

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 21, 2010

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP'S
GRAND FINALE PERFORMANCE OF *AMBASSADOR BRIDGES*
THURSDAY, JULY 29 AT 7:00 P.M. ATZELLERBACH 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 21, 2010—Celebrating its ninth year, **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** culminates in a 50-camper strong, grand finale performance titled *Ambassador Bridges Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m* at Zellerbach Hall. Utilizing lights, costumes and music, the performance is designed to showcase the youths' training in ballet, jazz, modern and African dance. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey**, founder of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, is locally produced by Cal Performances under the direction of **David McCauley**. The camp combines dance instructions with personal development and creative communications classes and field trips and is tuition-free and admits underserved middle-school students ages 11–14 from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts.

“AileyCamp is the centerpiece of our education program” says Cal Performances’ Director Matías Tarnopolsky. “Through classes in dance, our campers have transformative learning experiences, through which they develop not only artistic skills, but also, and fundamentally, life skills. We're incredibly proud of them.”

The theme of *Ambassador Bridges* emphasizes that everyone is an ambassador for themselves, their families, neighborhoods and cultures, and the interconnectivity of all people. “By attending AileyCamp, I've learned dancing techniques, more about myself, and how other people feel,” said past camper Imara Seale. “It has made me a positive influence to other people.”

The finale performance is free and open to the public. Tickets may be obtained in person at Cal Performances’ Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus starting Monday, July 19, 2010; tickets may be available at the door, depending on demand.

-MORE-

BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP AT CAL PERFORMANCES

The first AileyCamp was founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; there are now ten camps throughout the country. **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** was established in 2001 and was the first AileyCamp on the West Coast and the only camp on a major university campus. This summer, the camp includes 15 boys and 35 girls. The 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. "I will not use the word *can't* to define my possibilities," is just one of the affirmations repeated daily to reconfirm their goals, build self-confidence, and guide them on a path to becoming a productive and motivated individual. AileyCamp is not a training ground for professional dancers but instead uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem and critical thinking skills in underserved 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. An important aspect of the program's success is providing positive adult and peer role models. "When camp is finished, students will leave with valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment that will help them navigate through the challenging years ahead," explains McCauley.

David McCauley is the charter director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances. He trained in ballet, modern, jazz and ethnic dance, and 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 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.

Returning instructors include **Naomi Johnson Diouf** (African dance), West African dance and culture teacher at Berkeley High School and Artistic Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Oakland; **Derrick Minter** (modern dance), longtime AileyCamp teacher and dance professor at the University of Oklahoma; and **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. Camp musicians include **Frederick Harris** on piano and **Madiou Sao Diouf** and **Darian LaFoucade** on percussion.

New teaching staff members include **Priya Shah** (ballet), a former faculty member of Ballet Pacifica Academy with a MFA in Dance and a BA in Psychology; **Ann Wiederhold** (guidance counselor), has been a counselor at the New International School of Thailand and John F. Kennedy School in Berlin for the past five years; and **Anya Booker** (creative communications), has MFAs in Screenwriting and Creative Writing from the American Film Institute and Antioch University, respectively.

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 www.calperformances.org/aileycampdiary.

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances, now in its 104th season, is the performing arts presenter and producer at the University of California, Berkeley, and is the largest organization of its kind in Northern California and one of the most influential in the nation. Under the artistic leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, Cal Performances co-commissions and presents world, American and West Coast premieres each season, utilizing five venues including Zellerbach Hall and Playhouse, Hertz Hall and the venerable Greek Theater. Over 200 performances and educational programs each year bring more than 300,000 people to campus. Artists from around the world appearing at Cal Performances include Mark Morris, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Renée Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma, Angélique Kidjo, Simon Shaheen, Peter Sellars, Laurie Anderson, Dave Brubeck, Ravi Shankar and John Adams. Celebrated international companies include the Vienna Philharmonic,

Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, the Berliner Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Gate Theater of Dublin, American Ballet Theatre, Les Arts Florissants, and the Kirov and Bolshoi ballet companies and orchestras, among many others.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2010 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **Jesse and Laren Brill, The Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Eddie and Amy Orton, Kenneth and Frances Reid, Markus and Barbara Trice and William A. Settles Fund for AileyCamp**, among others.

The **Young Audience Development Committee** of Cal Performances' Board of Trustees and the **Oakland/Bay Area** and **Alameda Contra Costa** chapters of the **Links, Inc.** serve as community leaders and volunteers for recruitment, interviews and other general support of AileyCampers throughout the program.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2010 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances' Final Performance

Ambassador Bridges

David McCauley, director

AileyCamp campers, accompanists and instructors

Program: The 50 campers of the 2010 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *Ambassador Bridges* at Zellerbach Hall in a one hour performance.

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 19, 2010. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

- Cal Performances -