

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 9, 2007

**THE SEMINAL AND EVER BOUNDARY-EXPANDING  
PINA BAUSCH TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL RETURNS TO  
CAL PERFORMANCES WITH *TEN CHI* FRIDAY-SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 16-18 AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, October 9, 2007**—Considered “the most distinct voice to emerge in dance anywhere over the last quarter-century” (*Dance Insider*), **Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal** will return to Berkeley for three performances at **Zellerbach Hall** on **Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17**, at **8:00 p.m.**; and **Sunday, November 18**, at **7:00 p.m.** The troupe will perform a work many are calling Bausch’s most stunning masterpiece to date, the poetic *Ten Chi*, which she created in Japan in 2004. It is the latest in a series of what might be described as choreographic travelogues – works deeply informed and inspired by the geographical locations where they are created. On a stage decorated with cherry blossoms and a giant whale fin, the skilled dancers of Tanztheater Wuppertal explore with empathy and humor the sounds, sights, joys, and paradoxes of modern Japanese culture.

Widely regarded as the most influential and controversial choreographer of her time, German-born **Pina Bausch** virtually invented “dance theater,” fusing elements of American musical theater, vaudeville, and political cabaret into mesmerizing and bittersweet meditations on the human condition. She has been dubbed “the uncrowned empress of modern dance” (*Newsweek*) and is often praised for her productions that blend idiosyncratic movement, speech, song, brilliant visual images, and astonishing sets.

Bausch was instrumental in reviving modern dance in postwar Germany, with its roots in *ausdrucktanz* (expressive dance) that looked to everyday movements to express personal experiences. Her “dance operas” do not act out stories, but go beyond the vocabulary of modern dance to comment on emotional implications. Her work is known for combining humor with sadness and was an inspiration for Pedro Almodovar’s film *Talk to Her*.

-MORE-

Some hallmarks of Bausch's mature style have been the absence of a sustainable plot, or conventional senses of progression, or revelation of characters. Her pieces are constructed of short units of dialogue and action, often of a surreal nature; and repetition is an important structuring device. Actions are multilayered and performed simultaneously. They are built on brief episodes of dialogue and action that are often centered on a surreal situation, prop, or costume. The company frequently addresses the audience and tries to involve them in the action. To her critics, Bausch says, "You can see it like this or like that. It just depends on the way you watch."

Bausch has said that she has never considered what she does as choreography, but as expressing feelings by whatever means will best convey them. "I'm not interested in how people move," she says, "but what moves them." She believes each dancer's body tells its own story based on what it has experienced.

### **PINA BAUSCH**

**Pina Bausch** was born in Solingen, Germany in 1940, and began dancing at a young age. In 1955, she began studying at the Folkwang Academy directed by Germany's then most-influential choreographer, Kurt Jooss, one of the founders of German Expressionist Dance. From there she won a scholarship to New York's Julliard School in 1960, where she studied with Anthony Tudor, José Limón and Paul Taylor, among others.

In New York, she performed with the Paul Sanasardo and Donya Feuer dance companies as well as the New American Ballet, and became a member of the Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company. In 1962, Bausch returned to Germany to join Kurt Jooss's new Folkwang Ballett Company as a soloist and assisted Jooss on many of his pieces. She choreographed her first piece in 1968, and in 1969 succeeded Jooss as artistic director. In 1972, she began as artistic director of the then Wuppertal Opera Ballet, since renamed the Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal. The troupe made its American debut at the opening of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Bausch regularly tours her company and its repertoire of more than 30 full-length original pieces around the world.

Bausch has received many international awards and honors including the most recent 2007 Kyoto Prize in the category of arts and philosophy. Other honors include London's Laurence Olivier Award (2006), becoming an Honorary Ambassador for Culture and Art in Korea (2005), the Nijinsky Prize of Monaco (2004), the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (2003), the Istanbul Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award (2000), the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (1999), and the Picasso Medal of UNESCO (1993).

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal** on **Friday, November 16** at **8 p.m.**; **Saturday, November 17**, at **8 p.m.**; and **Sunday, November 18**, at **7 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$34, \$52** and **\$76**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

Cal Performances 2007/08 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is 2007/08 season media sponsor.

This event is co-produced with Saitama Prefecture, Saitama Arts Foundation, Nippon Cultural Center, and Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, November 16 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*Dance*

**Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal**

**Program:** The international tour-de-force dance troupe Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal will perform its full-length masterpiece *Ten Chi* for three performances only.

**Tickets:** \$34.00, \$52.00 and 76.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.net](http://www.calperformances.net); and at the door.

-----  
- Cal Performances -

-MORE-