

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mona Baroudi

415.615.2735

mona.baroudi@sbcglobal.net

Alonzo King LINES Ballet announces its Spring Season featuring a world premiere collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows

**Novellus Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
April 16-25, 2010**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 3, 2010—Alonzo King LINES Ballet returns home for its Spring Season after critically acclaimed appearances in Monaco, Italy and France, bringing Bay Area audiences a unique local collaboration: the world premiere of a new work with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows.

The company's Spring Season takes place at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, April 16-25, and also features a recap of the hypnotic work *Rasa*, created with tabla master Zakir Hussain in 2007.

Founded in 1977, the San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowships are performance-oriented residencies designed for classical music's most promising new artists. Five Adler Fellows join Alonzo King LINES Ballet's ten exquisite dancers for an anticipated new collaboration set to a selection of art songs by Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Gabriel Fauré, Robert Schumann, John Sheppard and Richard Strauss as well as several arias by George Frideric Handel

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's dancers are Paulo Arrais, Brett Conway, David Harvey, Ashley Jackson, Laurel Keen, Caroline Rocher, Meredith Webster, Keelan Whitmore, Ricardo Zayas, and Corey Scott-Gilbert, who last fall received the prestigious Chris Hellman Dance Award.

The Adler Fellows performing alongside them are Sara Gartland, soprano; Maya Layhani, mezzo-soprano; Ryan Belongie, counter-tenor; Austin Kness, baritone; with piano accompaniment by Adler Fellow Allen Perriello. Alonzo King's engaging choreography for this contemporary ballet will incorporate both the LINES Ballet dancers and the Adler Fellows moving together onstage.

"The challenge is to integrate body, mind and intention, within the individuals themselves and between the two different disciplines," said Alonzo King. "I encourage them to explore and expand into their physical bodies, using the entire body as a vocal chord." The process of choreographing the work is a working collaboration with King coaxing just the right blend of raw talent and unguarded spontaneity from the dancers and Adler Fellows. King continued, "I initiate exercises in being, not doing. Being without armor—which is difficult to do—is believing that what you are is enough." The work is still in progress and will be until the curtain opens. "At this point we're still building, seeing how far we can go together."

"Alonzo has asked the Adler Fellows to create a physical reflection of what they are already vocally expressing," said San Francisco Opera Center Director of Musical Studies Mark Morash, who has also been on hand in the studio. "This element of creation has been a great reminder of the how the physical can inform the musical, and the experience has been both liberating and immensely fulfilling."

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's engagement with the Adler Fellows is only the latest in a long history of collaborations with artists both local and global. Most recently, it collaborated with New York-based jazz pianist Jason Moran. Other collaborators include 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. 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.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's 2010 Spring Season

Where:

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

When:

Friday, April 16, 8pm
Saturday, April 17, 8pm
Sunday, April 18, 5pm
Wednesday, April 21, 7pm
Thursday, April 22, 7pm
Friday, April 23, 8pm
Saturday, April 24, 8pm
Sunday, April 25, 5pm

Special Season Events:

April 16: Opening Night Donor Reception to thank donors of \$500 or more

April 21: Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King

April 22: LINES Ballet Extensions* Night Out (special activities for the young professionals' organization dedicated to supporting Alonzo King LINES Ballet)

April 23: UCSF/Women's HIV Program Benefit Night and Post-Performance Q&A with Alonzo King (**General ticket prices apply for this evening. This evening is also a benefit for UCSF's Women HIV Program Benefit Night and features a special 6 pm VIP pre-reception and performance for \$125, available through UCSF at 415.476.3621.)

For Spring Tickets:

Buy Tickets Online or call 415.978.2787 when Box Office opens

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

* student ID required – student prices available for April 18, 21, 22 performances only

Friday, April 23 General ticket prices apply. Special 6 pm VIP pre-reception and performance for \$125, these special tickets available through UCSF at 415.476.3621

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