

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

RETURNS TO BERKELEY WITH BAY AREA PREMIERES OF DAVID PARSON'S *SHINING STAR*, DONALD BYRD'S *BURLESQUE*, AND JUDITH JAMISON, ROBERT BATTLE AND RENNIE HARRIS'S COLLABORATION, *LOVE STORIES*; PLUS A PROGRAM OF AILEY CLASSICS, INCLUDING *REVELATIONS*

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 11 – 20

***SCHOOLTIME*: TWO SPECIAL 1-HOUR SHOWS FOR BAY AREA STUDENTS:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 11:00 A.M. AND THURSDAY, MARCH 17 AT 11:00 A.M.**

BERKELEY, February 4, 2005 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) returns to Zellerbach Hall **March 11-20** for its annual Cal Performances residency. For nearly 50 years, AAADT has been celebrated for its technical skill, boundless energy and an artistic sensibility that embraces social movements as well as ballet, modern, African, and popular dance. *The New York Times* writes, “[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is] smart, passionate and technically impressive. These Ailey dancers perform as if they believe in the importance of communication with their audiences.” This season, AAADT’s incomparable dancers showcase *Love Stories*, a new collaborative piece by hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris**, modern dance maverick **Robert Battle** and Artistic Director **Judith Jamison** set to music by **Stevie Wonder**. The company will also perform the Bay Area premieres of *Shining Star* by **David Parsons**, set to music by **Earth, Wind and Fire**; *Burlesque* with music by **Louis Armstrong** and choreography by **Donald Byrd**; and *Vespers* (1986) with music by **Mikel Rouse** and choreography by **Ulysses Dove**. The program also features *Hidden Rites* (1973); the return of *Caught, Treading, Juba, The Winter in Lisbon*; and the company’s signature masterwork, *Revelations* (1960). The Ailey company will give two *SchoolTime* performances for Bay Area students in Zellerbach Hall on **Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m.** Tickets available in advance only.

PROGRAMS

Program A of AAADT's Cal Performances engagement Friday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m.; and Saturday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m. opens with the Bay Area premiere of *Love Stories* (2004), **Judith Jamison's** dynamic collaboration with **Rennie Harris** and **Robert Battle** that examines the technique, energy, movement and rhythm of African American social dances. Intertwining vignettes of Alvin Ailey's choreography with undertones of social movement, these three choreographers journey through past, present and future with pieces set to a soundscape by engineer **Darrin Ross** and music by the legendary **Stevie Wonder**. The piece, which in many ways is a tribute to company founder Alvin Ailey, includes recordings of Ailey's voice and "offers a true connection to Ailey's interest in vernacular dance" (*Newsday*). The program continues with **Masazumi Chaya's** restaging of *Hidden Rites* (1973), which showcases Alvin Ailey's choreography at its most intense and provocative. A percussive, rhythmic score by **Patrice Sciortino** sets the mood for this celebration of love, death and rebirth. Alvin Ailey's signature 1960 piece, *Revelations*, ends the program.

Program B performances Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday March 13 at 3:00 p.m.; and Friday, March 18 at 8:00 p.m. feature the Bay Area premiere of **David Parson's** *Shining Star*, a suite of dances performed to the infectious disco songs of **Earth, Wind and Fire**. The ballet builds around a central duet that celebrates a deep and lasting love. Parson's playful wit and hopeful spirit meld perfectly with songs like "That's The Way of the World," "September," "Can't Hide Love," and "Shining Star." *The New York Sun* called it "a delightful good time. The dancers' joy is infectious and it's a kick to see them using their highly trained bodies to boogie." The program continues with a second Bay Area premiere, *Vespers* (1986) with music by **Mikel Rouse** and choreography by **Ulysses Dove**, restaged by **Masazumi Chaya** for the 2004/2005 season; and *Caught* with music by **Robert Fripp** and choreography by **David Parsons**. The program concludes with *The Winter in Lisbon*, a 1992 work by **Billy Wilson** restaged by AAADT Associate Artistic Director **Masazumi Chaya** in 2002. The piece is a tribute to the music of **Dizzy Gillespie** in which the Ailey dancers shine in a suite of dances that range from a sultry love duet to a vivacious group finale, all against the backdrop of infectious Latin rhythms and rich color.

Program C, Wednesday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m. opens with 2002's *Burlesque* restaged by **Stephanie Guiland-Brown**. The figures in **David Byrd's** *Burlesque* inhabit a world of faded dreams juxtaposed against the lustrous elegance of songs by **Louis Armstrong**. Byrd's sharp-witted choreography animates denizens of a gritty theatrical underworld who know that the show must go on – no matter what the cost. *The Village Voice* wrote, "Beneath the dancers' killer attitude, energy and technical sophistication, there's an intelligent, teasing perspective that hooks your attention." Program C continues with AAADT classics including *Treading* (1979) with music by **Steve Reich** and choreography by **Elisa Monte**. *Juba*, with choreography by **Robert Battle** and an original score of strings and percussion by **John Mackey**, addresses themes of folk dance and ritual and was called "frenetic and electrifying, a terse, powerful explosion of transformative energy [performed] with fabulously high-octane stamina by the Ailey dancers," in *The New York Times*. The program concludes with *Revelations* (1960), founder Alvin Ailey's uplifting masterpiece about the African American spiritual experience.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a legendary performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young, black modern dancers, that performance signaled a substantial shift in the evolution and perception of American dance. Ailey, born in Rogers, Texas in 1931, was inspired as a youngster by his participation in the Baptist Young People's Union, later incorporating the gospel music in his dances. It was on a junior high school class trip that he first saw the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, and the experience changed his life. He studied and was mentored by Lester Horton, who founded the United States' first racially integrated dance company – a company Ailey ran after Horton's death. Since the founding of AAADT in 1958, the company has entertained an estimated 19 million people in 48 states and in 68 countries on six continents, including two historic visits to South Africa. AAADT – which first performed on the Berkeley campus in 1968 and is presented by Cal Performances in more performances each year than any other venue outside of New York – has a reputation as an international ambassador of American culture, and captures the unique essence of African American cultural expression while enriching the American modern dance heritage.

In 2002 the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation broke ground for the construction of its new building on the corner of Ninth Avenue and 55th Street in Manhattan. With a series of studios, a black box theater and office space for administrative and educational outreach purposes, it will be the largest facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to dance. AAADT will move in officially this March.

JUDITH JAMISON

Judith Jamison, Artistic Director of AAADT since 1989, was a member of the company from 1965 to 1980. An extraordinary talent who began dancing at the age of seven, Jamison studied with some of the greatest teachers, including Marion Cuyjet, Antony Tudor, John Hines, Delores Browne and Madame Swoboda. She was discovered by Agnes de Mille and made her New York debut with American Ballet Theatre in de Mille's *The Four Marys*, then went on to tour with the Ailey company for 15 years. Inspired by her commanding stage presence, Alvin Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the solo *Cry*. She has partnered with many of the world's greatest dancers, including James Truitte, Dudley Williams, Kevin Haigen and Mikhail Baryshnikov, and she starred in the Broadway hit musical *Sophisticated Ladies*, before appearing as a guest artist with many of the world's leading ballet and modern dance companies.

In 1997, Judith Jamison led AAADT on its first visit to South Africa, performing, teaching and collaborating with other artists and students in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Soweto. One of the first artistic ambassadors to penetrate the country after the lifting of apartheid's cultural ban, the company's impact was immediate and deep, and they returned again in late 1998. Jamison has also been a guiding force in helping establish the Ailey/Fordham University B.F.A. program, a collaboration with the Ailey School that offers students the opportunity to receive superb dance training and an excellent liberal arts education (the first class graduated in 2002). In 1999, Jamison was the recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center Award, and in 2002 President Bush presented her with the National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest artistic honor. This is her fifteenth year as Artistic Director.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** in Zellerbach Hall **Friday, March 11-Sunday, March 20** are priced at **\$32.00, \$42.00, and \$54.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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(AAADT calendar information continued on next page)

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Friday, March 16 – 18 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave.

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Program:

Program A: Fri., Mar. 11 at 8:00 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 12 at 2:00 p.m.; and Sat., Mar. 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Love Stories (2004): music by Stevie Wonder and Darrin Ross, choreography by Judith Jamison with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris (Bay Area premiere); *Hidden Rites* (1973): music by Patrice Sciortino, choreography by Alvin Ailey, restaged by Masazumi Chaya; *Revelations* (1960): traditional spirituals and gospel music with choreography by Alvin Ailey.

Program B: Sat., Mar. 12 at 8:00 p.m.; Sun. Mar. 13 at 3:00 p.m.; and Fri., Mar. 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Shining Star (2004): music by Earth, Wind & Fire, choreography by David Parsons (Bay Area premier); *Vespers* (1986): music by Mikel Rouse, choreography by Ulysses Dove, restaged by Masazumi Chaya (Bay Area Premiere); *Caught* (1982): music by Robert Fripp, choreography by David Parsons, staged by Elizabeth Koeppen; *The Winter in Lisbon* (1992): music by Dizzy Gillespie, choreography by Billy Wilson, restaged by Masazumi Chaya.

Program C: Wed., Mar. 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Thurs., Mar. 17 at 8:00 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 19 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sun., Mar. 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Burlesque (2002): music by Louis Armstrong, choreography by Donald Byrd, restaged by Stephanie Guiland-Brown (Bay Area Premiere); *Treading* (1979): music by Steve Reich, Eighteen Musicians, choreography by Elisa Monte; *Juba* (2003): music by John Mackey, choreography by Robert Battle, *Revelations* (1960): traditional spirituals and gospel music with choreography by Alvin Ailey.

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00, \$54.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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**Wednesday & Thursday
March 16 & 17 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley**

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Program:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform the beloved masterpiece, *Revelations* and one other piece to be announced.

Tickets: \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available **in advance only** through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu, or by phone at (510) 642-0212.