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**PASCAL RIOULT DANCE THEATRE BRINGS
THREE WEST COAST PREMIERES TO ZELLERBACH HALL
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 & 31 AT 8:00 P.M.**

Two distinct programs feature works set to the music of Bach, Stravinsky and Ravel

BERKELEY, December 18, 2008—“Perhaps the most adept and courageous choreographer in mainstream modern dance today” (*Backstage*), choreographer **Pascal Rioult** brings his ten-member company to Berkeley **Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31 at 8:00 p.m.** The French-born, New York City-based Rioult has a dance vocabulary with roots in the European tradition and in American modern dance (Rioult danced with Martha Graham.) **Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre** made its Bay Area debut at Cal Performances in 2002 and returned in 2003. This season’s engagement includes three West Coast premieres set to the music of **J. S. Bach** and **Igor Stravinsky**. The program also includes a reprise of *Boléro*, Rioult’s bold interpretation of Ravel’s famous work; the dance was a co-commissioned by Cal Performances in 2002. Known for his “assertive individuality” (*The New York Times*), Rioult and his company of ten dancers enjoy a reputation that increases in stature with each passing season.

PROGRAM

Praised as a “natural storyteller who is increasingly, and distinctively, merging buried narrative with pure dance” (*The New York Times*), Rioult’s Program A (Friday, January 30 at 8:00 p.m.) will open with the West Coast premiere of *Views of the Fleeting World* (2008). A series of nine vignettes, the work is inspired by the purity and strength of Bach’s *Art of Fugue* and celebrates beauty and humanity in both art and life. *Black Diamond* (2003) features two black-clad female dancers on a stark stage performing a series of dynamic solos and duets, “the opposite extreme” (*The New York Times*) of Balanchine’s lyrical love duet. The work is set to the five movements of Stravinsky’s *Duo Concertant*. In the second West Coast premiere, *Symphony of Psalms* (2007), Rioult blends dramatic images and powerful movement into an

uplifting work. His treatment of Stravinsky's score provokes intense emotion without becoming sentimental and reflects the complex spiritual tone of the music.

Program B (Saturday, January 31 at 8:00 p.m.) begins with *Les Noces* (2005), the final West Coast premiere and set to music by Stravinsky. Revising the concept of the wedding, *Les Noces* is a sexually charged deconstruction of the marriage ritual, exploring the primal instincts behind this traditional rite of passage. Provocative movement and unabashed energy permeate strong structural composition. *Wien* (1995), set to Ravel's *La Valse*, depicts European society between two world wars whose apparent civility—as illustrated by the Viennese waltz—fails to conceal the internal whirlwind, spiraling outward to social disintegration. The final piece on the program is *Bolero* (2002), a hit on a past Cal Performances program, is a “dazzling machine-dance view” (*The New York Times*) of Ravel's masterpiece, performed by the entire company.

PASCAL RIOULT DANCE THEATRE

Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre (PRDT) was founded in 1994 for the purpose of expressing the artistic vision of dancer and choreographer Pascal Rioult. The company is comprised of **Brian Flynn, Penelope Gonzalez, Charis Haines, Patrick Leahy, Michael Spencer Phillips, Robert Robinson, Jane Sato, John Sorensen-Jolink, Anastasia Soroczynski** and **Marianna Tsartolia**. Since 1994, the troupe's visibility and touring has increased significantly, taking them to locations across the United States and Europe. European appearances include the Florence and Bolzano Dance Festivals in Italy, and the Cannes International Dance Festival, Maison de la Danse, Festival International “Danse á Aix” and the Opera Bastille in France. In 1999, PRDT was one of seven companies invited to participate in the acclaimed Altogether Different series at the Joyce Theater in New York. This past season, the company was honored to be the Théâtre de Saint Quentin en Yvelines resident company for the Temps de Danse Festival that took place throughout the Versailles region of France. PRDT's educational component, *DanceREACH*, takes an interactive approach to introducing students to the world of modern dance, presenting programs in schools in New York City and the Metropolitan area.

PASCAL RIOULT

Born in Caen, France, **Pascal Rioult** came to the United States in the early 1980s on a fellowship from the French Ministry of Culture to study with modern dance legend Merce Cunningham. He danced with the companies of May O'Donnell and Paul Sanasardo before joining the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1986. As a principal dancer, he has performed some of the most prestigious roles in the Graham repertory, including Aegisthus in *Clytemnestra*, Jason in *Cave of the Heart*, Tiresias in *Night Journey*, and the Preacher in *Appalachian Spring*. He performed opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov in *El Penitente* and was featured in two television specials, *Martha Graham in Japan* and *Five Dances by Martha Graham at the Paris Opera*.

Rioult first began choreographing dances in 1989 while still a member of the Graham troupe; he produced his first works at New York's Theatre of the Riverside Church in 1991 and 1992. His pieces *Narayama* and *Harvest* were later presented by the Graham Company during its New York City seasons at City Center. In 1994, Rioult left the Graham Company to dedicate his energy to PRDT and formulating a choreographic style of his own. Rioult's work has been performed and/or commissioned by the Martha Graham Company, Geneva Ballet, Ballet of Lithuania, Ballet du Nord, Danse á Aix, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Dance Kaleidoscope, Ballet Pacifica and Purchase Dance Corps. He has taught and set his works at the Ailvin Ailey American Dance Center, Harvard Dance Center and the Martha Graham School, among many others, and in 1998 and 2002 received the Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00**, **\$34.00** and **\$48.00**. Please check with the Cal Performances Ticket Office at 510.642.9988 for availability. All other 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; 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.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Dance

Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre
Pascal Rioult, artistic director

Program A (Friday, January 30):

Views of the Fleeting World (2008), set to J. S. Bach's *The Art of Fugue* (West Coast premiere)
Black Diamond (2003), set to Stravinsky's *Duo Concertant*
Symphony of Psalms (2007), music by Stravinsky (West Coast premiere)

Program B (Saturday, January 31):

Les Noces (2005), music by Stravinsky (West Coast premiere)
Wien (1995), set to Ravel's *La Valse*
Boléro (2002), music by Ravel

All choreography by Pascal Rioult.

Tickets: \$26.00, \$34.00 and \$48.00, 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.