

## I. Alonzo King's LINES Ballet Announces New Company Members Caroline Rocher and Corey Scott-Gilbert

## II. Alonzo King Receives San Francisco Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Award

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is pleased to announce the addition of two new dancers, Caroline Rocher and Corey Scott-Gilbert, effective immediately. Both Rocher and Scott-Gilbert will be performing in Alonzo King's LINES Ballet's much-anticipated 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts this fall.

"We are pleased to have these beautiful and seasoned dancers join LINES Ballet," said LINES Ballet's Artistic Director Alonzo King. "They each possess a uniqueness that will amplify the company's range."

Caroline Rocher began her training at the Conservatoire de Montpellier in France with Madame Claparede and later studied at the Rudra Bejart Lausanne School in Switzerland. She came to the United States in 1998 to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and was then invited to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company in 1999. She was promptly promoted to principal dancer the following year, performing leading roles in *The Prodigal Son*, *Agon*, and Glen Tetley's *Sphinx*. Caroline took part in "Le Gala des Etoiles du 21<sup>eme</sup> siècle" in Paris in 2004, and then moved to Germany to join the Bayerisches Staatsballett in Munich. Rocher then joined Lyon Opera Ballet from 2006 to 2007.

"I'm thrilled to be joining Alonzo King's LINES Ballet," says Rocher. "I am so inspired by the other dancers and by Alonzo King, and am certain that this experience will teach me so much."

Corey Scott-Gilbert was born in Washington, D.C. and began his dance training at Baltimore School for the Arts, later attending the Juilliard School in New York under the direction of Harkarvey and Rhodes. After graduating with a BFA in 2005, Corey accepted an invitation from France to be a soloist with Lyon Opera Ballet. He has collaborated with and performed ballets by William Forsythe, Sasha Waltz, Jiri Kylian, Matz Ek, and other international choreographers.

"After two years in France working with a repertory company like Lyon Opera Ballet, I am eager to return home and work with an artist as renowned and with as much integrity as Alonzo," said Scott-Gilbert. "I am excited about starting the creation process and look forward to having a real voice in the work. The dancer's voice is rarely respected, but with Alonzo it is deeply appreciated."

## II. Alonzo King Receives San Francisco Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Award

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet is pleased to announce that Artists Director and Founder of LINES Ballet, Alonzo King, is a recipient of the 2007 Community Leadership

Award. King is the recipient of the Helen Crocker Russell Award, made to an under-recognized, mature artist who has made a significant and ongoing contribution in the Bay Area.

There will be an awards ceremony held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre in the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. RSVP to 415.733.8577.

The San Francisco Foundation Community Leadership Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose leadership has made a significant impact in their particular Bay Area communities. This work may confront societal or civic issues, address health or environmental concerns, or promote arts and humanities.

Up to four Community Leadership Awards are given out each year. The Community Leadership Awards showcase individual or organizational excellence in leadership as demonstrated by outstanding initiative, impact of work, and inspiration of others. With each award, The San Francisco Foundation publicly affirms present achievements, seeks to encourage further work on the part of the recipients, and hopes to motivate others to follow their lead in service to Bay Area communities.

#### About Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet of San Francisco is a critically acclaimed contemporary ballet company with a global artistic vision. Collaborating with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists, Alonzo King creates original works that stretch and renew the traditions of western dance. This year, 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 in California. The USA Fellowship is the second major award given to Alonzo King in the past two years, following his Bessie Award for Choreographer/ Creator in 2005. He has also been the recipient of the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, the Irvine Dance Fellowship, five Isadora Duncan awards, and two honorary degrees. Four dancers in LINES Ballet have won the Princess Grace Award, an unprecedented number for a company of this size. Five years ago, the LINES Ballet School was established to develop the potential of young dancers, and this year 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 Zakir Hussain, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock Bernice Johnson Reagon, 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. This spring, LINES Ballet premiered its collaborative project with the Shaolin monks, an unprecedented synthesis of Eastern and Western classical forms that intertwined martial arts and ballet.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Alonzo King's LINES Ballet

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOME SEASON & 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

Featuring Two World Premiere Ballets with Live Music Performed by Zakir Hussain & the Philharmonia Chamber Players

Nov. 2- 11, 2007

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater

For more information visit the LINES Ballet website at [www.linesballet.org](http://www.linesballet.org)