

For Immediate Release
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ALONZO KING LINES BALLET FALL HOME SEASON
Featuring a world premiere with original music by visionary jazz pianist
Jason Moran and the return of the MOROCCAN Project

LIVE Music by Jason Moran (opening weekend only)
LIVE Music by El Hamideen (all performances)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—August 13, 2009—Alonzo King LINES Ballet, the celebrated San Francisco-based contemporary ballet company, announces the program for its Fall Home Season, **October 23-November 1, 2009** at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's Fall Home Season features the world premiere of a highly anticipated work with original music by New York-based jazz pianist **Jason Moran**. This new work features Alonzo King LINES Ballet's world-class dance troupe, with Moran performing live on *opening weekend only*. Both visionaries in their fields, King creates ballets that stretch and renew the traditions of western dance, and Moran creates avant-garde compositions, experimenting within the jazz idiom.

After having had what he calls a "breakthrough experience" while watching Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Moran approached the Company eager to collaborate. For this work Moran pairs his technical virtuosity with a cutting-edge approach to jazz in creation of his first ballet score. This work will also tour to the August Wilson Center for the Arts and Duke University in early 2010.

The Company's Fall Home Season also features the return of the celebrated 2005 work, the *MOROCCAN Project*. The *MOROCCAN Project* "might be occurring in an old palace in the midst of parched plains or desert," writes the *New York Times*. "Heat seems to press in on the simple golden-hued and shadowy set and on its intimate encounters... bodies seem to stir the air enough to nudge other bodies into action or draw them into shared activity." The infectious music score by Yassir Chadley, Bouchaib Abdelhadi and Hafida Ghanim is performed live at all performances by Moroccan ensemble **El Hamideen**.

The Company's Fall Home Season illustrates Alonzo King's unique collaborations – often times with artists not associated with classical ballet. Previous collaborators include legendary jazz saxophonist Pharoah Sanders; tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain; actor Danny Glover; Nubian oud master Hamza El Din;

the BaAka Pygmies of the Central African Republic; and the Shaolin Monks of China. He is also currently working on a new commission for Monaco's Ballet Russe's Centennial Festival in December 2009.

About Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Alonzo King 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 Alonzo King LINES Ballet 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. This year, dancer Corey Scott-Gilbert won the Princess Grace Award, becoming the sixth company member to receive that honor. Six years ago, the Alonzo King LINES Ballet School was established, in order to develop the potential of young dancers, and in 2006, Alonzo King LINES Ballet joined with Dominican University of California to create a unique Joint BFA program in Dance.

Alonzo King 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, Alonzo King 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. Alonzo King 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.

About Jason Moran

Jason Moran is a prolific jazz pianist, composer, bandleader and recording artist.

He was recently named one of 2007's United States Artist Fellows and was honored as one of the "37 Under 36: America's Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences" by *Smithsonian* magazine.

The composition "In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall, 1959" for jazz big band was performed at Duke University, Chicago Symphony Center, the San Francisco Jazz Festival and the Washington Performing Arts Society in 2007. Moran was the youngest honoree of the New Work Commission by the San Francisco Jazz Festival. Moran collaborated with video/performance artist Joan Jonas on "The Shape, the Scent, the Feel of Things," performed at Dia Beacon. His 2005 composition for jazz sextet, "RAIN," was commissioned by Jazz @ Lincoln Center. "Milestone: A Jazz Reality in 2 Acts for jazz quartet and soprano was commissioned by The Walker Art Center in 2005.

Moran has performed as a sideman with such artists as Greg Osby, Cassandra Wilson, Joe Lovano, Don Byron, Steve Coleman, Lee Konitz, Von Freeman, Ravi Coltrane, and Stefon Harris. He made his professional recording debut on Osby's 1997 Blue Note CD, *Further Ado*, which brought him to the attention of Blue Note executives who signed the pianist to his own record deal shortly thereafter. The association with Blue Note is fitting, placing Moran in the lineage of innovative pianist/composers whose career beginnings were nurtured by the veteran jazz label.

In 2000, Moran's first album with his jazz trio The Bandwagon (with bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits) was declared "an instant classic" by *JazzTimes* Magazine. In 2002, Moran released his universally acclaimed solo piano disc "Modernistic." 2003's "The Bandwagon," culled from the trio's six-day stint at New York's Village Vanguard, earned the team of Moran-Mateen-Waits a title as "the best new rhythm section in jazz" (*The New York Times*) and caused Rolling Stone to proclaim Moran "the most provocative thinker in current jazz." He has been awarded a grant from Chamber Music America's "New Works: Creation and Presentation" program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Moran has appeared on the cover of *JazzTimes* with Joe Lovano and on the cover of *Down Beat* with his mentor Andrew Hill.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Fall Home Season
World Premiere collaboration with jazz pianist Jason Moran & The Moroccan Project
October 23 – November 1, 2009

LIVE MUSIC WITH JASON MORAN OPENING WEEKEND ONLY!

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

Friday, October 23, 7pm, Opening Night Celebration* (starts at 6pm)
Saturday, October 24, 8pm
Sunday, October 25, 5pm, Post-performance talk with Jason Moran
Wednesday, October 28, 8pm, Post-performance talk with Alonzo King
Thursday, October 29, 8pm, Post-performance talk with Alonzo King
Thursday, October 29, 8pm, Post-performance talk with Alonzo King
Friday, October 30, 8pm, Post-performance talk with dancers
Saturday, October 31, 8pm
Sunday, November 1, 5pm

TICKETS:

Opening Night: \$85, \$100, \$500*

Live music: Jason Moran and El Hamideen

Opening Weekend: \$25, \$37, \$55, \$70

Live music: Jason Moran and El Hamideen

All other performances: \$25, \$35, \$50, \$65

To purchase tickets:

415.978.2787 or www.ybca.org/tickets

Visit www.linesballet.org for more information on Alonzo King LINES Ballet.

Visit www.jasonmoran.com for more information on Jason Moran.