

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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

**PASCAL RIOULT DANCE THEATRE**  
**RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH THREE WEST COAST PREMIERES,**  
**SET TO THE MUSIC OF STRAVINSKY**  
**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 8 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, October 7, 2003** – The modern choreographic talent of **Pascal Rioult** returns to Berkeley **Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.** with three West Coast premieres. Rioult, a former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, and his New York-based **Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre** made their Bay Area debut at Cal Performances in February 2002 with a dynamic suite of dances called the *Ravel Project*. This November, the choreographer focuses on Igor Stravinsky, presenting three works set to music by the great modernist composer: *Veneziana*, set to *Pulcinella Suite*; *Firebird*, set to *Firebird Suite*; and *Black Diamond*, set to *Duo Concertant*. The program also includes the reprise of *Bolero*, Rioult's bold interpretation of Ravel's famous *Bolero* score that was a memorable part of the company's debut program in Berkeley last year. "Always sophisticated, yet alternatively romantic as in *Wien* or sleek and mechanical as in *Bolero*," wrote *The New York Times*, "Mr. Rioult's work is consistently striking." Known for creating work that incorporates both Graham's distinctive technique and his own lyrical style and physicality, Rioult and his company of nine dancers are enjoying a reputation that increases in stature with each passing season.

**PROGRAM**

"Modern-dance choreographer Pascal Rioult, as is often the case, is nothing short of compelling in *Black Diamond*...he has met the challenge of comparison with George Balanchine's *Duo Concertant*," wrote *The New York Times*' Anna Kisselgoff of the work's world premiere at the Joyce Theater this past summer. Two black-clad female dancers on a stark stage perform a series of dynamic solos and duets to five movements of Stravinsky's *Duo Concertant* for the West Coast premiere of *Black Diamond*, "the opposite extreme" of Balanchine's lyrical love duet, writes Kisselgoff. *Veneziana*, which also had its premiere at the Joyce, is set to

-MORE-

Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*. The piece explores the concept of neo-classicism as it pertains to Rioult's primary influences—Graham and Balanchine—expressed in a lively *commedia dell'arte* spirit. The third West Coast premiere on the program, *Firebird*, features Rioult's singular revision of the classic myth of good versus evil set to the *Firebird Suite*. The work moves in an arc from a state of despair to a rebirth of humanity, closing triumphantly to the sounds of Stravinsky's thrilling final march. *Firebird* is co-commissioned by Cal Performances and the American Dance Festival. The final piece on the program is *Bolero*, a hit on 2002's Cal Performances program, is a “dazzling machine-dance view” (*The New York Times*) of Ravel's masterpiece, performed by the entire company.

### **PASCAL RIOULT DANCE THEATRE**

**Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre (PRDT)** was founded in 1991 for the purpose of expressing the artistic vision of dancer and choreographer Pascal Rioult. The company is comprised of **Lorena Egan, Brian Flynn, Francisco Graciano, Penelope Gonzalez, Michael Spencer Phillips, Anastasia Soroczynski, Royce Zackery, and Marianna Tsartolia**. Since 1994, the troupe's visibility and touring has increased significantly, taking them to locations across the United States and Europe. European appearances include the Florence and Bolzano Dance Festivals in Italy, and the Cannes International Dance Festival, Maison de la Danse, Festival International “Danse à Aix”, and the Opera Bastille in France. In 1999, PRDT was one of seven companies invited to participate in the acclaimed Altogether Different series at the Joyce Theater in New York. This past season, the company was honored to be the Théâtre de Saint Quentin en Yvelines resident company for the Temps de Danse Festival that took place throughout the Versailles region of France. PRDT's educational component, DanceREACH, takes an interactive approach to introducing students to the world of modern dance, presenting programs in schools in New York City and the Metropolitan area.

### **PASCAL RIOULT**

Born in Caen, France, **Pascal Rioult** came to the United States in the early 1980s on a fellowship from the French Ministry of Culture to study with modern dance legend Merce Cunningham. He danced with the companies of May O'Donnell and Paul Sanasardo before joining the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1986. As a principal dancer, he has performed

some of the most prestigious roles in the Graham repertory, including Aegisthus in *Clytemnestra*, Jason in *Cave of the Heart*, Tiresias in *Night Journey*, and the Preacher in *Appalachian Spring*. He performed opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov in *El Penitente* and was featured in two television specials, *Martha Graham in Japan* and *Five Dances by Martha Graham at the Paris Opera*.

Rioult first began choreographing dances in 1989 while still a member of the Graham troupe; he produced his first works at New York's Theatre of the Riverside Church in 1991 and 1992. His pieces *Narayama* and *Harvest* were later presented by the Graham Company during its New York City seasons at City Center. In 1994 Rioult left the Graham Company to dedicate his energy to PRDT and formulating a choreographic style of his own. Rioult's work has been performed and/or commissioned by the Martha Graham Company, Geneva Ballet, Ballet of Lithuania, Ballet du Nord, Danse á Aix, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Dance Kaleidoscope, Ballet Pacifica, and Purchase Dance Corps. He has taught and set his works at the Ailvin Ailey American Dance Center, Harvard Dance Center, and the Martha Graham School, among many others, and in 1998 and 2002 received the Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre** on **Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00**, **\$36.00**, and **\$46.00**. Performance 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](http://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).

###

*San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

###

**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Friday & Saturday, Nov. 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m**

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

*Dance*

**Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre**

**Program:**

*Veneziana* (2003): music by Igor Stravinsky, *Pulcinella Suite*; choreography by Pascal Rioult  
(West Coast premiere)

*Firebird* (2003): music by Igor Stravinsky, *Firebird Suite*; choreography by Pascal Rioult (West  
Coast premiere)

*Black Diamond* (2003): music by Igor Stravinsky, *Duo Concertant*; choreography by Pascal  
Rioult (West Coast premiere)

*Bolero* (2002): music by Maurice Ravel, *Bolero*; choreography by Pascal Rioult

**Tickets:** \$26.00, \$36.00, and \$46.00, available through the Cal Performance Ticket Office at  
Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at Tickets.com; and at the door.