

For Immediate Release
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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. Six Adler Fellows join Alonzo King LINES Ballet's ten exquisite dancers for an anticipated new collaboration set to musical selections from Handel, Schubert, Brahms, Fauré, Strauss, and Sheppard.

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.

This year's Adler Fellows performing are Sara Gartland, soprano; Maya Layhani, mezzo-soprano; Ryan Belongie, counter-tenor; Austin Kness, baritone; and coach-accompanists Allen Perriello and Tamara Sanikidze.

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.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Founded in 1982, Alonzo King LINES Ballet is a celebrated contemporary ballet company that has developed into a world-renowned touring company.

Collaborating with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists from across the globe, Alonzo King creates works that draw on a diverse set of deeply rooted cultural traditions, imbuing 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, 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. In 2008, dancer Meredith Webster won the Princess Grace Award, becoming the fifth company member to receive that honor. And in 2009 Corey Scott-Gilbert became the third Alonzo King LINES Ballet dancer to receive the prestigious Chris Hellman Dance Award, joining company members Laurel Keen and Meredith Webster.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet continues its commitment to dance education and community involvement through the Alonzo King LINES 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 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.

The Company is also enjoying tremendous success abroad at venues such as the Venice Biennale and the Maison de la Dance in Lyon. Alonzo King LINES Ballet has been featured at several prestigious festivals, including Montpellier Danse, the Wolfsburg Festival, the Holland Dance Festival, the 50th anniversary of the Spoleto Festival, and the Monaco Dance Forum Festival.

San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows

Founded in 1977, Adler Fellowships are performance-oriented residencies for the most advanced young singers and coach/accompanists. Under the guidance of San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley and Opera Center Director Sheri Greenawald, the Adler Fellowship Program offers intensive individual training and roles of increasing importance in San Francisco Opera's main-stage season. Each year, a few exceptionally gifted singers from Merola Opera Program, chosen from a pool of over 800 candidates, are invited to continue their education as Adler Fellows.

In addition to performances on the main stage of the War Memorial Opera House, selected Adler Fellows are also featured in the Schwabacher Debut Recital Series (at Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary in San Francisco), created to spotlight artists who have participated in the programs of the San Francisco Opera Center. The Adler Fellows' season culminates with a special year-end concert featuring the singers in an evening of opera scenes and arias with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

For more information on the San Francisco Opera Center and the Adler Fellowship, visit www.sfopera.com and www.merola.org.

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