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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS “PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE”
A PERFORMANCE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE
2006 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Students of the Tuition-Free Summer Arts Program Exhibit Their Work After Six Weeks of Training in Multiple Dance Disciplines and Coursework on the UC Berkeley Campus

BERKELEY, July 1, 2006—Celebrating its fifth summer in Berkeley, AileyCamp culminates in the 90-camper strong performance “Past, Present, Future” **Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m** in Zellerbach Hall. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and locally administrated by **Cal Performances**, combines ballet, jazz, modern, and African dance instruction with personal development and creative communication classes and field trips for middle-school students, ages 11-14, from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts. The performance of “Past, Present, Future” is designed to showcase the students’ training in all of these areas. *Admission is free.* Admission tickets may be obtained in person at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus in advance and on the night of show. Like past grand finale productions, this year’s performance promises to be a sell-out.

PROGRAM

This year’s camp of 90 campers, including the largest group of young men ever (22), is the fifth AileyCamp presented by Cal Performances. 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 in underserved 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. AileyCamp Director **David McCauley** welcomes back three returning dance instructors including: **Willie Anderson** (ballet), currently a principal dancer at Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley; **Naomi Johnson Diouf** (African), West African dance and culture teacher at Berkeley High School and Artistic Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Oakland; and **Derrick**

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Minter (modern), Rehearsal Director of Ailey II and long-time AileyCamp teacher. Joining the staff this year are **Rosario Lionudakis** (jazz), a faculty member at Mills College and founder and creative director of Zari Le'on Dance Theater and **Shericka Hodges** (creative communications), a writer and painter as well as a teaching intern at Redwood Day School in Oakland. "Past, Present, Future" will include dance in each of the four disciplines, set to a combination of recorded and live music performed by camp accompanists **I-Fei Chen** (piano), **Madiou Diouf** (percussion) and **Josh Jacobs** (percussion). The performance will also include AileyCampers' work from creative communications class plus **Tina Banchemo's** personal development class that covers hygiene, drug prevention and interpersonal communication skills. Banchemo has taught life skills and directed a teen pregnancy prevention theater troupe for Planned Parenthood in New York in addition to having danced professionally.

AILEYCAMP

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of the highly respected program, which has operated successfully in New York, the Kansas Cities (Missouri & Kansas), Boston, Chicago and Bridgeport, Connecticut in previous years. Founded by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, the AileyCamp curriculum includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz and West African dance. Classes in performance techniques and creative communications deepen the students' awareness of their potential for self-expression; personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, decision-making and goal-setting. "Since being at camp I've become more confident. I used to be really shy, but when I messed up in my steps, I'd be called on to do it again in front of everybody—I just got used to it," claimed former AileyCamper Amanda Stevens.

Following recruitment presentations in schools, individual applicants were interviewed by AileyCamp staffers and volunteer community leaders. All campers receive full tuition scholarships, breakfast and lunch, camp uniforms and dance clothing, and, in many cases, transportation to and from their neighborhoods. The camp is supplemented with weekly educational and recreational field trips.

AileyCamp targets students with academic, social or domestic challenges—criteria that often determine a child’s risk of dropping out of school—but also welcomes students not necessarily at risk but who have little opportunity to develop their artistic interests. An important aspect of the program’s success is in providing positive adult and peer role models for underserved youths. When the camp is finished, students leave with valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment that will help them navigate through the challenging years ahead. “The change is in my attitude...in me believing in myself so I can go to school, get my homework done, turn it in and get a good grade,” explained former AileyCamper Charles Guess.

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is held in Zellerbach Hall and adjacent buildings on the UC Berkeley campus, providing a positive experience in a university setting to encourage youths to consider pursuing higher education. The 2006 group of campers includes a number of second-generation campers following in the footsteps of older siblings.

David McCauley returns as director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. He trained in ballet, modern, jazz and ethnic dance and, in New York City, was part of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater foundation for 15 years as a student, performer and instructor. Mr. McCauley has also appeared with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. Since 1990, he has performed with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company and was nominated this year for a coveted Isadora Duncan Dance Award for his work with the AXIS Dance Company, a troupe that creates groundbreaking works for dancers with and without disabilities. Rounding out the staff are **Rachel Davidman** and **Cheryl Olinsky**. Davidman is the Education and Programs Administrator for Cal Performances and the AileyCamp Camp Administrator and Spanish interpreter; prior to Cal Performances, she worked in the education department at the Oakland Museum and taught Spanish in East Bay public schools for six years. Olinsky, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is the camp guidance counselor offering support to campers, teachers and parents.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2006 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **Berkeley Community Fund, California Savings Bank, Citigroup Foundation, Stephanie Clark, Francis and Ruth Cushing, East Bay Community Foundation, The Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, Beth Hurwich, Tobey Roland, Carol and Duff Kurland, Ruth MacNaughton, Precious Cargo, The San Francisco Foundation, Michelle Shiota, Patty and Lawrence Siskind, Valerie Stewart and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.**

Additional support for the AileyCamp program is provided by **The Lehman Brothers AileyCamp Endowment Fund.**

The **Audience Development Committee** of Cal Performances' Board of Trustees and the **Oakland/Bay Area** chapter of the **Links, Inc.** serve as community leaders and volunteers for recruitment, interviews and other general support of AileyCampers throughout the program.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2006 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Final Performance
"Past, Present, Future"

Program:

The students of the 2006 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in "Past, Present, Future" in Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets: *Admission is free.* Advance admission tickets are subject to availability and can be obtained at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.