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## Alonzo King's LINES Ballet Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Two Major Grants

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In time for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet has received two major grants – one of them the largest in its history – that will be used for general operating expenses to improve every facet of its work.

The grants, a \$1 million challenge grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and a \$300,000 match by the James Irvine Foundation, mark a significant step in the maturation of the critically acclaimed dance company.

"This enables us to take the next steps in building our future – to reach wider audiences both here and abroad, staff more fully, increase compensation to the artists, and expand our educational programs," said LINES Ballet's Executive Director Ann Marie Nemanich. "We are deeply grateful to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for its long-term support and generosity and excited about the prospects of the Hewlett Challenge Grant and the lasting effect it will have strengthening the core of our fundraising efforts."

Nemanich expressed similar appreciation for the Irvine Foundation's gift, to be given over the next three years, which immediately meets nearly one-third of the challenge. The Irvine grant will be used to hire a new LINES Ballet dancer, to increase dancers salaries, and for increased marketing.

The Hewlett challenge grant, 45 percent of which has already been matched, applied to all new and increased gifts that LINES Ballet receives during the next five years.

LINES Ballet support continues to build with new and increasingly generous donors including civic leaders Dr. Ernest Bates, Chris and Warren Hellman, Craig Resnick, Dede Wilsey and many others.

### About Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, an international dance company based in San Francisco, 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. 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 fall, 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italy's Spoleto Festival.

SAVE THE DATE

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

25TH ANNIVERSARY HOME SEASON & 25th ANNIVERSARY GALA

Featuring Two World Premiere Ballets with Live Music Performed by Zakir Hussain & members of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Nov. 2- 11, 2007

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater

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