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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
HOPE BOYKIN, ABDUR-RAHIM JACKSON & MATTHEW RUSHING'S *ACCEPTANCE IN SURRENDER*;
THREE BAY AREA PREMIERES INCLUDING JUDITH JAMISON'S *REMINISCIN*';
RONALD K. BROWN'S *IFE/MY HEART*; ULYSSES DOVE'S *URBAN FOLK DANCE*;
AND A PROGRAM OF AILEY CLASSICS

TUESDAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 5 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

SCHOOLTIME: 1-HOUR SHOW FOR BAY AREA STUDENTS THURSDAY, MARCH 2 AT 11:00 A.M.

BERKELEY, January 23, 2006 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) returns to Zellerbach Hall **Tuesday, February 28 to Sunday, March 5** with a throng of premieres for its annual Cal Performances residency. Celebrated around the world for its technical skill, boundless energy and artistic sensibility, AAADT is known for its ballet, modern, African, and popular dance. Seen by over 21 million people in more than 68 countries, “its phenomenal popularity is unmatched by any other company in the world” (*The New York Times*). This season AAADT showcases four works new to the Bay Area, including the West Coast premiere of company members **Hope Boykin, Abdur-Rahim Jackson** and **Matthew Rushing's *Acceptance in Surrender***. Other premieres include Artistic Director **Judith Jamison's *Reminiscin'***, set to the music of a host of female jazz greats; **Ronald K. Brown's *Ife/My Heart***; and **Ulysses Dove's *Urban Folk Dance***. Also on the program is the company's Bay Area premiere of **Hans van Manen's *Solo*** (1997). Returning works include Jamison's ***Love Stories*** (2004) and **Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon*** (1992); two works by **David Parsons - *Shining Star*** (2004) and ***Caught*** (1982); plus **Alvin Ailey's *Night Creature*** (1974) and his masterpiece ***Revelations*** (1960).

Additionally, AAADT will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students in Zellerbach Hall on **Thursday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m.**; tickets available in advance only.

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PROGRAMS

Program A of AAADT's Cal Performances engagement Tuesday, February. 28 at 8:00 p.m.; Friday March 3 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m. opens with **Alvin Ailey's** *Night Creature* (1974). Set to Duke Ellington's 1955 *Suite for Orchestra*, this is Ailey's definitive homage to the exuberance of Ellington's music. The program continues with the company's Bay Area premiere of **Hans van Manen's** 1997 *Solo*. The resident choreographer of Netherlands Dans Theater, van Manen created an explosive tour de force work for three male dancers playing a game of one-upsmanship, set to the music of J. S. Bach's Violin Suite in D minor. **Ronald K. Brown's** *Ife/My Heart* (translated as "my heart, the way God loves me" in Yoruba, a West African language) is also a Bay Area premiere. Brown's high-octane dance employs a variety of movement styles and is set to poet Nikki Giovanni's "My House," as well as original music by various composers. A search for spiritual redemption, the work expresses a sense of communal joy similar to Ailey's 1960 masterpiece, *Revelations*, that closes the program.

Program B performances on Wednesday, March 1 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. kick off with **David Parson's** *Shining Star*, a suite of dances performed to the infectious R&B songs of **Earth, Wind & 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." **Judith Jamison's** *Reminisce*, set in a sleek, stylish bar designed by Michael Fagin, was inspired by Edward Hopper's famous painting *Nighthawks*. The music of jazz greats Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Roberta Flak, Regina Carter, and Diana Krall is the inspiration for the flirtations of friends and lovers during a night out. Alvin Ailey's signature 1960 masterpiece *Revelations* closes the program.

Program C, Thursday March 2 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m. opens with *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 work includes recordings of Ailey's voice and "offers a true connection to Ailey's interest in vernacular dance" (*Newsday*). The Bay Area premiere of **Ulysses Dove's** 1990 *Urban Folk Dance*, recently restaged by AAADT Associate Artistic Director **Masazumi Chaya**, follows. The work is choreographed for two quarreling, flirting and loving couples, with music by Michael Torke. Ailey company members **Hope Boykin**, **Abdur-Rahim Jackson** and **Matthew Rushing** collaborated on the West Coast premiere of *Acceptance in Surrender*, with an original score by Philip Hamilton. Choreographed for three men and one woman, the three dancer/choreographers worked collaboratively on the piece. The dance tells the story of a distraught woman who only realizes truth through submission and surrender. The program concludes with *The Winter in Lisbon*, a 1992 work by **Billy Wilson** which was restaged by 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.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a legendary performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y 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's 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 68 countries, 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 the fall of 2005, AAADT made its first tour of the United Kingdom, including a return, sold-out engagement at Sadler's Wells in London.

In the spring of 2004, the company moved into its first permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance in Manhattan. With a series of studios, a black box theater and office space for administrative and educational outreach purposes, it is the largest facility in the United States dedicated exclusively to dance.

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. Most recently Jamison received the Paul Robeson

Award from the Actors' Equity Association in recognition for her outstanding contribution to the performing arts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** in Zellerbach Hall from **Tuesday, February 28 – Sunday, March 5** 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' 2005/06 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday – Friday, February 28 – March 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

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Sunday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Bancroft Way at Telegraph

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Program:

Program A: Tues. Feb. 28 at 8:00 p.m.; Fri. Mar. 3 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sun., Mar. 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Night Creature (1974): music by Duke Ellington; choreography by Alvin Ailey

Solo (1997): music by J.S. Bach; choreography by Hans van Manen (Company Bay Area premiere)

Ife/My Heart (2005): music by various artists, choreography by Ronald K. Brown (Bay Area premiere)

Revelations (1960): traditional spirituals and gospel music with choreography by Alvin Ailey

Program B: Wed., Mar. 1 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sat., Mar. 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Shining Star (2004): music by Earth, Wind & Fire; choreography by David Parsons

Caught (1982): music by Robert Fripp; choreography by David Parsons, staged by Elizabeth Koeppen

Reminiscent (2005): music by Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Roberta Flack, Regina Carter, and Diana Krall; choreography by Judith Jamison (Bay Area premiere)

Revelations (1960): traditional spirituals and gospel music with choreography by Alvin Ailey

Program C: Thurs., Mar. 2 at 8:00 p.m.; and Sat., Mar. 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Love Stories (2004): music by Stevie Wonder and Darrin Ross; choreography by Judith Jamison with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris

Urban Folk Dance (1990): music by Michael Torke; choreography by Ulysses Dove (Bay Area premiere)

Acceptance in Surrender (2005): music by Philip Hamilton; choreography by Hope Boykin, Abdur, Rahim Jackson and Matthew Rushing (West Coast premiere)

The Winter in Lisbon (1992): music by Dizzy Gillespie, choreography by Billy Wilson, restaged by Masazumi Chaya

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00 and \$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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Thursday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCES

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

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Program: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform an excerpt from *Love Stories* and the beloved masterpiece *Revelations*.

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.

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