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**HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO, ONE OF THE MOST ORIGINAL FORCES
IN CONTEMPORARY DANCE, COMES TO CAL PERFORMANCES
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 5 & 6**

**PROGRAM FEATURES WORKS BY WILLIAM FORSYTHE, MARGUERITE DONLON, NACHO
DUATO, AND AN AERIAL DUET BY SUSAN MARSHALL**

BERKELEY, March 30, 2006 – Hailed by the *New York Times* as “a charming, sleekly athletic group of dancers,” the renowned **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, founded by Lou Conte and now led by artistic director **Jim Vincent**, brings a contemporary dance program that promises to be passionate, edgy and eclectic to Zellerbach Hall on **Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m.** as part of Cal Performances’ Centennial Season. Known for their constant innovation – Hubbard Street Dance Chicago has created 46 world premieres in its 27-year history – the company surprises, delights and challenges its audiences with performances that are both virtuosic in quality and fresh in interpretation. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago “invariably drives audiences into a state of high exhilaration” (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

The May 5 & 6 program by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will begin with ***Enemy in the Figure***, choreographed by William Forsythe and set to the music of Thom Willems. The piece begins in a moment of coiled expectancy, as the dance springs into motion with a furious, tensile grace. Driven by the voracious rhythms of Willem’s music, the dancers dive through connection and shadow, ranging in a landscape of energetic time. The company next presents ***Strokes Through the Tail*** by Irish choreographer Marguerite Donlon, set to Mozart’s Symphony No. 40. The work combines skillful dancing with a hint of irreverence; intrigued by Mozart’s style of musical notation, Donlon fashioned a tightly knit work in which the dancers personify the structural patterns of notes on a page. An aerial duet entitled ***Kiss*** created by Susan Marshall to music by Arvo Part, follows. The program closes with Spain’s leading modern dance choreographer Nacho Duato’s ***Gnawa***, set to various North African musical pieces. *Gnawa* is a suite of ensemble, duet and solo dances that flow together into a tribal-theatrical whole.

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HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

Founded in 1977 by dancer and choreographer **Lou Conte**, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago gave its first performance at a senior citizens' home. Conte, who in 1974 established the Lou Conte Dance Studio in Chicago after a long performing career that included Broadway musicals such as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Mame* and *Cabaret*, originally served as the company's sole choreographer. He developed relationships with emerging and renowned choreographers as Hubbard Street Dance Chicago grew; in the 1980s, he commissioned works by Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Margo Sappington and Daniel Ezralow. He acquired seven works from Twyla Tharp in the 1990s, including an original piece for the company. In 2000, Jim Vincent succeeded Conte as artistic director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

The company is currently comprised of 21 dancers from diverse cultural backgrounds. Annually, they perform for over 100,000 people, drawing from an active repertoire of 17 pieces. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago has performed in major United States venues including the Joyce Theater in New York City; the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; the Wolf Trap Festival in Vienna, Virginia; the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina; and the Ravinia Festival and the Shubert Theatre in its hometown of Chicago. Internationally, the company has toured in Europe, South America and Asia. "The troupe can dance anything and everything -- and ... they invariably do so with fluid brilliance and understated virtuosity" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

The company and its members have been lauded with many awards, including the Governor's Award from the State of Illinois, several Ruth Page Awards from the Chicago Dance Coalition, and an ABBY Award for arts management excellence. In May 2000, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago received a \$1.25 million challenge grant from the Ford Foundation's *New Directions/New Donors for the Arts* initiative. In collaboration with Chicago Public Schools, the company's Education and Community programs reach thousands of K-12 students and teachers each year.

JIM VINCENT

Jim Vincent joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in August 2000 following an extensive career as a dancer, teacher, ballet master, and choreographer. Born in New Jersey, his dance training began at age five and culminated in scholarship studies at the Washington School of Ballet in Washington, D.C., the Harkness House of Ballet in New York City and the North Carolina School of the Arts at the University of North Carolina. He danced for 12 years with Jirí Kylián's Nederlands Dans Theater, appeared as guest dancer with Lar Lubovitch, and spent two years with Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza in Spain.

Vincent served as ballet master for Nederlands Dans Theater II, Compañía Nacional de Danza, and Opéra National de Lyon (France), where he rehearsed repertory by Kylián, Duato, Forsythe, Ek, Balanchine, Prejlocaj, and Jones, among others. He has taught at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague (Netherlands), Australia's Victorian College of Art, and in Spain and France. Vincent also worked as a concept designer and show director at Disneyland Paris.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** on **Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$40.00** and **\$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Dance

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Jim Vincent, artistic director

Program:

Enemy in the Figure (1989); music by Thom Willems; choreography by William Forsythe

Strokes Through the Tail (2005); music by Mozart, Symphony No. 40; choreography by
Marguerite Donlon

Kiss (1987); music by Arvo Part; choreography by Susan Marshall

Gnawa (2005); music by various North African composers; choreography by Nacho Duato

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