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CONTACT:
Lisle Peterson (510) 643-6714
lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Stefanie Scott (510) 642-9121
sscott@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES RECOGNIZED FOR MODEL
ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ACTS OF ACHIEVEMENT (DANA PRESS)
HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS
IN K-12 EDUCATION**

BERKELEY, October 16, 2003 — Dana Press, the publishing division of the Dana Foundation, will release today a 168-page publication providing the first study of K-12 education programs offered by performing arts centers nationwide. *Acts of Achievement: The Role of Performing Art Centers in Education* provides case studies of eight model arts education programs at performing arts centers, among them **Cal Performances**, the performing arts presenter at the **University of California, Berkeley**. Cited for the quality and range of programming they represent, Cal Performances' arts education programs include **Cal Performances in the Classroom**, professional development workshops for teachers; *SchoolTime* performances and study guides; and **AileyCamp**, the nationally acclaimed dance camp for at-risk youth ages 11 - 14.

“We’re very appreciative of this recognition by such an august body of specialists,” comments **Robert Cole**, Director of Cal Performances. “Arts education is at the heart of our mission to inspire, nurture and sustain a lifelong appreciation of the performing arts.’ But developing the audience of tomorrow isn’t the only goal, or even the primary one; arts education improves students’ critical and analytical thinking skills, heightens levels of achievement, and increases attendance and graduation rates. Well-developed minds are essential for a healthy society. As a presenter, without a resident company of artists, it’s extremely challenging to develop arts education programs that are of value to teachers, students and parents, so it’s especially gratifying to know that we have succeeded.”

Acts of Achievement is the result of a national forum convened in April 2003 by the **Dana Foundation**, in association with the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** and the **Association of Performing Arts Presenters**, and is the first attempt to document the size and

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scope of K-12 education programs. The publication also profiles an additional 66 performing arts centers and institutions, large and small, who partner with local school districts, and is a resource guide for artists, presenters, educators, and producing organizations. Performing arts centers are expanding their missions to provide arts education for nearby schools, at the request of the communities they serve. In many cases, artist residencies and other educational outreach projects from the centers represent the only arts programs available in schools.

“For some children,” says **William Safire**, chairman of the Dana Foundation, “arts education is the catalyst toward a professional career in the arts. For others, it is the spark that develops lifelong supporters and audiences for the arts.”

CAL PERFORMANCES ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Based on the UC Berkeley campus, Cal Performances is a conduit for artist-community interaction, where over 30,000 Bay Area residents participate in dynamic activities designed to foster meaningful relationships between the artist’s work and the diverse communities served.

Cal Performances' K-12 arts education programs include:

- ***SchoolTime***, which serves a vital part of public and private school education with specially scheduled, one-hour daytime performances by world-class performing artists on the Zellerbach Hall stage. 16,000 - 18,000 Bay Area students are exposed to Cal Performances’ internationally acclaimed music, theater and dance artists each year. The *SchoolTime* program serves over 120 schools, grades K through 12, and provides study guides for classroom use. Now in its second decade, the *SchoolTime* program has become an inventive basis for interdisciplinary study on which teachers have come to rely.
- Now in its third year, **Cal Performances in the Classroom** is a three-part enrichment program designed to provide students with learning and appreciation of the arts and cultures represented by selected events on the *SchoolTime* series. As teachers play the most critical role in integrating the arts into the curriculum, "Cal Performances in the Classroom" offers professional development workshops with targeted classroom connections for teachers, led by professional performing artists and area curriculum specialists. Teachers are provided with lesson plans, study guides, and videotapes, slides, audio cassettes, or CDs for classroom use, and then teach in the classroom alongside the artists who conduct the workshop. Study guides prepare students for the art form they will learn and performance they will see, with exercises that integrate a number of the requirements of the Reading/Language Arts framework for California Public Schools. Finally, students attend the *SchoolTime* performance at Zellerbach Hall. “Cal Performances in the Classroom” is an outgrowth of Cal Performances and the Berkeley Unified School District’s participation in the Performing Arts Centers and Schools: Partners in Education Program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

- **AileyCamp**, the nationally acclaimed arts education program of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, is a multi-discipline dance-immersion experience for young people, conducted by a company of the highest artistic integrity. Planned in association with the Berkeley and Oakland Unified School districts, AileyCamp combines dance instruction with personal development and creative communication classes to help cultivate self-esteem, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills in middle school-age youths. The program targets both those students who are at risk of dropping out of school and those who show an interest in the arts and potential to improve their academic performance through engagement in the arts. Approximately 75 middle school students participate in the six-week tuition-free program each year. The Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances is the first West Coast site of this highly respected program.

ACTS OF ACHIEVEMENT: THE ROLE OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS IN EDUCATION

Derek E. Gordon, senior vice president of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, hails the Dana Foundation's *Acts of Achievement* as "an extraordinary resource for artists, presenters, educators, and producing organizations. It provides an invaluable primer for schools and arts organizations that seek to involve artists in their educational initiatives and seek to further the role of the artists in their communities."

The essay "Artists Residencies: Evolving Educational Experiences" outlines the development of school residencies and offers checklists for arts organization, artists, teachers, and school coordinators planning to develop residencies. The essay provides guidance for developing and improving school residencies and was written by Lynne Silverstein, arts education consultant, and former director of the John F. Kennedy Center's Partners in Education program.

Included in the book is an introduction by Janet Eilber, principal arts consultant to the Dana Foundation; an executive summary by Jane L. Polin, philanthropic advisor in arts, education, and public policy; and excerpts from an interview by William Safire of Warren Simmons, executive director of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. The excerpts come from the keynote presentation at the "Acts of Achievement" symposium held last April in Washington, D.C.

An advisory committee selected the profiles and case studies for the publication from over 130 submissions to the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. Committee members included Derek Gordon, JFK Center for the Performing Arts; Jane Bonbright, National Dance Education Organization; W. Robert Buckner, Peck School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Kim Chan, Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Janet Eilber, principal arts consultant, the Dana Foundation; Hollis Headrick, The Center for Arts Education; Richard Kessler, The American Music Center; and Larry Scripp, New England Conservatory of Music.

THE DANA FOUNDATION

Founded in 1950, **The Dana Foundation** is a private philanthropic organization with particular interests in science, health, and education. In 2000 the Foundation extended its longtime support of education to fund innovative professional development programs leading to improved teaching of the performing arts in public schools. Dana has concentrated on local innovations in public education that can be replicated nationally. In 1992 the Foundation established the Dana Center for Educational Innovation at the University of Texas, Austin, to strengthen mathematics and science education. The Foundation's science and health grants support research in neuroscience and immunology, as well as brain research through direct grants and by its outreach to the public, which includes books and periodicals from the Dana Press; the international Brain Awareness Week campaign; and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, a nonprofit organization of more than 200 neuroscientists, including ten Nobel laureates, committed to advancing public awareness of the progress of brain research.

Note to editors : Press copies of *Acts of Achievement* are available by e-mail request: pressinfo@dana.org. Print copies for institutions are available free by writing on institution letterhead to: The Dana Press, Attn: David Balog, 745 Fifth Ave, Suite 900, New York, NY 10151 or by fax at 212-317-8721. The book is available in a downloadable PDF form on the Dana Web site: www.dana.org

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Cal Performances education programs are made possible by the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Bayer Corporation, ChevronTexaco Corporation, Citigroup Foundation, Robert J. and Helen H. Glaser Family Foundation, Karl's Fund for Kids at the East Bay Community Foundation, Macy's West, Pacific Union Real Estate and Wells Fargo.