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**60 DANCE MAKERS, ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, ROBOTICISTS AND
DIGITAL GAMES MAKERS COLLABORATE TO CREATE THE 1960S INSPIRED
PANORAMA: A MULTIMEDIA HAPPENING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, FROM 5–7:00 P.M.
FREE AT UC BERKELEY’S PAULEY BALLROOM**

**MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY’S TWO WEEK RESIDENCY AT CAL PERFORMANCES
HAS SPURRED A VARIETY OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS INCLUDING *PANORAMA*, A TALK WITH
CUNNINGHAM; A COMPOSER COLLOQUIUM; AND A HAPPENING AT THE
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE TITLED
*THE JOHN CAGE LEGACY: CHANGE IN MUSIC AND MATHEMATICS***

BERKELEY, October 30, 2008—Campus involvement in the **Merce Cunningham Dance Company**’s two–week residency hosted by Cal Performances reaches a crescendo on **Friday, November 14** with *Panorama: A Multimedia Happening*. The free public event will unfold in synchronized looping patterns from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** at **Pauley Ballroom**, located in the Martin Luther King Student Center on the UC Berkeley Campus. Directed by **Lisa Wymore** of UC Berkeley’s Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies (TDPS), *Panorama*, will use large– and small–scale projections juxtaposed with live dance, robotic cameras and tele-immersion and audio technologies to draw audience members to participate in the performance at any time. The event is inspired by *Nine Evenings: Theater & Engineering*, seminal 1966 performance pieces instigated by artist Robert Rauschenberg and featuring such artistic and technological luminaries as John Cage, Yvonne Rainer, Frank Stella, Steve Paxton, Deborah Hay and Meredith Monk, among others. *Panorama* brings together more than 60 students, artists and scientists from UC Berkeley and other universities. The event honors the pioneering explorations at the heart of the Cunningham–Cage–Rauschenberg legacy.

Many of *Panorama*’s co-creators are UC Berkeley faculty who actively pursue multi-faceted research and performance. The happening is presented by Cal Performances in association with Theater, Dance and Performance Studies (TDPS), Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), Berkeley Center for New Media (BCNM), Center for New Music and Audio Technology (CNMAT). The public event is free.

In addition to Lisa Wymore (Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts), the participants include **Sheldon B. Smith** (TDPS, Mills College Dance Department and Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts); **Ruzena Bajcsy** (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science); **Ken Goldberg** (BCNM, Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, Information School and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science); **Greg Niemeyer** (Art Practice and BCNM) **Abigail De Kosnik** (BCNM and TDPS); and UCB Graduate Student **Jen Wang** (Department of Music and CNMAT). Additional contributors are **Klara Nahrstedt** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Department of Computer Science) and **Renata Sheppard** (UIUC Dance Department).

At the center of *Panorama* will be 22 dancers, including UC Berkeley students and members of the dance theater company Smith/Wymore Disappearing Acts. The troupe will perform choreographed movement—including excerpts from Merce Cunningham’s work—plus movement structures co-authored by computers through a series of algorithms. The performers will also recite text derived from computational models written by Sheldon B. Smith. Robotic cameras developed by Ken Goldberg will capture dancers’ movement, a direct reference to Cunningham’s 1972 work titled *T.V. Rerun*. The dancers’ movement will also be influenced by a musical score generated from sensor data being streamed live from Zellerbach Hall. The sensors, created by Greg Niemeyer, will collect sound data, CO² changes, light changes and temperature fluctuations from Zellerbach Hall that will be sent electronically to the performance site at Pauley Ballroom. Composer Jen Wang will capture the fluctuating live data streams from the sensors to create the music for the happening. Abigail De Kosnik will mix all of the data collected during the performance into large and small scale projections.

The *Panorama* promises to be visually and kinesthetically exciting. Audience members will be encouraged to experience the happening from all angles by moving around the performance space and to become part of the event by stepping into one of the two tele-immersion pods to experience virtual touch. The tele-immersion technology is created by Ruzena Bajcsy and fellow UC Berkeley engineers, along with University of Illinois engineer Klara Nahrstedt and dance artist Renata Sheppard.

“We are becoming more continuous with our technologies; boundaries are blurred between who is controlling the development of new systems. New technologies are extensions

of our humanness, and vice versa,” explains Wymore. “*Panorama* is a performance piece that brings to the foreground this intimate connection of the human body to technology.”

The inspiration behind *Panorama* is *Nine Evenings: Theatre & Engineering* (1966), a legendary series of theater, dance, music and performance organized by artist Robert Rauschenberg and Bell Labs scientist Billy Klüver and performed at New York City’s 69th Regiment Armory. These groundbreaking, large-scale performances were a result of a 10-month collaboration between 10 artists and 30 engineers and scientists. The use of as-yet-unknown technologies in art, such as video projection, wireless sound transmission and Doppler sonar, all common today, came from the joint effort. Recognized as a major artistic event of the 1960s, the *Nine Evenings: Theatre & Engineering* series still resonates today with artists who use technology as an intrinsic part of their creative work.

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Merce Cunningham Dance Company will be in residence at Cal Performances for two weeks, November 3–15. A series of events, many of which are free and open to the public, has been arranged in conjunction with the company’s performances. A **Composer Colloquium** with Cunningham musicians Takehisa Kosugi, Christian Wolff, John King, Stephan Moore and David Behrman will be held Thursday, November 6 at 4:00–5:30 p.m. in 125 Morrison Hall, followed by an **Artist Talk with Merce Cunningham** at 7:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium; both events are located on the UC Berkeley campus. The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) will present *The John Cage Legacy: Chance in Music and Mathematics: a happening @MSRI*, with the musicians of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company on Wednesday, November 12 at 5:30–7:00 p.m.

A film series titled **Merce Cunningham Dance on Film** will be held on two evenings at Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA). The first evening, Sunday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m., will feature two 1991 films by Elliot Caplan, *Beach Birds for Camera*, a dancefilm, and *Cage/Cunningham: A Film*, a documentary about the artists’ 50-year collaboration, with archival footage and interviews with artists, including Robert Rauschenberg, Viola Farber and David Tudor. On Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m., *Locale* (1979) a dancefilm by Charles Atlas, and *CRWDSPCR* (1996), a documentary by Elliot Caplan about the

yearlong process of creating a dance, will be screened. Tickets must be purchased for these screenings.

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCES

Choreographer Merce Cunningham is one of the most creative and influential artistic figures of our time—"the high priest of the dance avant-garde" (*The New York Times*). The Cal Performances engagement of Cunningham's company includes four distinct programs performed by the 14-member troupe Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8, plus the following weekend November 14 and 15; all performances will be at 8:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. Works to be performed include *Second Hand*, originally choreographed in 1970, *BIPED* (world premiere at Cal Performances in 1999), iPod friendly *eyeSpace* (2006) and the most recent work *XOVER* (2007). The four multi-instrumentalists that comprise the Cunningham ensemble are MCDC music director Takehisa Kosugi, John King, David Behrman and Christian Wolff. Two Bay Area artists will join the ensemble: Aurora Josephson (soprano) and William Winant (percussion). Additionally, a new site-specific work titled *Craneway Event* will be performed Sunday, November 9 at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. at Ford Point in Richmond.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Merce Cunningham Dance Company Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8** and **Friday & Saturday, November 14 & 15** at **8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$34.00** and **\$48.00**. Tickets for the *Craneway Event* on **Sunday, November 9** at **1:00 and 3:00 p.m.** at Ford Point in Richmond, CA, are priced at **\$40.00**, general admission. All other tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at 510.642.9988 to charge by phone; 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 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at 510.642.9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance;

quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510.642.9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
MERCÉ CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.
Campus

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Friday & Saturday, November 14 & 15 at 8:00 p.m.
Berkeley

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave,

Dance

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

Program A: Friday, November 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Suite for Five (1953-1958, revived in 2002), music by John Cage; *eyeSpace* (20-minute version, 2006), music by Mikel Rouse; *BIPED* (1999), music by Gavin Bryars

Program B: Saturday, November 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Second Hand (1970, revived 2008), music by John Cage; *Split Sides* (2003), music by Radiohead and Sigur Ros

Program C: Friday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m.

eyeSpace (40-minute version, 2007), music by David Behrman and Annea Lockwood; *BIPED* (1999), music by Gavin Bryars

Program D: Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Views on Stage (2004), music by John Cage; *Crises* (1960, revived 2006), music by Conlon Nancarrow; *XOVER* (2007), music by John Cage

All choreography by Merce Cunningham

Tickets: \$26.00, \$34.00 and \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Sunday, November 9 at 1:00 & 3:00 p.m

Ford Point

1414 Harbour Way South
Richmond, CA 94608

Dance

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

Program: *Craneway Event*, a new site-specific work created by Merce Cunningham for his company, will be performed at Ford Point, former Ford assembly factory, in Richmond.

Tickets: \$40.00, general admission, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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**CALENDAR OF CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
CHRONOLOGICALLY LISTED**

Thursday, November 6 at 4:00–5:30 p.m. **125 Morrison Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Composer Colloquium

Merce Cunningham Dance Company's musicians and composers Takehisa Kosugi, Christian Wolff, John King, Stephan Moore and David Behrman participate in an open forum. Presented by Cal Performances in association with the UC Berkeley Department of Music. This event is free and open to the public.

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Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. **Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus**
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

Artist Talk with Merce Cunningham

The legendary choreographer discusses his life in art. Presented by Cal Performances in association with the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies. This event is free and open to the public.

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Sunday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. **BAM/PFA, UCB Campus**
Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. 2575 Bancroft Way at Bowditch, Berkeley
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Merce Cunningham Dance on Film

Program: Sunday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Beach Birds for Camera (Elliot Caplan, 1991) a dancefilm

Cage/Cunningham: A Film (Elliot Caplan, 1991) a documentary about the artists' 50 year collaboration, with archival footage and interviews with artists, musicians, and dancers, including Robert Rauschenberg, Viola Farber, and David Tudor.

Program: Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Locale (Charles Atlas, 1979) a dancefilm

CRWDSPCR (Elliot Caplan, 1996) a documentary about the yearlong process of creating a dance, beginning with Cunningham's use of a computer program to choreograph movement.

Tickets: For advance tickets call 510.642.5249 or visit bampfa.berkeley.edu/filmseries.

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Friday, November 14 at 5:00–7:00 p.m. **Pauley Ballroom, MLK Student Center, UCB Campus**
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Panorama: Multimedia Happening. Large and small scale projections juxtaposed with live dance, robotic cameras, tele-immersion, and audio technologies draw audience members into a 360° performance that they may enter at any time. *Panorama* brings together a multi-disciplinary cast of artists, scientists, engineers and digital gamemakers in a performance honoring the Merce Cunningham-John Cage-Robert Rauschenberg legacy. Directed by Lisa Wymore. The event is free and open to the public.

– Cal Performances –