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**NĀ LEI HULU I KA WĒKIU, LED BY HULA MAVERICK
PATRICK MAKUAKANE, PRESENTS CONTEMPORARY
HAWAIIAN DANCE AT CAL PERFORMANCES
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 18 AT 2:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.**

SCHOOLTIME: San Francisco-based Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents a special one-hour performance of the traditional hula on Friday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. for school children.

SIGHTLINES: Post-performance discussion with artistic director Patrick Makuakane follows the 2:00 p.m. matinee performance on Saturday, March 18.

BERKELEY, February 17, 2006—The dynamic Hawaiian dance company Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu brings its “magnificent and inspiring” (*Honolulu Star Bulletin*) combination of hula dance and Hawaiian storytelling to Zellerbach Hall on **Saturday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** Led by *kumu hula* (hula master) Patrick Makuakane, the 40-member company is much admired for its trademark style, *hula mua*, a unique melding of traditional hula movements with non-Hawaiian music. “This is 21st-century hula, ancient dance used to make a postmodern point. It is hula charged with poetic potency” (*Honolulu Magazine*). The award-winning troupe’s Berkeley performances will highlight its vast body of work, featuring some of their greatest and most popular dance pieces from the past two decades.

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents a special one-hour *Schooltime* performance of the traditional hula on March 17; tickets available in advance only.

A *Sightlines* talk will follow the matinee performance on March 18. Makuakane will discuss Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu, traditional and contemporary Hawaiian dance, and his training as a *kumu hula*. The *Sightlines* talks are free to ticketholders.

NĀ LEI HULU I KA WĒKIU

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu —meaning “the many-feathered wreaths at the summit, held in high esteem”—is committed to teaching and preserving the Hawaiian culture through hula.

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Founded in 1985, dancers perform in both traditional *kahiko* and contemporary *'auana* hula styles. The company's "talk-story" performance format incorporates narration and dance in a way that places the hula in its rich cultural context.

In 1999 the company was awarded the prestigious Isadora Duncan Dance Award, or "Izzie," for its production, *The World According to Hula*. The Izzies celebrate the unique richness, diversity, and excellence of Bay Area dance. Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu received a second Izzie for *The Hula Show 2002*. The company and its artistic director, Patrick Makuakane, were featured in the 2003 POV documentary film, *American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawaii*.

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents an annual fall hula production at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, routinely selling out. Writing about the 2002 show, the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "The dancing was never less than persuasive and made a good case for traditional hula and the *hula mua*, 'hula for the future,' that is Makuakane's gift to the Hawaiian tradition. At its best, in the large ensembles, the dancers' gentle upper-body gestures and lovingly articulated hip phrasings were reason enough to rush to this colorful spectacle."

The company has performed throughout California, Nevada, and Hawaii and in New Orleans, is an annual fixture at Long Beach's Carpenter Center, and made its east coast debut in 2004 at the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival in New York City. "The departures from the traditional, lovingly preserved and beautifully danced, were the most fascinating parts of the evening. Mr. Makuakane retained the purity of the form and intent in choreography that clearly held tradition in esteem" (*The New York Times*).

PATRICK MAKUAKANE

"Patrick Makuakane is a maverick in the world of hula—a unique product of both Hawaiian traditional culture and the giddy world of San Francisco experimental dance. His approach abounds with creativity" (*San Jose Mercury News*). Recipient of many accolades, he garnered a KGO-TV Profiles in Excellence award in 1998, the Local Hero of the Year recognition from KQED-TV in 2001, and the *Kulia I Ka Nu'u* award from the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce of Northern California for leadership in the Hawaiian community.

In 2000 Makuakane received an Irvine Fellowship in Dance, funded by the James Irvine Foundation and administered by Dance/USA, to complete two years of intensive traditional studies with hula master Aunty Mae Kamamalu Klein in Hawaii; he received the status of *kumu hula* (“hula master”) at that time. In 2002 he received an Individual Artist Commission from the San Francisco Arts Commission for the creation and production of “Bow Down Mister,” and in 2003 he received a Gerbode Fellowship to further his professional development.

PROGRAM

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu will present selections of its most popular dance pieces from the past two decades. The program will be selected from “Sous Le Dôme Épais” (The Flower Duet, from Leo Delibes’ opera *Lakmé*), a stirring tribute to King David Kalakaua; “Bow Down Mister,” a celebratory collision of Hawaiian and Indian cultures that takes place on a sunny day in Golden Gate Park; “Taupo Princess,” a glimpse into the life of a Samoan Princess; and “Firemen’s Hula,” a spirited number featuring dancers who are also members of the San Francisco Fire Department.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu with Patrick Makuakane on Saturday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00, and \$32.00**. 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’ 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu

Patrick Makuakane, kumu hula (hula master)

Program: The 40-member company will present selections from its two decades of progressive, contemporary hula dancing.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00, and \$32.00, 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.

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Friday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m.

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

World Stage

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu

Program: San Francisco-based Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents a special one-hour performance of the traditional hula for school children.

Tickets: \$4.00 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.

SIGHTLINES

Post-performance discussion with Patrick Makuakane will follow the 2:00 p.m. matinee performance on Saturday, March 18. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.