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**PERFORMANCE ARTIST LAURIE ANDERSON
NARRATES HER SLICE OF THE AMERICAN PIE WITH *HOMELAND*
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 & 25 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH
HALL**

A Campus and Community Event titled *Free Speech: New Media, Performance and Democracy: A Conversation with Laurie Anderson* will be moderated by UC Berkeley's Ken Goldberg on Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium

BERKELEY, September 17, 2008—Avant-garde musician and master storyteller **Laurie Anderson**, hailed as “a wizard behind a curtain, without the curtain” (*The New York Times*), will bring her new 100-minute concert, *Homeland*, to Cal Performances' **Zellerbach Hall** on **Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25, at 8:00 p.m.** Anderson has conceived *Homeland* as an exploration of how the world has changed since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Using her trademark combination of talking and singing, occasionally marked by electronic processing of her voice, she accompanies herself on electric violin and keyboards. *The Boston Globe* described the work as “pulsating carpets of tender, techno sounds.” Anderson will be joined on stage by three musicians: **Peter Scherer** (keyboard), **Skuli Sverrisson** (bass) and **Okkyung Lee** (cello). Cal Performances, which has hosted Anderson regularly since the early 1990s and co-commissioned the last three works she has brought to Berkeley, is a co-commissioner of *Homeland*.

In conjunction with this performance, **Ken Goldberg**, director of the **Berkeley Center for New Media**, will talk with Anderson about politics, technology and art on **Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m.** This free and open-to-the-public event will be held at **Wheeler Auditorium** on the UC Berkeley Campus and is presented in association with the Art, Technology and Culture Colloquium at UC Berkeley.

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HOMELAND

Eight days after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Laurie Anderson appeared onstage at New York's Town Hall and gave a somber yet challenging performance that captured the mood of the times. The momentous day continues to inform Anderson's work; 9/11 and its aftermath are the primary focus of *Homeland*.

“‘Homeland’ [is] about looking at this contemporary culture through two filters—the filters of love and war. I’m just trying to come at it from a bunch of different angles without being didactic. Nobody needs more didactic,” Anderson recently said to the *Boston Herald*.

Reminiscent of *United States I–IV* (1983), one of Anderson's early works exploring politics and culture, *Homeland* is presented on a simple black set decorated with dozens of candles. Anderson “affected wry detachment in one moment and astral wonderment in the next,” wrote *The New York Times* in its review of *Homeland*, adding that “the spookiest moments were also some of the loveliest.” A recording of *Homeland* will be released on the Nonesuch label in 2009.

Homeland has been in development for several years as Anderson toured abroad, performing and improvising with musicians ranging from Mongolian throat singers to jazz bands and electro-pop musicians. *Homeland* debuted in Europe in 2007 and toured in parts of the United States throughout spring 2008. Over the past summer, Anderson has performed *Homeland* in Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

LAURIE ANDERSON

Laurie Anderson was born in 1947 near Chicago, Illinois. As a child she studied violin and played in the Chicago Youth Symphony. She attended Oakland's Mills College before graduating from Barnard College, then did graduate work in sculpture at Columbia University. While at Columbia, she became involved in the New York experimental art scene of the early 1970s. She has gone on to a diverse creative career, recording several albums, writing songs and articles, mounting gallery shows and creating large-scale theatrical works that combine music, video, storytelling and sculpture.

Anderson rose to international prominence in 1980, when her single “O Superman” reached number two on the British pop charts. During the 1980s, she recorded numerous albums; composed soundtracks for several films; produced and appeared in her own concert film, *Home of the Brave*; appeared in a number of live stage shows and television programs; and hosted the PBS series *Alive from Off Center*. Anderson’s television, movie and performance work continued through the 1990s and her career expanded to include projects such as the *Rugrats Movie* (she provided the voice of a newborn baby), interactive CD-ROMs, music for choreographers, including Bill T. Jones and Trisha Brown, and an article for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on the cultural character of New York City. All the while she has explored technology and its effects on communication and shared her understanding of these concepts through her performance art.

In 2002, Anderson was appointed the first artist-in-residence at NASA, and in this role she developed her solo performance, *End of the Moon*, which she toured internationally from 2004 through 2006. She also contributed to the opening ceremonies for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and created an art installation for the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. In April 2008, Anderson married her longtime companion, musician Lou Reed; the couple currently resides in New York City.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Laurie Anderson’s *Homeland* on Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall** are priced at \$28.00, \$38.00 and \$56.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; 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.org.

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;

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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 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.

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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25 at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Theater

Homeland

Laurie Anderson, actor and violin

Peter Scherer, keyboard

Skuli Sverrisson, bass

Okkyung Lee, cello

Program: Avant-garde musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson brings her new work *Homeland* to Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets: \$28.00, \$38.00 and \$56.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m.
Campus and Community Event

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

Program: Performance artist and musician Laurie Anderson talks with Ken Goldberg, director of the Berkeley Center for New Media, about politics, art and multimedia. This event is free and open to the public.

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