

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Guest Dancer Muriel Maffre Joins  
Alonzo King's LINES Ballet for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

Nov. 2-11, 2007 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Features Two World Premiere Ballets  
One Premiere Featuring Live Music Performed by Zakir Hussain  
One Premiere Featuring Live Music Performed by Members of the  
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is pleased to announce that Muriel Maffre, a former principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet, will be joining the company as a guest dancer for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season November 2-11, 2007. The internationally acclaimed LINES Ballet will highlight 25 years of creativity, innovation and collaboration with an anniversary season and two weeks of performances at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts featuring two world premiere ballets.

"Onstage, Maffre summons metaphors," wrote dance critic Allan Ulrich in Dance Magazine. Maffre, who danced with the San Francisco Ballet for 17 years before retiring earlier this year, was hailed as a "dancer of international singularity" by the San Francisco Chronicle and was celebrated for her "unrivaled elegance, calculated precision and astounding length" by Ballet Dance Magazine. Most recently she joined Alonzo King's LINES Ballet on their Summer 2007 Tour through Europe. Maffre also danced in Alonzo King's Handel Pas de Deux in 1996. As a guest dancer this November, she will join LINES Ballet Company Dancers Brett Conway, Ashley Jackson, Laurel Keen, John Michael Schert, Meredith Webster, Keelan Whitmore, Ricardo Zayas, and the company's latest two additions-Caroline Rocher and Corey Scott-Gilbert. Maffre will dance in all performances except for Sunday, November 4.

LINES Ballet's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season will feature a world premiere ballet created by Alonzo King and featuring an original musical score by world-renowned tabla master Zakir Hussain, who will perform live at each performance. The tabla, with its rich texture of rhythmic patterns, is the main form of percussion in the Hindustani music of North India, but its origins also reveal the interconnections of musical history. In fact, the Hindi and Urdu word tabla is derived from an Arabic word for drum, and even further back from Aramaic and Middle Persian roots. The tabla bridges folk, semi-classical, and classical Hindustani music genres, and was intrinsic to the lost dances of the tawaif-s, who performed in 18th-century courts.

This is Hussain's third collaboration with Alonzo King, following *Who Dressed You Like A Foreigner* in 1998 and *Following the Subtle Current Upstream*, which premiered in 2000 in the repertory of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and was brought into LINES Ballet's repertory in 2006.

In addition to Hussain's percussive score, members of the award-winning Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (violinist Cynthia Roberts, oboist Gonzalo Xavier Ruiz, harpsichordist Katherine Shao, cellist Tanya Tomkins and violist da gamba Roy Wheldon) will perform live Baroque music in the second world premiere work. This is the Alonzo King's LINES Ballet's first collaboration with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and the collaboration reveals a unique connection between these

two artistic groups. Baroque music finds its expression in complex harmonies – beyond the linear polyphony of Renaissance music – and encourages a surprising freedom within its structure. In the Baroque period (c. 1600-1750), for the first time, musicality meant that performers would draw on their own dynamic creativity in order to improvise around the bass line. Not until the advent of jazz would this demanding and inspiring openness, called figured bass, be so closely bound to the act of musical creation. The choreography of Alonzo King, with its natural affinity for complex musicality, engages the same dynamism and openness found in Baroque music.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season will be kicked off with a high-profile 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Nov. 2, which will include an international feast, auction, performance and post-performance champagne & dessert reception.

#### About Muriel Maffre

Born in Enghein-les Bains, France, Muriel Maffre received her ballet training from the Paris Opéra Ballet School and Paris National Conservatory of Music from which she graduated with a Premier Prix with honors. Prior to joining the San Francisco Ballet as a Principal Dancer in 1990, Muriel danced with the Hamburg Ballet and Monte-Carlo Ballet. She is a Gold Medalist from Paris 1<sup>st</sup> International Ballet Competition, and the recipient of two Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Individual Performance for both 1990 and 2002 repertory season performances with the San Francisco Ballet. Muriel holds a B.A. in Performing Arts from St Mary's College of California. Muriel performed leading roles in the romantic, classical and contemporary repertory. She also created roles in ballets by major present-day choreographers. She toured extensively and made guest appearances in eminent theaters in America, Europe, Russia and Asia. In April 2006, Muriel collaborated with UC Berkeley professor and conceptual artist Ken Goldberg on a solo danced to the movement of the earth. Most recently, Muriel created a multi-media dance and puppetry staging of Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat.

#### About Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

Founded in 1982, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is an international dance company based in San Francisco that performs contemporary ballet to critical acclaim in the US and abroad. Collaborating with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists, Alonzo King creates original works that stretch and renew the traditions of western dance. Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is currently under the leadership of Executive Director Ann Marie Nemanich. Both Alonzo King and the LINES dancers have been recognized for their extraordinary vision; Mr. King was recently honored with the US Artists Fellowship, given to the 50 finest artists from all disciplines currently creating work in America, after winning the Bessie Award for Choreographer/ Creator last year. This fall, LINES dancer Meredith Webster became the fifth Company dancer to receive the coveted Princess Grace Award.

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this November, LINES Ballet continues to honor its commitment to explore the possibilities of movement from a global perspective, sharing its vision of transformative, revelatory dance through performances and outreach activities worldwide, as well as by cultivating the gifts of developing dancers through the LINES Ballet School, the Joint BFA Program with Dominican University of California, and the San Francisco Dance Center. Expanding an already ambitious touring schedule as international demand for the Company continues to grow, LINES Ballet will tour eight countries this year, with performances at the Montpellier Dance Festival, Holland Dance Festival, the Arts Festival in Guatemala

City, and the 50th anniversary of Italy's Spoleto Festival.

#### LINES BALLET SCHOOL & THE SAN FRANCISCO DANCE CENTER

The vision of LINES Ballet goes beyond the internationally-acclaimed dance company - LINES Ballet also encompasses a school and the San Francisco Dance Center. Home to Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, The San Francisco Dance Center has been offering a broad range of inspiring classes to dancers since 1989; five years ago, the LINES Ballet School was established in order to develop the potential of young dancers. In 2006, LINES Ballet and the Dominican University of California jointly launched the West Coast's first BFA program in dance.

#### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOME SEASON

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater

700 Howard Street, San Francisco

Tickets: \$25-\$65

Tickets & Information: [www.ybca.org](http://www.ybca.org), 415.978.ARTS (2787)

For more information visit the LINES Ballet website at [www.linesballet.org](http://www.linesballet.org)

#### HOME SEASON DATES & TIMES

Friday, Nov 2, 9pm (Gala Performance)

Saturday, Nov 3, 8pm

Sunday, Nov 4, 7pm

Wednesday, Nov 7, 8pm

Thursday, Nov 8, 8pm

Friday, Nov 9, 8pm

Saturday, Nov 10, 8pm

Sunday, Nov 11, 3pm

#### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

International feast and exciting auction

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum and Theater

November 2, 2007

6:30pm to 11:30pm

Gala tickets: \$300

Performance and champagne reception only tickets: \$85

Experience fine California wines and foods from all over the world, representing LINES Ballet's collaborations with artists from around the globe. This scrumptious dinner catered by McCall's will be followed by a live auction featuring fabulous and unique items, all in support of LINES Ballet's programs. The centerpiece of the Gala is the opening night performance of our Fall Home Season. Following the performance, guests will enjoy music, champagne and desserts by McCall's into the night in the Yerba Buena Forum.