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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
MUSICIAN/STORYTELLER LAURIE ANDERSON'S NEW WORK *DIRTDAY!*
ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, August 17, 2012—Avant-garde musician and master storyteller **Laurie Anderson** brings *Dirtday!*, the final installment of her current trilogy of performance pieces, to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Tuesday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.** In *Dirtday!*, Anderson weaves stories with her viola-propelled sonic landscape to take a critical look at politics, theories of evolution, families, history and even animals. *Dirtday!* is the culmination of her lifetime of groundbreaking work as an artist and continuous pioneering of performance technology. It accompanies *Happiness* (2002) and *End of the Moon* (2004), both of which were presented by Cal Performances, who has hosted Anderson regularly since the early 1990s and co-commissioned the last five works she has brought to Berkeley. “Laurie Anderson is a singer-songwriter of crushing poignancy—a minimalist painter of melancholy moods who addresses universal themes in the vernacular of the commonplace” (*Rolling Stone*).

Laurie Anderson was born in 1947 near Chicago, Illinois. As a child she studied violin and played in the Chicago Youth Symphony. She studied sculpture at Columbia University, becoming 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, all the while she has explored technology and its effects on communication and shared her understanding of these concepts through her performance art.

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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. Anderson has won many awards from organizations like SEAMUS (Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States), as well as garnered a Grammy nomination in 2011 for Best Pop Instrumental. In April 2008, Anderson married her longtime companion, musician Lou Reed; the couple currently resides in New York City (laurieanderson.com).

To watch an originally produced video of Anderson talking about *Dirtday!*, go to <http://calperformances.org/performances/2012-13/theater/laurie-anderson-dirtday.php>

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Laurie Anderson, *Dirtday!*** on **Tuesday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** range from **\$22.00** to **\$90.00**, and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances' Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; 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 \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). 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 on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988 and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit www.calperformances.org.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, September 18, at 8:00 p.m.

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

Theater

Dirtday!

Laurie Anderson

Program: Artist Laurie Anderson returns with her new work *Dirtday!*, in which she looks at politics, theories of evolution, families, history and animals (West Coast premiere).

Tickets: Start at \$22.00, and are subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door.

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