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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS “ONCE MORE, FOR THE FIRST TIME”
A PERFORMANCE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE
2007 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2 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

AileyCamp Diary, featuring weekly writings and images from staff and campers, is new on Cal Performances’ website

BERKELEY, June 25, 2007—Celebrating its sixth summer session, the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances culminates in the 80-camper strong performance “**Once More, For the First Time**” **Thursday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m** in Zellerbach Hall. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and locally produced 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 “Once More, For the First Time” is designed to showcase the students’ training in all of these areas. *Admission is free, but tickets are necessary.* 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 AileyCamp final productions, this year’s performance promises to be filled to capacity.

New this summer is AileyCamp Diary, a webpage on Cal Performances’ website that features writings and images by staff and campers. New entries will be added several times each week and will give friends of AileyCamp a chance to see what’s happening at camp. http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/education/aileycamp_blog.php

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PROGRAM

This summer's camp of 80 students includes—for the second year in a row—22 young men. 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 **Rosario Lionudakis** (jazz), a faculty member at Mills College and founder and creative director of Zari Le'on Dance Theater. New teaching staff members include **M'bewe Escobar** (modern dance) a teaching artist with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for more than a decade; **Kate Schatz** (creative communications), a writer, editor and teacher who has taught at Rhode Island College and Brown University, where she received her MFA in Fiction Writing; and **Shawn Nealy** (personal development), a percussionist who received her Masters of Education from UCLA and has taught in the Los Angeles and Oakland Unified School Districts.

“Once More, For the First Time” 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 and personal development classes.

AILEYCAMP

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of the highly respected program, which operates successfully in New York, the Kansas Cities (Missouri & Kansas), Boston, Chicago, and Bridgeport, Connecticut; new camps are opening this season in Atlanta and on Staten Island. 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 had 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 2007 group of campers includes a number of second-generation campers following in the footsteps of older siblings. Also, for the first time, a former camper has joined the AileyCamp staff: **Yejide Najee-Ullah** was an Ailey camper in summer 2002 and has returned each year as a volunteer. This year, after finishing her first year at Smith College, she is an AileyCamp group leader.

David McCauley is the founding 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 for 15 years as a student, performer and instructor. 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 is **Rica Anderson**, the Education and Programs Administrator for Cal Performances and the AileyCamp Administrator. Prior to Cal Performances, she headed up the Educational Theater Programs for Kaiser Permanente; was School Liaison and a Teaching Artist at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts; created educator guides for KQED's Spark program; and participated in Harvard's Project Zero Classroom.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2007 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **The Barrios Trust, Jesse and Laran Brill, California Mortgage & Realty, Jan Deming and Jeff Goodby, The Fremont Group, The Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, the David B. Gold Foundation, Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney, Kaiser Permanente, Susan Marinoff and Thomas Schrag, Eddie and Amy Orton, Pacific National Bank, Kenneth and Francis Reid, The San Francisco Foundation, Paul and Beth Sawi, Barclay and Sharon Simpson, Marcus and Barbara Trice, Wells Fargo Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and Dayna and John Ziegler**, among others.

The **Young 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 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2007 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Final Performance
“Once More, For the First Time”

Program:

The students of the 2007 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in “Once More, For the First Time” 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.

- Cal Performances -