K-12 students; AileyCamp; artistic literacy workshops for teachers; artist- and master-teaching visits to classrooms and schools; pre-concert artist talks and discussions; extended artistic residencies; and master classes, arts-integrated academic courses built around Cal Performances' season, public symposia, and international academic conferences on campus. Approximately 40,000 people take advantage of these events each year.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS

Thursday, August 4, 2016, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley Campus

2016 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances
The Beauty of Their Dreams
David W. McCauley, director
AileyCamp campers, accompanists, and instructors

Program: The 50 campers of the 2016 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *The Beauty of Their Dreams* 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 in Zellerbach Hall starting on Tuesday, July 19. There is a limit of four tickets per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

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