

For Immediate Release
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Alonzo King LINES Ballet presents an extraordinary new collaboration between three celebrated artists - choreographer Alonzo King, musician/composer Mickey Hart and architect Christopher Haas

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Spring Season
April 15-24, 2011 Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena
Center for the Arts 700 Howard Street, San Francisco
www.linesballet.org



Michael Montgomery and Keelan Whitmore featured with one of Christopher Haas' original sets, photo by RJ Muna

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—February 15, 2011—Alonzo King LINES Ballet is pleased to present a groundbreaking new collaboration bringing together a trio of celebrated artists: choreographer **Alonzo King**, musician/composer **Mickey Hart**, and architect **Christopher Haas**. This new work will have its world premiere during Alonzo King LINES Ballet's 2011 Spring Home season, at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, April 15-24, 2011.

King, Hart and Haas and join together to create a new piece that explores our relationship with space - physical space and infinite space. The original musical score by Grammy-award winning Hart draws on the harmonics of the cosmos itself, gathering light waves from the vibrations of heavenly bodies and converting them into layers of sound. Architect Haas, formerly a collaborator with world-renown Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, and one of the architects of San Francisco's MH deYoung Museum, has created an interactive built environment. Meticulously crafted to an architectural scale from ordinarily overlooked materials such as recycled cardboard and elastic chord, his sets strike an

intriguing kinetic balance between linear and organic forms, and the extraordinary dancers of Alonzo King LINES Ballet grace the stage with incomparable physical artistry.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's home season will feature company dancers **David Harvey, Ashley Jackson, Laurel Keen, Caroline Rocher, Meredith Webster, Keelan Whitmore, Ricardo Zayas, Michael Montgomery** and **Jeannette Diaz-Barboza**.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's collaboration with musician/composer Mickey Hart and architect Christopher Haas is only the latest in a long history of collaborations with artists both local and global. Most recently, it collaborated with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows. Other collaborators include New York-based jazz pianist Jason Moran and legendary jazz saxophonist Pharoah Sanders; India's national treasure, tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain; Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock; actor Danny Glover; Japanese classical composer Somei Satoh; celebrated Polish composer Pavel Syzanski; and Nubian *oud* master Hamza El Din. One of the Company's great successes was bringing sixteen musicians and dancers from the Lobaye Forest of Central African Republic—the BaAka—for the People of the Forest project. Alonzo King LINES Ballet has also received accolades for its collaborative project with the Shaolin monks, an unprecedented synthesis of Eastern and Western classical forms that intertwines martial arts and ballet.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

About Alonzo King

Alonzo King is a visionary choreographer who collaborates with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists, creating works that draw on diverse sets of deeply rooted cultural traditions and imbue classical ballet with new expressive potential. King has been commissioned to create works for the repertoires of companies throughout the world including the Swedish Royal Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and Washington Ballet. He has worked extensively in opera, television, and film, and has choreographed works for prima ballerina Natalia Makarova and film star Patrick Swayze. Mr. King has also collaborated with artists such as actor Danny Glover, legendary jazz saxophonist Pharoah Sanders, and the Shaolin Monks of China. Renowned for his skill as a teacher, King has been the guest ballet master for National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet Rambert, Ballet West and others.

In 1982, King founded Alonzo King LINES Ballet, which has developed into a world-renowned touring company. Seven years later, he inaugurated the San Francisco Dance Center, which has grown into one of the largest dance facilities on the West Coast. In 2001, King started the LINES Ballet School to nurture and develop the talents of young dancers. Expanding the scope of his educational visions to the college level in 2006, King and LINES Ballet embarked on a partnership with the Dominican University of California, creating the West Coast's first Joint BFA program in Dance. It is the only Joint BFA program in the country to be led by a living master choreographer.

In October 2008 King was honored to receive the 2nd Annual Mayor's Arts Award by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. In June 2008, King received the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award, in recognition of his contribution to "moving ballet in a very 21st-century direction." In 2006, he was recognized as one of the fifty outstanding artists in America by the United States Artists organization, and in 2005, received the Bessie Award for Choreographer/ Creator. He is also the recipient of the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, Irvine Fellowship in Dance, National Dance Project and the National Dance Residency Program, as well as five Isadora Duncan Awards. He has also received the Hero Award from Union Bank, the Lehman Award, and the Excellence Award from KGO, and was chosen as the recipient of the San Francisco Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Award.

About Mickey Hart

Mickey Hart, who became famous as the percussionist for the Grateful Dead, has always been expanding his rhythmic horizons. Early on, Hart set out to explore the rhythms and sounds of music from around the globe. It began with seminal world music titles, *Diga* and *Rolling Thunder*. Hart later added the sounds of nature to his compositions in *At the Edge*. He then brought together master drummers from around the globe and won the first World Music Grammy with *Planet Drum* in 1991 and then won again in 2007 with the electronica inspired *Global Drum Project*. Through modern technology, Mickey and the some of the world's leading scientists have converted cosmic light waves into sound waves. Connect with the universe's most celestial vibrations from the Big Bang to the rings of Saturn to the Black Hole, as Hart translates light waves of exploding stars and other cosmological phenomena a musical exploration of Space.

About Christopher Haas

Christopher Haas is a cutting-edge San Francisco based architect and former collaborator with world-renown Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, the Pritzker Prize-winning architectural firm responsible for such notable buildings as the de Young Museum in San Francisco, the Tate Modern in London, and the "Bird's Nest" Olympic Stadium in Beijing. In his time with Herzog & de Meuron, Haas led and oversaw several of their most ambitious projects including our own MH deYoung Museum and 11 11 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Recently completed, it has been hailed by *New Yorker Magazine* art critic Paul Goldberger as "bold and utterly refined," and "a thoroughly exuberant piece of architecture."

Haas established his own practice in 2008 and is a frequently invited guest instructor at University of California at Berkeley and at the California College of the Arts, where his coursework was the recipient of the 2006 *NCARB Prize*, the nation's highest award for an academic course in the field of architecture.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Spring Home Season in collaboration with musician/composer Mickey Hart and architect Christopher Haas

Where: Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts 700 Howard Street @ 3rd Street, San Francisco

When:

Friday, April 15, 8pm Saturday, April 16, 8pm (Post-performance Q&A with Mickey Hart) Sunday, April 17, 5pm, Family Day* Wednesday, April 20, 7:30pm (Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King and Christopher Haas) Thursday, April 21, 7:30pm (Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King)** Friday, April 22, 8pm Saturday, April 23, 8 pm Sunday, April 24, 5pm

*April 17: Family Day at 4 pm with Christopher Haas, Museum of Craft and Design, and live music, free with performance ticket

**April 21: Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King, Extensions Night Out, and UCSF/Women's HIV Program Benefit Night.

For Spring Tickets: Buy Tickets at www.linesballet.org or call 415.978.2787

General ticket prices: \$15*, 25, 35, 50, 65

* student prices for April 17, 19, 20, 21 performances only

Group Tickets: Groups of 10 or more enjoy savings of 20% Order directly through Alonzo King LINES Ballet by calling 415.863.3040 x283

For more information: visit www.linesballet.org