

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS “EYE SEA: PASSAGES”
A PERFORMANCE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE
2005 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEY CAMP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 3:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE**

**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, June 30, 2005 – Marking its fourth summer in Berkeley, AileyCamp culminates in a high-octane, 62-camper-strong performance entitled **“Eye Sea: Passages”** **Thursday, August 4 at 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Playhouse**. The nationally acclaimed youth program, conceived by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and locally administrated by **Cal Performances**, scouted middle school students, ages 11-14, from the Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and Albany Unified School districts. The summer program includes lessons in ballet, jazz, modern, and African dance along with personal development and creative communications classes and field trips. “Eye Sea: Passages” is designed to showcase the students’ training in all of these areas. The AileyCampers will present their grand finale performance twice in Zellerbach Playhouse, a smaller venue than Zellerbach Hall which is undergoing seat replacement during August. As a result, the performances promise to be standing-room only. *Admission is free.* Tickets may be obtained in person at the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus in advance and on the night of performance.

PROGRAM

With a special focus on the rites of passage, the AileyCampers set sail this summer for artistic adventure and self-exploration. AileyCamp is not a training ground for professional dancers but, instead, uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline and critical thinking skills in underserved 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The four returning dance instructors are **Willie Anderson** (ballet), currently a principal dancer at Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley; **Vince Collins** (jazz), formerly with Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Miami

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Conservatory Ballet; **Naomi Johnson Diouf** (African), West African dance and culture teacher at Berkeley High School and Artistic Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Oakland; and **Derrick Minter** (modern), Rehearsal Director of Ailey II and long-time AileyCamp teacher. “Eye Sea: Passages” will include dance in each of the four disciplines, set to a combination of recorded and live music performed by camp accompanists **I-Fei Chen** (piano), **Madiou Diouf** (percussion) and **Josh Jacobs** (percussion). The final performance will also include AileyCampers’ work in personal development taught by **Tina Banchemo**, who has taught life skills and directed a teen prevention theater troupe for Planned Parenthood in New York; and creative communications taught by playwright, director and filmmaker **Michelle Lee**.

AILEYCAMP

Created by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of the highly respected program, which also holds camps in New York, the Kansas Cities (Missouri & Kansas), Boston, Chicago and Bridgeport, Connecticut. 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 performance techniques and creative communications deepen the students’ awareness of their potential for self-expression; personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, decision-making, and goal-setting.

Following recruitment presentations in schools, individual applicants were 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. This year’s field trips include sailing on San Francisco Bay, ice-skating, swimming, and bowling.

AileyCamp targets students with academic, social or domestic challenges—criteria that often determine a child’s risk of dropping out of school—but also welcomes students not necessary at risk but 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. When students finish camp, they leave with valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment that will help them navigate through the challenging years ahead.

The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 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. The 2005 mix of campers includes a brother-sister duo, a set of twins and a second-generation camper following in the footsteps of her big brother, a 2004 graduate.

David McCauley returns as director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. 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, performer and instructor. Mr. 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 this year 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. Rounding out the staff are **Rachel Davidman** and **Emily Burkes-Nossiter**, both new to the program. Ms. Davidman is the Education and Programs Administrator for Cal Performances and the AileyCamp Camp Administrator and Spanish interpreter; prior to Cal Performances she worked in the education department at the Oakland Museum and taught Spanish in East Bay public schools for six years. Ms. Burkes-Nossiter is the camp guidance counselor offering support to campers, teachers and parents; she is a drama therapist and Marriage and Family Therapist Intern at the Living Arts Counseling Center, San Francisco.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2005 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is supported by **Macy's, Zellerbach Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Berkeley Community Fund, California Savings Bank, East Bay Community Foundation, Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family**

Foundation, McKesson Foundation, Union Bank of California, Vodafone-US Foundation, Carol Nusinow Kurland and Duff Kurland, 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** chapter 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, August 4 at 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Dana Avenue

Special Event

2005 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Final Performance
"Eye Sea: Passages"

Program:

The students of the 2005 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances exhibit their work in "Eye Sea: Passages" in Zellerbach Playhouse.

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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