

For Immediate Release
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**ALONZO KING'S LINES BALLET APPOINTS NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR,
ALEXIS L. WEISS**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28, 2008—Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is pleased to announce the appointment of Alexis L. Weiss as the organization's new Development Director, effective August 11, 2008.

As the organization's Development Director, Weiss will be responsible for strategizing, developing, managing, and implementing LINES Ballet's development goals. Weiss will also be responsible for spearheading LINES Ballet's fundraising galas and special events.

"Alexis Weiss is an exciting addition to LINES Ballet's leadership staff," said LINES Ballet's Executive Director Ann Marie Nemanich. "Her development experience, her fundraising successes and her love for the arts make her the perfect person to take LINES Ballet's development efforts to the next level."

"I am thrilled to be joining the staff of Alonzo King's LINES Ballet," said Weiss. "I look forward to bringing my experience in the arts to such an extraordinary company and to the work of an artist as visionary as Mr. King."

Weiss brings extensive experience in development and a strong passion for the arts to LINES Ballet. Weiss comes to LINES Ballet from the Marin Theatre Company in Mill Valley, where she served as Development Director and managed all contributed income for the organization. Her many major accomplishments at Marin Theatre Company include increasing the number of major donors by more than 36 percent and doubling the average foundation gift size that the organization received. Before her post at Marin Theatre, she served as the Development Director at the highly-respected Actor's Express Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, where she managed and secured all the organization's contributed income. Weiss holds a Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management.

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is a celebrated contemporary ballet company that has been guided for 26 years by its uniquely global artistic vision. Collaborating with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists, Alonzo King creates works that draw on a diverse set of deeply rooted cultural traditions and imbue classical ballet with new expressive potential.

Both Alonzo King and the LINES dancers have been recognized for their extraordinary vision; in 2006, the newly formed United States Artists organization recognized 50 outstanding living artists in America: Alonzo King was honored with one of the four Fellowships in Dance nationwide, and the only one given in California. The USA Fellowship is the third major award bestowed upon Alonzo King in the past three years, following the Bessie Award for Choreographer/ Creator in 2005 and the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award in June 2008. He has also been the recipient of the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, the Irvine Dance Fellowship, five Isadora Duncan awards, two honorary doctorates, and the 2007 Community Leadership Award. Last fall, dancer Meredith Webster won the Princess Grace Award, becoming the fifth company

member to receive that honor. Six years ago, the LINES Ballet School was established, in order to develop the potential of young dancers, and in 2006, LINES Ballet joined with Dominican University of California to create a unique Joint BFA program in Dance.

LINES Ballet has collaborated with 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 Syzmanski; 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. Recently, LINES Ballet has been receiving accolades for its collaborative project with the Shaolin monks, an unprecedented synthesis of Eastern and Western classical forms that intertwines martial arts and ballet. The Company is also enjoying tremendous success abroad at venues such as the Venice Biennale and the Maison de la Dance in Lyon. LINES Ballet has been featured at several prestigious festivals, including Montpellier Danse, the Wolfsburg Festival, the Holland Dance Festival, and the 50th anniversary of the Spoleto Festival.

SAVE THE DATE

LINES Ballet Fall Home Season

LINES Ballet in collaboration with jazz legend Pharoah Sanders

October 17 - 26, 2008

Novellus Theater at YBCA

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