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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS *FIAT LUX!*
THE FINALE PERFORMANCE OF
BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEY CAMP 2009
THURSDAY, JULY 30 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Middle-Schoolers of the Tuition-Free Six-Week Dance Program Demonstrate
Their New Skills in a Free Performance on the UC Berkeley Campus**

BERKELEY, June 22, 2009—Celebrating its eighth year, **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** culminates in a 51-camper strong, grand finale performance titled *Fiat Lux!* **Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m** at Zellerbach Hall. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey**, founder of **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. The camp is tuition free and admits middle-school students ages 11–14 from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts. “I love Ailey Camp,” said 2008 camper Angelina Luster-Rogers. “It helped me respect myself and other authorities and it made me look forward more to my future.” The performance of *Fiat Lux!* (“let there be light”) on the Zellerbach Hall stage with lights, costumes and music is designed to showcase the youths’ training. The *Fiat Lux!* (also the motto for the University of California) theme refers to the spark of bright and new ideas that shines through even the darkest of times. 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 starting Monday, July 13, 2009; tickets may be available at the door, depending on demand.

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. This summer’s camp of 51 students includes 16 young men and 35 young women. AileyCamp Director **David McCauley** is pleased to announce a number of returning dance instructors and teaching staff: **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

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Oakland; **M'bewe Escobar** (modern dance), a teaching artist for more than a decade with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; **Shawn Nealy** (personal development), a percussionist with a Masters of Education from UCLA and a teacher with multiple years in the classroom in the Los Angeles, Oakland and Fremont Unified School Districts; **Sarah Kremer** (guidance counselor), a Program Director for Friends for Youth's Mentoring Institute in San Mateo County, a teacher at AileyCamps in New York and Chicago and a board certified art therapist; and **Rebecca Hauley** (jazz), who taught jazz back in the 2004 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. One new teacher is joining the staff this summer, **Miguel Zavala** (creative communications), a theater education specialist with degrees from New York University and San Francisco State who will teach drama at Lick Wilmerding High School in San Francisco beginning this fall.

Fiat Lux! will include dance in each of the four disciplines, set to a combination of recorded and live music performed by camp accompanists **Frederick Harris** (piano), **Madiou Sao Diouf** (percussion) and **Darian LaFoucade** (percussion).

AileyCamp Diary, a webpage on Cal Performances' website, will feature writings and images by staff and campers updated throughout the six-week camp. Go to http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/education/aileycamp_blog/.

AILEYCAMP

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of the program. Other cities that host camps are New York and Staten Island (New York), Kansas City (Missouri & Kansas), Boston (Massachusetts), Chicago (Illinois), Atlanta (Georgia), Miami (Florida), Bridgeport (Connecticut) and Los Angeles. 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. Dance and creative communications classes deepen the students' awareness of their potential for self-expression; personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, personal hygiene, decision-making and goal-setting.

Following recruitment presentations in schools, individual applicants were interviewed by AileyCamp staffers and volunteer community leaders before being admitted to camp. 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 such as bowling, swimming and sailing.

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 middle-schoolers not necessarily at risk who have had little opportunity to develop their artistic interests. An important aspect of the program’s success is providing positive adult and peer role models. When 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 feel more comfortable in my own skin,” said 2008 AileyCamper Samantha Swails.

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the only AileyCamp on a major university. “We believe the camp being on the UC Berkeley campus is a huge plus,” explains McCauley. “Most of our campers have expressed an interest in attending college. We encourage our campers to see themselves pursuing higher education, and to be attending UC Berkeley is an aspiration for many.”

David McCauley is the charter director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances. He trained in ballet, modern, jazz and ethnic dance. He was a member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Foundation, Inc. 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. **Rica Anderson** is 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. Rounding out the staff is **Nicole Anthony**, the Design and Communications Specialist for Cal Performances and Assistant AileyCamp Administrator.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2009 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **Flora Family Foundation, The Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Kaiser Permanente, Macy's Foundation, Kenneth and Frances Reid, The San Francisco Foundation, Sharon and Barclay Simpson, Markus and Barbara Trice, Wells Fargo Bank, and The Zellerbach Family Foundation**, among others.

The **Young Audience Development Committee** of Cal Performances' Board of Trustees and the **Oakland/Bay Area, Contra Costa and Alameda** 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 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2009 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances' Final Performance

Fiat Lux!

David McCauley, director

AileyCamp campers, accompanists and instructors

Program: The 51 campers of the 2009 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *Fiat Lux!* at 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 starting Monday, July 13, 2009. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

- Cal Performances -