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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS "...ISM"
A PERFORMANCE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE
2008 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP
THURSDAY, JULY 31 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, returns on Cal Performances' website

BERKELEY, June 20, 2008—Celebrating its seventh summer session, the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances culminates in the 85-camper strong performance "...ism" **Thursday, July 31 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 "...ism" 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 the show. Like past AileyCamp final productions, this year's performance promises to be filled to capacity.

For the second summer AileyCamp Diary, a webpage on Cal Performances' website, will feature 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. The diary can be accessed through Cal Performances' website, www.calperformances.org, or go to http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/education/aileycamp_blog/2008.

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PROGRAM

This summer's camp of 85 students includes 20 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 returning dance instructors and teaching staff 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; **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. The new teaching staff member this year is **Sarah Kremer** (guidance counselor), a program manager for Friends for Youth in Berkeley. She had worked for AileyCamp NY and Chicago and is a board certified registered art therapist.

"...ism" will include dance in each of the four disciplines, set to a combination of recorded and live music performed by camp accompanists **Elyse Weakley** (piano), **Madiou Sao 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 and only West Coast site of the highly respected program, which operates successfully in New York, the Kansas Cities (Missouri & Kansas), Boston, Chicago and Bridgeport, Connecticut; this is the second year for camps 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. "I loved AileyCamp more than I can possibly say. It was a chance for me to step out of my inner circle and branch out. It made me want to move in a more expressive manner and more gracefully and with more purpose and feeling," says former AileyCamper Eli Joyce.

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.

On Friday, June 27, 2008, the first field trip of AileyCamp 2008 will take place at OCSC Sailing School in the Berkeley Marina. This will be the third summer that AileyCamp has accepted OCSC Sailing School founder Anthony Sandberg's offer to give the students, most of whom has never been on a boat before, a sailing lesson. With an one and a half hour excursion of the bay, the Ailey campers will learn the basics of sailing in addition to team-building exercises taught by AileyCamp staffers.

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 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. "I felt more comfortable with myself and leaned more not to care what others think of you" said former AileyCamper Sierra Taylor.

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 2008 group of campers includes a brother-sister duo, a pair of sisters and a number of second-generation campers following in the footsteps of older siblings. Also, returning for a second summer, a former camper has rejoined 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 second year at Smith College, she is returning to her role as an AileyCamp group leader. “Returning for the second year allows me to be more focused. I am more aware of what to expect and not as anxious for the unexpected.”

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 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 **Nicole Anthony**, the Design and Communications Specialist for Cal Performances and the Acting AileyCamp Administrator. **Rica Anderson**, the Education and Programs Administrator for Cal Performances and the Ailey Camp Administrator, is currently on maternity leave.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2008 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **Bank of America, The Barrios Trust, Flora Family Foundation, The Fremont Group, The Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Kaiser Permanente, David L. Klein Jr. Foundation, Pacific National Bank, Kenneth and Frances Reid, Gail and Daniel Rubinfeld, The San Francisco Foundation, Sharon and Barclay Simpson, Wells Fargo, and The Zellerbach Family Foundation**, 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, July 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2008 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Final Performance
"...ism"

Program:

The students of the 2008 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in "...ism" 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.

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