

For Immediate Release
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Alonzo King LINES Ballet inaugurates the Monaco Dance Forum Festival's Centennial Celebration of the Ballets Russes with an original interpretation of *Scheherazade*

December 9 & 10, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO, CA— September 9, 2009—Alonzo King LINES Ballet, the celebrated San Francisco-based contemporary ballet company, is pleased to announce it will kick off the Monaco Dance Forum Festival's centennial celebration of the Ballets Russes December 9-10, 2009 at the Grimaldi Forum Cultural Centre, in Monte Carlo.

In celebration of this landmark event, Alonzo King LINES Ballet has been commissioned by the Monaco Dance Forum to create an original interpretation of the classic ballet, *Scheherazade*.

This new work will feature original choreography by visionary dance maker **Alonzo King**, a musical score by renowned tabla master **Zakir Hussain**, costume design by couturière **Colleen Quen** and **Robert Rosenwasser** (who also designs the set), multimedia design by **Jimmy Latakos** and **Axel Morgenthaler**, and the exquisite dancers of King's world-class dance company.

In addition to the world premiere of *Scheherazade* in December 2009, Alonzo King has been invited by the Monaco Dance Forum to participate in the remaining two acts of the centennial celebration. In Act II, King will teach a series of workshops in Monaco in March and April 2010, and for the final Act III, King has been commissioned by the Ballets de Monte Carlo to create a new work for the company. This new work will premiere in July 2010.

The original ballet adaptation of *Schéhérazade* premiered in 1910 by the Ballets Russes at the Opéra Garnier in Paris, and featured choreography by Michel Fokine and Rimsky-Korsakov's existing musical score. For King's recreation, frequent music collaborator Zakir Hussain reinterprets Korsakov's score for instruments as ancient and contemporary as the stories of Scheherazade—and for an extraordinary group of musicians that includes Kala Ramnath (violin); Joan Jeanrenaud (cello); Lynn Taffin (harp); Homayoun Sakhi (rabab); Abbos Kosimov (doira); Mahmood Nejad (nay); and Hussain on tabla.

Founded in 1909 by Sergei Diaghilev, the Ballets Russes became one of the most influential ballet companies of the 20th century, and was renowned for its groundbreaking artistic collaborations among choreographers, composers, artists, and designers. From December 2009 to July 2010, under the Presidency of H.R.H. The Princess of Hanover, the Principality

of Monaco commemorates this landmark anniversary in a 3-act celebration that highlights the work of some of the greatest artists from around the world. Choreographer Alonzo King has been selected to participate in all three acts of this centennial celebration. Other notable companies and artists participating include Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Shen Wei, the Hamburg Ballet, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, The Forsythe Company, Nederlands Dans Theatre, among others.

The Monaco Dance Forum

Every two years the Mediterranean principality of Monaco becomes the center of the international dance world. Selected dance companies from around the globe perform in a festival with Princess Caroline, dance curators and international media in attendance. This year's festival, marking the centenary of the Ballets Russes, and the prestigious Nijinsky Awards will take place in the Salle Garnier in the Grimaldi Forum. Performances will pay tribute to this groundbreaking company, its artists and the works produced from that prolific period.

About Alonzo King

Alonzo King is a visionary choreographer who collaborates with noted composers, musicians, and visual artists, creating works that draw on diverse sets of deeply rooted cultural traditions and imbue classical ballet with new expressive potential. Alonzo King has been commissioned to create works for the repertoires of companies throughout the world including the Swedish Royal Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and Washington Ballet. He has worked extensively in opera, television, and film, and has choreographed works for prima ballerina Natalia Makarova and film star Patrick Swayze. Mr. King has also collaborated with artists such as actor Danny Glover, legendary jazz saxophonist Pharoah Sanders, and the Shaolin Monks of China. Renowned for his skill as a teacher, Mr. King has been the guest ballet master for National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet Rambert, Ballet West and others.

In 1982, Mr. King founded Alonzo King LINES Ballet, which has developed into a world-renowned touring company. Seven years later, he inaugurated the San Francisco Dance Center, which has grown into one of the largest dance facilities on the West Coast. In 2001, Alonzo King started the LINES Ballet School to nurture and develop the talents of young dancers. Expanding the scope of his educational visions to the college level in 2006, Alonzo King and LINES Ballet embarked on a partnership with the Dominican University of California, creating the West Coast's first Joint BFA program in Dance. It is the only Joint BFA program in the country to be led by a living master choreographer.

In October 2008 Alonzo King was honored to receive the 2nd Annual Mayor's Arts Award by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. In June 2008, Alonzo King received the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award, in recognition of his contribution to "moving ballet in a very 21st-century direction." In 2006, he was recognized as one of the fifty outstanding artists in America by the United States Artists organization, and in 2005, received the Bessie Award for Choreographer/ Creator. He is also the recipient of the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, Irvine Fellowship in Dance, National Dance Project and the National Dance Residency Program, as well as five Isadora Duncan Awards. He has also received the Hero Award from

Union Bank, the Lehman Award, and the Excellence Award from KGO, and was chosen as the recipient of the San Francisco Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Award.

About Zakir Hussain

Zakir Hussain is widely recognized in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, but gained him worldwide fame. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study. A child prodigy, Hussain began touring before he was twelve years old and now tours all over the world, playing over 150 dates each year. He has received numerous awards over the course of his illustrious career in world music, including a Grammy for his collaborative album, Planet Drum. He has recorded and performed with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Ali Akbar Khan, Ravi Shankar, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Jack Bruce, Tito Puente, Pharoah Sanders, the Hong Kong Symphony and the New Orleans Symphony.

About Colleen Quen

Colleen Quen's designs are inspired by nature's motifs, Impressionist art and modern architecture. Quen practices classic French couture and has been featured in *Modern Bride*, *InStyle*, *Town & Country*, *Women's Wear Daily* and as a guest judge on *America's Next Top Model*. Colleen Quen has been featured in *InStyle*, *Town & Country*, *WWD*, and *Modern Bride*, and has collaborated on many works for Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. Quen has collaborated with LINES for over a decade and opened her atelier, Colleen Quen Couture, in San Francisco in 2000.

SAVE THE DATE

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Fall Home Season

World Premiere collaboration with jazz pianist Jason Moran & The Moroccan Project

October 23 – November 1, 2009

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

700 Howard Street at 3rd Street, San Francisco

For more information, please visit www.linesballet.org.