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**ALONZO KING'S LINES BALLET PRESENTS ITS SPRING SEASON**  
**FEATURING THE RETURN OF ALONZO KING'S MAGNIFICENT WORK,**  
***SIGNS & WONDERS* AND A WORLD PREMIERE FEATURING MUSIC**  
**BY ARCANGELO CORELLI**

**April 17-26, 2009**

SAN FRANCISCO, January 21, 2009—Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is pleased to announce an exciting program for its Spring season, featuring a world premiere work set to the music of Arcangelo Corelli and the return of Alonzo King's acclaimed work, *Signs and Wonders*. The season takes place at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, April 17-26, and comes at the heels of another ambitious touring season, that includes engagements in Hawaii, Italy, and France.

Mr. King's celebrated *Signs and Wonders*, which was originally commissioned by Dance Theatre of Harlem, has since toured around the world to critical acclaim. Set to indigenous music from myriad African tribes, the upcoming version incorporates Mr. King's inspirations from his recent trip to Arba Minch, Ethiopia, where he served as a consultant to *The Festival of a Thousand Stars*, an annual festival of traditional song and dance of the tribes of Southern Ethiopia. *The New York Times* celebrated *Signs and Wonders* as a work that "remains unpredictable and inventive, right up to its dazzling, fast-moving finale."

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet's Spring season also features a world premiere work set to the music of Arcangelo Corelli and Francis Poulenc.

Alonzo's King's LINES Ballet's home season will feature the company's nine exquisite dancers, Brett Conway, David Harvey, Ashley Jackson, Laurel Keen, Caroline Rocher, Corey Scott-Gilbert, Meredith Webster, Keelan Whitmore and Ricardo Zayas, who was recently named one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 to Watch in 2009.

In addition to the eight performances slated for this spring, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet's home season also includes a free Family Day on Sunday, April 19, with activities for visitors of all ages prior to the matinee performance; a post-performance conversation with Alonzo King on Wednesday, April 22; and a post-performance conversation with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet dancers Ricardo Zayas and Meredith Webster, on Thursday, April 23.

**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 fourth major award bestowed upon Alonzo King in the past three years, following the Bessie Award for

Choreographer/ Creator in 2005, the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award in June 2008, and the Mayor's Art Award in October 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. Alonzo King's LINES Ballet continues its commitment to dance education and community involvement through the San Francisco Dance Center, established in 1989, now one of the largest dance facilities on the West Coast offering over 80 open classes to adults and teenagers. In 2001 the LINES Ballet School was established in order to develop the potential of young dancers through its year-round and summer programs. Alonzo King's LINES Ballet embarked on a partnership with the Dominican University of California in fall 2006, inaugurating the LINES Ballet/Dominican BFA program in dance, the only joint BFA program in the country to be led by an active, world-renowned master choreographer.

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 Syzmaniak; 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 Danse in Lyon. LINES Ballet has been featured at several prestigious festivals, including Montpellier Danse, the Wolfsburg Festival, the Holland Dance Festival, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spoleto Festival.

\*Signs and Wonders was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces: Dance initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

#### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

Friday, April 17, 8pm  
Saturday, April 18, 8pm  
Sunday, April 19, 3pm\*  
Wednesday, April 22, 8pm\*\*  
Thursday, April 23, 8 pm\*\*\*  
Friday, April 24, 8 pm  
Saturday, April 25, 8 pm  
Sunday, April 26, 3 pm

\* Family Day at 2pm, Yerba Buena Theater Plaza  
\*\* Post-performance conversation with Alonzo King  
\*\*\* Post-performance conversation with the LINES Ballet dancers

Novellus Theater at YBCA, 700 Howard Street at 3rd Street, San Francisco

Tickets:  
\$15-\$65, 415.978.2787, [www.yerbabueanaarts.org](http://www.yerbabueanaarts.org),  
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