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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP'S
GRAND FINALE PERFORMANCE *ONE PERSON AT A TIME*
THURSDAY, JULY 30 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

Middle-schoolers in the tuition-free, six-week dance program demonstrate their new skills in a free performance on the UC Berkeley Campus

BERKELEY, July 10, 2015—While Cal Performances' 2014–15 season is complete, there is a whirlwind of activity swirling through Zellerbach Hall in the form of 61 campers, who are enrolled in the 14th annual **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances**. Eleven boys and fifty girls participate in the full-scholarship day camp with a curriculum that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical thinking skills. The camp admits underserved middle-school students from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and Albany Unified School districts. In 2015, all eight AileyCamps across the country will celebrate “Gratitude” in their finale performances. While considering this national theme, Director of AileyCamp and Cal Performances teaching artist **David McCauley** posited the question: “How do we build community?” The answer, [*One Person at a Time*](#), became the title and theme for the Berkeley original production. The 2015 AileyCamp culminates with a grand finale performance of *One Person at a Time*—complete with professional staging, lights, costumes, and live music showcasing the youths’ training in ballet, jazz, modern, and African dance—on **Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. The performance is free and open to the public. Tickets must be obtained in person at Cal Performances’ Ticket Office in Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus starting [Tuesday, July 21](#). Limit four tickets per person; remaining tickets may be available at the door.

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

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and on a major university campus. Campers receive two meals each day, a camp uniform and dance clothes. They 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; 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, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills. 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 a 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. McCauley teaches a class in dance and spirituality for the Center for Art, Religion, and Education, an affiliated center of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He was awarded the first ever AileyCamp Award of Excellence from the national AileyCamp Foundation in recognition of his exemplary leadership and commitment. He is a full-time staff member at Cal Performances, where he serves as a teaching artist when not directing AileyCamp.

Lakiesha Golden (camp administrator) is a performing artist of 20 years with a specialization in Congolese (Central African) Dance. Currently an Artist in Residence, teaching in Oakland Unified School District high schools via Dimensions Dance Theater, she is one of the

only teachers for the Sunday Congolese class at Malonga Casquelourd Center for the arts in downtown Oakland. Golden is the Artistic Director of the performing dance company, Nlolo Kongo, meaning “message” or “news” from the Congo. **Kenny Wang**, a recent UC Berkeley graduate, who majored in Theater and Performance Studies and Media Studies joins AileyCamp as the Administrative Assistant. Wang also is part of Cal Performances’ Education and Community Programs staff, as well as local theater Berkeley Playhouse.

Running parallel with AileyCamp in 2015 is the “A-Team,” a new, seven-week pilot program designed and supervised by Cal Performances Education Programs Manager and Teaching Artist **Rica Anderson**. Inspired by AileyCamp alumni who regularly return as camp volunteers, this pioneering cohort of 14 participants includes seven boys and seven girls from Alameda and Contra Costa counties. They build upon the discipline and other skills they learned in AileyCamp to further develop life-skills, such as leadership while supporting the day-to-day needs of AileyCamp. A-Team participants are 15-19 years-old and engage in a challenging set of activities, including photo and video documentation of AileyCamp, creating the AileyCamp blog and newsletter, and serving as ambassadors for the camp Open House. The A-Team takes workshops led by Cal Performances’ staff to learn about a variety of professions in the performing arts, as well as with UC Berkeley staff, faculty, and students to become familiar with life on campus.

Almost the entire AileyCamp teaching staff from last summer is returning: **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 an M.F.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Psychology; **Shawn Nealy-Oparah** (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; **Rosario Lionudakis** (also known as Zari Le’ on) (jazz dance instructor), a recent graduate of the University of Michigan where she earned a M.F.A. in dance, is currently on the

dance faculty at Grand Canyon University; and **Gabriela Toruno** (guidance counselor), a mental health therapist at Melrose Leadership Academy in Oakland, she received her M.A. in counseling psychology and a degree in expressive arts therapy from The California Institute for Integral Studies. New to camp is **Micheal Mpyangu** (creative communications), a performer and instructor of percussion, poly-rhythmic comprehension, and martial arts workshops in Africa, Britain, and the United States, draws on his diverse background to design international theater programs. Returning musicians include pianist **Frederick Harris**, and percussionists **Mohamed Koyate**, and **Madiou Sao Diouf** who is joined by percussionist **Dr. Zakariya Diouf**, his father.

AileyCamp group leaders include **Nafi Watson-Thompson**, **Ophelia Rose-Morreale**, and **Kimberly Harvey-Scott** and former AileyCampers **Tamara McCree** (2002 alum) and **Spencer Pulu** (2005 alum). Providing strong leadership, consistent support and guidance to each camper within their group, AileyCamp group leaders oversee AileyCampers throughout their camp day.

AileyCamp Diary, a webpage on Cal Performances' website, features writings and images by staff and campers updated throughout the six-week camp. Go to <http://calperformances.tumblr.com/>.

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances, now in its 109th season, is the performing arts presenter and producer at the University of California, Berkeley. It is the largest organization of its kind in Northern California and one of the most influential in the nation. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, Cal Performances co-commissions and presents world, American and West Coast premieres each season in music, dance, and theater, utilizing six venues, including Zellerbach Hall and Playhouse, Hertz Hall and the venerable Greek Theatre. More than 200 performances and educational programs each year bring more than 150,000 people to campus. Artists from around the world appearing at Cal Performances include Mark Morris, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yo-Yo Ma, Gustavo Dudamel, Angélique Kidjo, Ian Bostridge, and Wynton Marsalis. Celebrated international companies include the Vienna Philharmonic, the Australian Ballet,

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Théâtre de la Ville, 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 alongside teachers in their K-12 classrooms. Each season, 20,000 K-12 students come to Zellerbach Hall to see special one-hour SchoolTime performances. The 2015–16 season will be the first under Cal Performances' newly announced arts initiative, [Berkeley RADICAL](#), a framework to uncover new means of revealing shared human potential by investing in the artistic literacy of future audiences and by connecting the world's most innovative artists with the intellectual capital of the UC Berkeley campus.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Major funding for AileyCamp is provided by Bank of America; Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Walter & Elise Haas Fund; Gail and Daniel Rubinfeld; Joan and Sanford Weill; Zellerbach Family Foundation; U.S. Bank.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Dana Street

2015 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances

One Person at a Time

David McCauley, director

AileyCamp campers, accompanists, and instructors

Program: The 61 campers of the 2015 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *One Person at a Time* 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 21. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

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