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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 20, 2010

**AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT, ESSAYIST AND ACTOR  
WALLACE SHAWN  
BRINGS HIS *REAL WORLD, FAKE WORLD, DREAM WORLD*  
TO ZELLERBACH HALL ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, December 20, 2010**—Writer and actor **Wallace Shawn** comes to Cal Performances' **Zellerbach Hall** as part of the *Strictly Speaking* series to read from and talk about his work in **An Evening with Wallace Shawn: *Real World, Fake World, Dream World* Sunday**, on **Sunday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.** Best known and loved for his comedic roles as a film and stage actor, Shawn is also a three time Obie Award-winning playwright highly respected for his exploration of difficult, often controversial themes. “Shawn’s signature tone...is a kind of canny naiveté, in which complicated questions are approached with a simplicity that strips the conventional barnacles from the search for truth” (*Los Angeles Times*). During *Real World, Fake World, Dream World*, Shawn will read from his plays—his self-described “world of dreams.” He will also discuss the world as he sees it, as well as the “false” world created by those who hope to exploit the public’s gullibility.

Last year was a banner year for Shawn. First, his *Essays* (2009), a collection of non-fiction that looks at high art, war, culture, politics and privilege from Shawn’s personal perspective, was published. In the spring of 2009, London’s Royal Court Theatre honored him by presenting a number of his theatrical and cinematic works, including the premiere of his new play *Grasses of a Thousand Colors* “superbly” (*The New Yorker*) staged by celebrated director Andre Gregory. While not as well known in the United States, in England his works are considered contemporary classics. “*Aunt Dan and Lemon, The Fever* and *The Designated Mourner*—these are the three major American plays of our time,” commented British playwright David Hare.

Born in New York, Wallace Shawn graduated from Harvard University with a B.A. in history. He originally intended on becoming a diplomat and later went on to study economics

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and philosophy at Oxford. However, in 1970, Wallace became involved in theater when he met experimental director Andre Gregory, who has since directed several of his plays, including *Grasses of a Thousand Colors* last year in London. Since then, Shawn has acted in numerous theater, movie and television roles as well as written plays and essays.

Shawn made his film debut in 1979 in Woody Allen's *Manhattan* and Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz*. In 1981, Andre Gregory and Shawn wrote and starred in Louis Malle's celebrated film *My Dinner With Andre*. *Vanya on 42nd Street* (1994), another classic, was also created with Gregory. Shawn has acted in more than 70 movies all together; his best-known roles include Earl in *Strange Invaders* and Vizzini in *The Princess Bride*. He has also been a voice actor, including the role of Rex, the toy dinosaur in *Toy Story*, and has appeared in a variety of television series from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* to *Gossip Girl*.

While he earns his living as an actor, Shawn's true calling is his writing, award-winning plays and screenplays that usually make bold, often provocative assertions that outrage and even startle audiences. His works are often highly controversial and elicit polarized critical response. Three of his plays have won Obie Awards, or Off-Broadway Theater Awards: *Our Late Night* (1975) for Best New Play, *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (1986) for Distinguished Playwriting, and *The Fever* (1991) for Best New American Play.

Shawn received the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award and was named Master American Dramatist in 2005, for "show[ing] the way to a new kind of theater, a theater able to contain sex and politics and history and heartache and remorse, longing and confusion, the horrors of self-knowledge, deep and complex thought as well as deep and complex feeling..."

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **An Evening with Wallace Shawn: *Real World, Fake World, Dream World*** on **Sunday, January 23** at **7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$22.00, \$26.00, \$32.00, \$36.00** and **\$40.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances' Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://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 \$5.00 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](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three 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 on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*Strictly Speaking*

**An Evening with Wallace Shawn: *Real World, Fake World, Dream World***

**Program:** Actor, playwright, and essayist Wallace Shawn reads from and talks about his work in an evening titled *Real World, Fake World, Dream World*.

**Tickets:** \$22.00, \$26.00, \$32.00, \$36.00, and \$40.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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