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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP'S
GRAND FINALE PERFORMANCE OF *INFINITE POSSIBILITIES*
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2 AT 7:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Middle-school participants in the tuition-free six-week dance program demonstrate their new skills in a free performance on the UC Berkeley Campus

BERKELEY, June 15, 2012—Celebrating its eleventh summer, the **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** will culminate in a 56-camper strong finale performance titled *Infinite Possibilities Thursday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.* at Zellerbach Hall. Complete with professional staging, lights, costumes and live music, the 2012 session of the nationally acclaimed youth program showcases the youths' training in ballet, jazz, modern and African dance. The camp was conceived by **Alvin Ailey**, founder of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, and is locally produced by Cal Performances under the direction of **David McCauley**. "AileyCamp is arts education at its very best," says Cal Performances' Director **Matías Tarnopolsky**. "It has a transformative effect on every single participant's life. They take back to their families, their schools and to their communities the essential values they have learned." Comprised of seven boys and 49 girls this summer, campers participate in a curriculum that includes dance instruction in addition to personal development, creative communications classes and field trips. The tuition-free camp admits underserved middle-school students from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts. Tickets for the performance of *Infinite Possibilities* are free and available to the public at the Zellerbach Hall ticket office (see page 2).

Robert Battle, the newly appointed Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, oversees AileyCamp, is thrilled that "we are not only reaching thousands of young people across the country but changing their lives through dance. Mr. Battle is a product of programs like AileyCamp and understands their importance." said the National Director of AileyCamp, **Nasha Thomas-Schmitt**.

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David McCauley, who has served as Director of the camp since its beginning in the 2001-2002 season, has titled this year's end-of-camp performance *Infinite Possibilities* because "Often our choices seem limited to 'this or that.' Whereas with more thought, greater openness to new ideas, and more collaboration, we might realize the range of possibilities is virtually limitless." He explains, "However, take a little bit of this, a little bit of that, and presto! You have something that wasn't there before. It is the process of creation."

The Thursday, August 2 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 Tuesday, July 24, 2012; remaining tickets may be available at the door, depending on demand.

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** opened its doors in June 2002; it is the only AileyCamp on the West Coast and on a major university campus. The campers receive two meals each day, a camp uniform and dance clothes. They participate in a curriculum that 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 reinforce 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," McCauley says.

David W. McCauley began his dance training while a student, first at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has trained in ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic dancing. As a dancer based in New York City, McCauley spent 15 years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as student, instructor and performer. He also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. Since 1990, he has been a resident of San Francisco, and has performed with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company. Recently, McCauley became an adjunct faculty member of the Center for Art, Religion, and Education, an affiliated center of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and was awarded the AileyCamp Award of Excellence from the AileyCamp Foundation in recognition of his exemplary leadership and commitment, 2002-2011. The AileyCamp Award of Excellence was the first award of its kind from the AileyCamp Foundation and McCauley was the first one to receive it. A full time staff member at Cal Performances who also serves as a teaching artist, he has directed Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances since its inauguration.

Rica Anderson is the Education and Programs Administrator and a Teaching Artist for Cal Performances and the AileyCamp Administrator. Prior to Cal Performances, she worked for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theater programs; 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. New to camp is **Lashay Massey**, the administrative assistant, she is a recent graduate of U.C. Berkeley where she earned a B.A. in Pre-Law and Social Welfare.

The whole teaching staff from last Summer is returning: **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; **Priya Shah** (ballet), a former faculty member of Ballet Pacifica Academy with a MFA in Dance and a BA in Psychology; **Zari Le'on** (jazz dance), dance instructor at Grand Canyon University, Middlebury College, Mills College and Scripps College and founder and creative director of Zari Le'on

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; **Lina Assad Cates** (guidance counselor), a mental health counselor and art therapist with an MA from The George Washington University and currently working as a middle school-based mental health therapist for Fred Finch Youth Center in Oakland; and **Erika Padilla-Morales** (creative communications), MFAs in Screenwriting and Creative Writing, currently a Media Arts Coach with Streetside Stories supporting educators and young people through video. Returning musicians include pianist **Frederick Harris** and percussionists **Madiou Sao Diouf** and **Darian LaFoucade**.

This summer, three former AileyCampers will join AileyCamp as group leaders this year. As group leaders, **Tamara McCree** (2002 alum), **Spencer Pulu** (2005 alum) and **Dominique Fluker** (2006 alum) will oversee the AileyCampers from class to class in leadership roles and apply their experiences as former AileyCampers to the current group of children.

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 106th season, is the performing arts presenter and producer at the University of California, Berkeley. It 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, Laurie Anderson, Dave Brubeck and Ravi Shankar. Celebrated international companies include the Vienna Philharmonic, Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the

Gate Theater of Dublin, the Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre and the Kirov and Bolshoi ballet companies and orchestras, among many others. Cal Performances' extensive Education and Community Programs include talks, lecture/demonstrations and symposia open to the public plus *Cal Performances in the Classroom* offers professional workshops for classroom teachers and teaching artists who work along side teachers in their K-12 classrooms. 20,000 students come to Zellerbach Hall each season to see special one-hour *SchoolTime* performances.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Cal Performances gratefully acknowledges Lead Community Partner **Bank of America** for their major support of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. Additional support provided by **Jesse and Laren Brill**, the **Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund**, **Kenneth and Frances Reid**, the **William A. Settles Trust for AileyCamp**, and the **Zellerbach Family Foundation**, among others.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

Dance/Education

2012 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances

Infinite Possibilities

David McCauley, director

AileyCamp campers, accompanists and instructors

Program: The 56 campers of the 2012 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in *Infinite Possibilities* at Zellerbach Hall in a 90 minute free 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 Tuesday, July 24, 2012. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

– Cal Performances –