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**JACOB'S PILLOW PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL AWARD FOR CREATIVITY  
TO ALONZO KING, FOUNDER OF LINES BALLET**

**- HONOR FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTS CARRIES \$25,000 CASH PRIZE -**

June 12, 2008 (Becket, Mass.) – Jacob's Pillow is proud to present the second annual Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity to visionary artist and choreographer Alonzo King. The official announcement of the award will take place at the Jacob's Pillow Season Opening Gala on Saturday, June 14 and King will be present to receive this honor from Jacob's Pillow Executive Director Ella Baff.

In 2007, Jacob's Pillow received an unsolicited annual contribution of \$50,000 from a generous and anonymous donor. Of this annual gift, \$25,000 supports Jacob's Pillow commissions, presentations, and artist development initiatives such as the organization's Creative Development Residency program. The other \$25,000 is given as a cash gift to the recipient of the Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity. Each year a different outstanding artist is selected by Jacob's Pillow to receive this honor.

The Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity nurtures the innovative spirit of choreographers whose unique creative abilities further the art form of dance internationally. The award includes the aforementioned \$25,000 cash gift, given to a visionary artist to be used as he or she sees fit, with no obligations attached. In addition to the unrestricted cash gift, awardees are often invited to perform at Jacob's Pillow, given a commission, or invited to create new work during a Creative Development Residency at the Pillow. Along with this moral and material support, the honoree receives a custom-designed glass sculpture by Berkshire-based artist Tom Patti, whose work is shown in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The winner of the Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity is selected each year by Executive Director Ella Baff in consultation with professional peers in the field. Remarks Baff, "This contribution is a true gift, both to us and to the artists. The Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity affords the Pillow an extraordinary opportunity to recognize artists for their distinctive and original dance-making and gives them moral and financial support to further their creative output. We are grateful and thrilled to be able to benefit the dance field in such a meaningful way and Alonzo King is more than deserving of this honor."

Alonzo King is recognized as one of America's most outstanding artists. His choreography appears in the repertory of prominent dance companies throughout the world, he has served on panels for major arts councils, contributed as a writer and lecturer on the art of dance, and supported dance education by establishing facilities and college programs. In 1982, King founded Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, an international touring company of remarkable dancers that performs a new contemporary style of classical ballet. According to *Dance Magazine*, "[Audiences] are drawn to King's daring, skewed classicism, his arresting choice of music, his enveloping sensuality, and the experience of watching dancers simultaneously stretch their limbs and expose their souls in public." Alonzo King's LINES Ballet will perform *Rasa* (music by Zakir Hussain) and *Migration* (music by Pharoah Sanders) at the Pillow July 23 – 27, 2008.

King is devoted to more than his work on stage (and in opera, television, and film); he is a dedicated advocate for quality dance education. He inaugurated the San Francisco Dance Center in 1989, now one of the largest dance facilities on the West Coast. He established the LINES Ballet School for young dancers in 2001 and, in 2006, forged a partnership with the Dominican University of California, forming the West Coast's first joint education program for students pursuing a B.F.A. in Dance.

Alonzo King was named one of the fifty outstanding artists in America by the United States Artists organization in December 2006, one of only four Fellows in Dance. He has received a 2005 Bessie Award for Choreographer/Creator, the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, Irvine Fellowship in Dance, and five Isadora Duncan Awards. *The Los Angeles Times* proclaimed, "The number of ballet choreographers who live—and create—solely in the present are so few that one of his distinctions must be accounted the artistic equivalent of a shooting star."

The Jacob's Pillow Award for Creativity is an extension of the Pillow's 76-season long commitment to artist support and development. The development of new repertory is further supported through the organization's Creative Development Residency Program. This program serves as a signature of the Pillow's artistic point of view and underscores its support for the expansion of horizons, both of artists and audiences. During Creative Development Residencies, artists are invited to spend one to three weeks at the Pillow creating or rehearsing new work, with free housing for the company, unlimited use of studio space, and access to the Archives and other Pillow resources. In the beautiful, retreat-like atmosphere of the Pillow, the residencies are rare opportunities for artists to focus on the creative process without distraction. Following a stay of producing work with his company, choreographer Stephen Petronio observed, "Dancing at the Pillow was like being marooned in heaven." In the 2008 Festival Season alone, groups who previously have premiered or made work at the Pillow include Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, whose *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land* was partially created at Jacob's Pillow in 1990 and *World II (18 Movements to Kurtag)* premiered in 2002; Garth Fagan Dance, then Bucket Dance Theatre, who premiered *Sojourn* in 1984; Lar Lubovitch Dance Company's *American Gesture* premiered in 1981; Keigwin + Company's *Anxiety* in 2003; and Kate Weare Company's *Bridge of Sighs*, created during a recent Creative Development Residency, will premiere at the Festival in August 2008.

Other notable artists who have created or premiered dances at the Pillow include choreographers Antony Tudor, Agnes de Mille, Glen Tetley, Merce Cunningham, Donald McKayle, David Parsons, Kevin McKenzie, Twyla Tharp, Ralph Lemon, Susan Marshall, and Bill T. Jones; premiered by such artists as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carmen de Lavallade, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Edward Villella, and hundreds of others.

**About Jacob's Pillow:** Founded by modern dance legend Ted Shawn in 1933, **Jacob's Pillow** celebrated its 75th Anniversary Season in 2007. The Pillow is home to a world-renowned international dance **Festival**, presenting and commissioning works from dance artists and companies and supporting artists through Creative Development Residencies. The Pillow has presented more than 1,050 different dance companies from throughout the world. The **School** at Jacob's Pillow encompasses a professional training program in the disciplines of Ballet, Cultural Traditions, Contemporary Traditions, Jazz/Musical Theatre Dance, and a Choreographers Lab, as well as an Intern Program. Alumni of The School have gone on to perform with prestigious dance companies such as Merce Cunningham Dance Company, New York City Ballet, and on

Broadway, and former interns have been employed at arts organizations including Mark Morris Dance Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and The British Council. The Pillow's extensive **Archives**, open year-round to the public free of charge, chronicle the often ephemeral and elusive art form of dance in correspondence, photographs, programs, board minutes, books, costumes, posters, films, audiotapes, videos, and scrapbooks. Jacob's Pillow's year-round **Community Programs** enrich the lives of children and adults and are yet another part of the Pillow's cultural legacy. In 2003, Jacob's Pillow became the first and only dance entity to be declared a National Historic Landmark and in 2007, it was formally dedicated as a site on the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. For additional in-depth information regarding the history of Jacob's Pillow, consult [www.jacobspillow.org](http://www.jacobspillow.org). Press are encouraged to contact Mariclare Hulbert at 413.243.9919 x29 or via email at [mhulbert@jacobspillow.org](mailto:mhulbert@jacobspillow.org).

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