

ALONZO KING'S LINES BALLET



Aesha Ash in *The MOROCCAN Project*,
being performed at New York's City Center,
October 3, 2006
Photography: Marty Sohl



Press Release: For immediate release

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I. Lines Ballet at the New York City Center Fall for Dance Festival

Opening an evening of dance at the New York City Center that showcases some of the century's venerable companies and famous choreographers, Alonzo King's Lines Ballet brings an excerpt of *The Moroccan Project* to Manhattan audiences. The Fall For Dance Festival has become New York City's unofficial favorite way to open a season of new dance. "Fall for Dance has proved to be the brightest idea to light up the New York dance scene in a long time," in the words of the *New York Times*, and the festival's popularity has led to expanded audiences for dance, who fill every seat for every performance in the City Center theater.

This fall is the first time that Lines Ballet will perform any part of *The Moroccan Project* in NYC, and the excerpt on October 3rd is expected to create even more excitement about the Company's other appearances in New York this year. Lines Ballet will also perform at the Joyce Theater from May 1-6, 2007. The evening's full program and ticket information are listed below:

—Oct. 3rd, 8pm—

Alonzo King's Lines Ballet – The Moroccan Project (excerpt)

Choreographer: Alonzo King
The Martha Graham Dance Company – Satyric Festival Song
Choreographer: Martha Graham
New York City Ballet – In the Night
Choreographer: Jerome Robbins
Compagnie La BARAKA / Abou LAGRAA – Ou Transe (excerpt)
Choreographer: Abou LAGRAA
The Parsons Dance Company – Swing Shift
Choreographer: David Parsons

Tickets are available online: www.nycitycenter.org

II. New Dancers Join Lines Ballet

Lines Ballet welcomes two new dancers this fall, Ashley Jackson and Keelan Whitmore. Both new dancers are currently busy rehearsing for the first performance of the season, which will be a world premiere at California Center for the Arts in Escondido, California. The piece will feature live music by Hindustani vocalist Rita Sahai, accompanied by tabla and violin. Ashley and Keelan both say that they are excited to be working with Alonzo King and the other dancers, and the Company is invigorated by their enthusiasm, talent, and potential.

Ashley Jackson

Born in High Point, North Carolina, She studied with Susan's Dance Unlimited and graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, studying under Nina Danilova and Melissa Hayden. She performed with North Carolina Dance Theater II dancing in George Balanchine's Serenade, Alvin Ailey's The River, and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's Carmina Burana.

Keelan Whitmore

Keelan Whitmore is originally from Rockford, Il. where he began his training at the Rockford Dance Company and later went on to graduate from Interlochen Arts Academy. Keelan also studied at the Joffrey Ballet School/New School University and has danced with Kansas City Ballet for five seasons, where he performed works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp, and Nacho Duato. His choreography has been showcased in workshop and gala performances with Kansas City Ballet, Virginia School of the Arts, and Regional Dance America, where he received the 2005 National Choreography Recognition Award. Keelan is the co-founder/co-artistic director of Quixotic Performance Fusion.

Dancers who are pursuing other projects:

Chiharu Shibata, who joined Lines Ballet in 1989, has decided to stop dancing professionally. During Chiharu's career at Lines Ballet, Alonzo King created over 17 signature roles for her, and she has been highly praised by critics for her perceptive and evocative performances.

Prince Credell, who danced with Lines Ballet for four years, is currently performing with Hubbard Street Dance, based in Chicago. Drew Jacoby is on leave from the Company following an injury during the spring tour in Italy, and is engaged in freelance work. She will be performing with Lines Ballet in the Fall for Dance Festival at City Center, New York.

III. Announcing the Lines Ballet Tour Schedule 2006-2007

Following a highly successful spring of touring—including performances at major festivals, such as Movimentos in Wolfsburg, Germany, and Wolf Trap, in Virginia—Lines Ballet begins its fall season with a World Premiere in southern California. This year, the Company will appear in New York City venues several times, most notably as part of the upcoming City Center Fall for Dance festival, and in a week-long run at the Joyce Theater next spring. Lines Ballet is also in demand abroad, and will return to Europe twice: in March, for engagements in Italy and Greece; and again in early summer, to France, Italy, Germany and Austria.

LINES Ballet: TOUR SCHEDULE 2006-2007

- September 30: Escondido, CA: World Premiere with Rita Sahai
California Center for the Arts – www.artcenter.org
- October 3: City Center NYC, NY: Fall for Dance
<http://www.nycitycenter.org/ffd/index.cfm>
- November 3-5, 8-11: San Francisco, CA: Fall Home Season
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – www.ybca.org
- November 18: Brooklyn, NY
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts – www.brooklyncenter.com
- December 8: Monmouth, OR
Western Oregon University – <http://www.wou.edu/president/advancement/smith/>
- December 11: NYC, NY: Dancers Responding To AIDS Benefit (duet only)
Cedar Lake Theater – <http://www.dradance.org/eventsdancefromtheheart06.html>
- February 13-15: Sheboygan, WI
John Michael Kohler Arts Center – <http://www.jmkac.org>
- February 20: Stevens Point, WI
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point – <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/pas/>
- February 25: Cremona, Italy
Teatro Ponchielli
- February 27-28: Pavia, Italy
Teatro Fraschini
- March 4: Milan, Italy
Teatro Arcimboldi
- March 9-11 (tentative dates): Thessaloniki, Greece
Megaron Mousikis Opera House – <http://www.tch.gr>
- March 30-31: Anchorage, AK
Anchorage Concert Association – www.anchorageconcerts.org/
- April 13-15, 18-22: San Francisco, CA: Spring Home Season
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – www.ybca.org
- May 1-6: NYC, NY
Joyce Theater – www.joyce.org