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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS “WHAT A DAY!”
A PERFORMANCE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE
2004 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEY CAMP,
THURSDAY, JULY 29 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Students of the Tuition-Free Summer Arts Program Exhibit Their Work after Six-Weeks
of Training in Multiple Dance Disciplines and Coursework on the UC Berkeley Campus**

BERKELEY, July 8, 2004 – Marking its third summer in Berkeley, AileyCamp culminates in an exuberant, 75 camper-strong performance entitled “**What a Day!**” **Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and locally administrated by **Cal Performances**, combines ballet, jazz, modern, and African dance instruction with personal development and creative communication classes and field trips for middle school students, ages 11-14, from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Albany Unified School districts. The July 29th performance of “What a Day!” is designed to showcase the students’ training in all of these areas. *Admission is free*. Admission tickets may be obtained in person at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus in advance and night of show. Like the grand finale productions in 2002 and 2003, the July 29 performance promises to be a sell-out.

PROGRAM

Campers realize quickly that there’s more to AileyCamp than the dancing. “The biggest thing I learned wasn’t the dance at all – it was getting along with all the people and the personalities. It was hard,” explained AileyCamper Portia Dixon (’02). AileyCamp is not a training ground for professional dancers but, instead, uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression and critical thinking skills among underserved 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Instructors **Willie Anderson** (ballet), **Rebecca Hawley** (jazz), **Naomi Washington Diouf** (African dance), and **Derrick Minter** (modern) have worked with the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers over a six-week period, most of whom have never before

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received any performing arts instruction. “What a Day!” will include dance performances by AileyCampers in each dance discipline, set to a combination of recorded and live music as performed by camp accompanists **I-Fei Chen** (piano), **Madiou Diouf** (percussion), and **Moshen Milon** (percussion). “What a Day!” will also include representation of AileyCampers’ work in personal development, creative communications and techniques of performance courses, led by **Tina Banchemo**, **Michael Trainer** and **David McCauley**, respectively.

The 2004 AileyCamp mix of campers includes two sets of siblings, two sets of cousins and the first second-generation camper—Khufu Najee-Ullah, following in the footsteps of his big sister, Yejide, a 2002 AileyCamper graduate and now an administrative volunteer at camp. Khufu is also part of the largest group of boys the dance camp has ever had, 13 males in all, almost 50 percent higher than past years. “The word is starting to get around to the boys that dance training is not for the faint-hearted – it’s a good way of improving athletic ability while encouraging artistic dreams,” commented long-time AileyCamp modern dance instructor Derrick Minter.

AileyCamp

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of the highly respected program, which has operated successfully in New York, the Kansas Cities (Missouri & Kansas), Boston, Chicago and Bridgeport, Connecticut in previous years. Founded by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, the AileyCamp curriculum includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. Classes in techniques of performance and creative communications deepen the students’ awareness of their potential for self-expression; and personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, decision-making and goal-setting. “Since being at camp I’ve become more confident. I used to be really shy, but when I messed up in my steps, I’d be called on to do it again in front of everybody—I just got used to it,” claimed Amanda Stevens, a 2002 AileyCamper.

Following recruitment presentations in schools, individual applicants are interviewed by AileyCamp staffers and volunteer community leaders. All campers receive full tuition

scholarships, breakfast and lunch, camp uniforms and dance clothing, and in many cases, transportation to and from their neighborhoods. The camp is supplemented with weekly educational and recreational field trips.

AileyCamp targets students with academic, social and domestic challenges—criteria that often determine a child’s risk of dropping out of school—but also welcomes students who have little opportunity to develop their artistic interests. An important aspect of the program’s success is in providing positive adult and peer role models for underserved youths. At the end of camp, students leave with valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment before they enter the challenging high school years. “The change is in my attitude...in me believing in myself so I can go to school, get my homework done, turn it in and get a good grade,” (Charles Guess, 2002 AileyCamper).

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is held in Zellerbach Hall and adjacent buildings on the UC Berkeley campus, providing a positive experience in a university setting to encourage youths to consider pursuing higher education as a personal goal.

David McCauley returns as director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances. Mr. McCauley began his dance training as a student at Wayne State University in Detroit, and later at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He trained in ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic dance, and, in New York City, was part of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater foundation for 15 years as a student, instructor and performer. He has also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. Since 1990, Mr. McCauley has been performing with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2004 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Berkeley Community Fund, Chevron Texaco Corporation, East Bay Community Foundation,**

Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, Karl's Fund for Kids of the East Bay Community Foundation, and the San Francisco Foundation.

Additional support for the AileyCamp program is provided by **The Lehman Brothers AileyCamp Endowment Fund.**

The **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.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

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

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

Special Event

2004 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Final Performance
"What a Day!"

Program:

The students of the 2004 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in "What a Day!" the grand finale performance concluding six-weeks of training in multiple dance disciplines and coursework in Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets: *Admission is free.* Advance admission tickets are subject to availability and can be obtained at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall. Limit four per person. Call (510) 642-9988 for ticket information.

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