

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2016
[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY
#BERKELEYRADICAL**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS *CITIZEN DANCE*,
MEMBERS OF UC BERKELEY'S DANCE COMMUNITY IN
FREE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AT THREE LOCATIONS
AROUND ZELLERBACH HALL
5-6 PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016**

Free *Citizen Dance* Mobile App unlocks content related to each performance site; available in April

#CitizenDance

Berkeley, March 29, 2016 — Cal Performances presents *Citizen Dance*, a free outdoor event performed by members of UC Berkeley's student dance community simultaneously in three locations surrounding Zellerbach Hall celebrating the start of Bay Area Dance Week Friday, April 22, from 5-6pm. *Citizen Dance* shines the spotlight on the thriving dance culture on campus and celebrates dance as an essential part of public life and culture at UC Berkeley. A free *Citizen Dance* mobile app, with options for enjoying the performance--as well as details about the performances, dancers, choreography, and music--will be available from Apple App Store and Google Play in April. In each of the three performance locations the app will release content unique to that performance with options for audience engagement. The dances, co-created by student dancers with guidance from choreographic architect Amy O'Neal, will express the emotional tenor of these UC Berkeley dancers' experience on campus including addressing themes of anxiety and invisibility.

With *Citizen Dance* Cal Performances continues its exploration of new strategies to engage UC Berkeley students in the performing arts. Multitudes of students already participate in dance crews, rehearsing daily in every available public space on campus as part of their cultural life at UC Berkeley. Drawing on this enormous pool of talent, Cal Performances has commissioned nationally celebrated dancer, choreographer, and teacher Amy O'Neal as choreographic architect and music director Key Choice to create *Citizen Dance* together with the students. This first-time, collaborative event brings together student dancers from all disciplines and styles to create a series of site-specific dance performances at three locations on campus surrounding Zellerbach Hall, culminating in a

group dance in Lower Sproul Plaza. Concurrent performances will take place continually throughout the 5-6pm hour in Lower Sproul Plaza, on the patio in front of Alumni House, and in Spieker Plaza at the entrance to Haas Pavilion. Audiences are encouraged to move between the performances freely. All are welcome to join in this celebration of student dance at UC Berkeley. No tickets or admission fee are required. A map of the UC Berkeley campus is available at Berkeley.edu/map.

Twenty of the students dancing in the event had a hand in its creation. Of the creators, all are current or recent UC Berkeley students and many are members of the several crews, companies, and teams on campus hailing from a wide range of academic majors including Molecular Environmental Biology, Film Studies, Energy Engineering, Psychology, Materials Science and Engineering, Economics, Neurobiology, Business Administration, Computer Science, Physics, Education, Comparative Literature, Microbial Biology, and Theater.

Citizen Dance choreographic architect Amy O'Neal is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator in the traditions of hip hop, street, and club dance culture as well as contemporary dance and performance. Her work reflects her passion for the intersection of these worlds and the ways they connect energetically and philosophically while staying true to their cultural differences. O'Neal has taught and performed throughout the US, Japan, Italy, and Mexico, and choreographed for stage, commercials, rock shows, galleries, dance films, and music videos. Her work has been seen at On the Boards (Seattle, WA), PICA TBA Festival (Portland, OR), Joyce Soho (NYC), Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out (Becket MA), ODC (San Francisco), and many other venues. She has worked extensively with musician and comedian Reggie Watts since 2002 on both stage and screen, and has been an artist-in-residence at Bates Dance Festival, Headlands Center for the Arts, and the US/Japan Choreographer's Exchange. She holds a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts and her dance writing has been published in *Dance Magazine*, *City Arts Magazine*, and *Art Dish Forum*. She is based in Seattle, WA.

Citizen Dance music director Kev Choice is a classically trained musician who regularly performs as pianist, emcee, bandleader, and sideman, and works as a producer and music historian. He leads the jazz-hip-hop-funk big band the Kev Choice Ensemble, producing and performing his own original jazz and classical compositions as well as classical, jazz, and funk-inspired hip hop. Choice's artistic vision is "to make conscious hip hop music that is accepted on a mainstream level." As a solo artist

he has opened for Robert Glasper, Mos Def, Digable Planets, DJ Quik, and J Davey. An Oakland, CA native, Choice began playing piano at age 11. As a teenager, he played in classical and jazz ensembles as part of the UC Berkeley Young Musicians Program, and continued his studies at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in music, and at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he graduated with a master's degree in music.

Rob Bailis, Cal Performances associate director, explains, "Virtually everywhere you look on campus, student dancers are rehearsing, gathering in forces from five to 50 in the public plazas, parking structures, and even before the great reflective windows of Zellerbach Hall. Encompassing a staggering array of styles, genres, and cultures, when this student body comes together to socialize, to meet, to make time together--often they do it through dance. This reality is at the heart of our inspiration for *Citizen Dance*, and Amy O'Neal is simply the pitch-perfect architect for our maiden voyage."

Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity, Arts, and Learning), announced in February 2015, is a framework to cultivate artistic literacy and create cultural access for diverse current and future audiences in the context of the digital age. "*Citizen Dance* is a hallmark of Berkeley RADICAL," says Matías Tarnopolsky, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances. "It embraces all three of the key Berkeley RADICAL principles--excellent and relevant programming; a commitment to artistic literacy; and the documentation and dissemination of our learning. Through *Citizen Dance*, Cal Performances has created another new opportunity for students to participate in the creative process." The creation of *Citizen Dance* has been documented on video, which will be made available at a later date.

About the Cal Performances Wallace Foundation Multi-Year Initiative

Cal Performances is one of 26 US performing arts organizations chosen by The Wallace Foundation in 2015 for a prestigious new *Building Audiences for Sustainability* initiative. With the support of a generous multiyear grant from The Wallace Foundation, Cal Performances will seek to broaden participation by 18- to 25-year-olds in creating performing arts experiences that appeal to them. This generation is predicted to soon comprise over a third of the American population and represents a

powerful segment of the performing arts' potential audience base. With *Citizen Dance* and other programs launched this spring, Cal Performances is taking steps to engage the Millennial generation on its own terms and welcome first-time arts participants into a lifelong relationship with the performing arts.

About The Wallace Foundation

Based in New York City, The Wallace Foundation is an independent national philanthropy dedicated to fostering improvements in learning and enrichment for disadvantaged children and the vitality of the arts for everyone. It seeks to catalyze broad impact by supporting the development, testing, and sharing of new solutions and effective practices. More information can be found at wallacefoundation.org.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances produces and presents performances of the highest artistic quality, enhanced by programs that explore compelling intersections of education and the performing arts. Founded in 1906, Cal Performances fulfills this mission by presenting a diverse range of over 100 music, dance, and theater performances each season, and creating a context for the work through supporting education and community programs.

Ticket Information

Citizen Dance is free and open to the public, Friday, April 22, from 5-6pm, and will take place simultaneously in Lower Sproul Plaza, Spieker Plaza, and on the Alumni House patio, all near Zellerbach Hall. A map of the UC Berkeley campus can be viewed at berkeley.edu/map. Download the free *Citizen Dance* app from the Apple App Store or Google Play stores. More information is available at (510) 642-9988 or calperformances.org/citizendance.

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Cal Performances' 2015-2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Citizen Dance

Friday, April 22 at 5–6pm, free

Lower Sproul Plaza, Alumni House Patio, and Spieker Plaza

All locations surrounding Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way between Telegraph Ave & Dana St., Berkeley

Amy O’Neal, choreographic architect

Kevin Choice, music director

Student Dancers

Program: Three free simultaneous dance performances by current and recent UC Berkeley student dancers all take place steps away from Zellerbach Hall celebrating the start of Bay Area Dance Week. Details about the event can be accessed via the free *Citizen Dance* mobile app beginning in April. More information is unlocked inside the app upon arrival at each location. The event culminates in a grand finale at Lower Sproul Plaza just before 6pm.

Tickets: This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are needed. A map of the UC Berkeley campus can be viewed at berkeley.edu/map. More information is available by downloading the *Citizen Dance* app, at (510) 642-9988, or at calperformances.org/citizendance.