

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet presents an extraordinary new collaboration between three celebrated artists - choreographer Alonzo King, architect Christopher Haas, and percussionist Mickey Hart**

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet Spring Season**  
April 15-24, 2011  
Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
700 Howard Street, San Francisco  
[www.linesballet.org](http://www.linesballet.org)



*Michael Montgomery and Keelan Whitmore featured with one of Christopher Haas' original sets, photo by RJ Muna*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—February xx, 2011—Alonzo King LINES Ballet is pleased to present a groundbreaking new collaboration bringing together a trio of celebrated artists: choreographer Alonzo **King**, architect **Christopher Haas**, and percussionist **Mickey Hart**. This new work will have its world premiere during Alonzo King LINES Ballet's 2011 Spring Home season, at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, April 15-24, 2011.

King, Haas and Hart join together to create a new piece that explores our relationship with space – physical space and infinite space. The original soundscore by the Grammy-award winning Hart, is based on his recent collaborations with Nobel Laureate George Smoot, draws on the harmonics of the cosmos itself, gathering light waves from the vibrations of heavenly bodies and converting them into layers of sound. Architect Haas, formerly a collaborator with world-renown Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, and one of the lead architects of San Francisco's MH deYoung Museum, has created an interactive built environment, partnering the dancers with transformable architectural surroundings crafted from inexpensive, ordinarily overlooked materials such as recycled cardboard and elastic chord, his sets strike an intriguing kinetic balance between linear and organic forms, and the extraordinary dancers of Alonzo King LINES Ballet grace the stage with incomparable physical artistry.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's home season will feature company dancers David Harvey, Ashley Jackson, Laurel Keen, Caroline Rocher, Meredith Webster, Keelan Whitmore, Ricardo Zayas, Michael Montgomery and Jeannette Diaz-Barboza.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's collaboration with architect Christopher Haas and percussionist Mickey Hart is only the latest in a long history of collaborations with artists both local and global. Most recently, it collaborated with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows. Other collaborators include New York-based jazz pianist Jason Moran and 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.

## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **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. 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, 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, 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, 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, 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 King was honored to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayor's Arts Award by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. In June 2008, King received the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award, in recognition of his contribution to "moving ballet in a very 21<sup>st</sup>-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 Christopher Haas**

Christopher Haas is a cutting-edge San Francisco based architect and former collaborator with world-renown Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, the Pritzker Prize-winning architectural firm responsible for such notable buildings as the de Young Museum in San Francisco, the Tate Modern in London, and the “Bird’s Nest” Olympic Stadium in Beijing. In his time with Herzog & de Meuron, Haas led and oversaw several of their most ambitious projects including our own MH deYoung Museum and 11 11 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Recently completed, it has been hailed by *New Yorker Magazine* art critic Paul Goldberger as “bold and utterly refined...a thoroughly exuberant piece of architecture” and has been awarded Travel & Leisure Magazine’s Best New Venue of 2011.

Haas established his own practice in 2008 and is a frequently invited guest instructor at University of California at Berkeley and at the California College of the Arts, where his coursework was the recipient of the 2006 *NCARB Prize*, the nation’s highest award for an academic course in the field of architecture.

### **About Mickey Hart**

Mickey Hart is best known for his nearly three decades as an integral part of an extraordinary expedition into the soul and spirit of music, disguised as the rock and roll band the Grateful Dead. As half of the percussion tandem known as the Rhythm Devils, Mickey and Bill Kreutzmann transcended the conventions of rock drumming.

His tireless study of the world's music led Mickey to many great teachers and collaborators, including his partners in Planet Drum. Planet Drum's self-titled album not only hit #1 on the Billboard World Music Chart, remaining there for 26 weeks, it also received the Grammy for Best World Music Album in 1991-- the first Grammy ever awarded in this category. In 2002, Mickey established The Endangered Music Fund to return royalty payments from many of these recordings to the indigenous people that produced them, and to further the preservation of sounds and music from around the globe.

Mickey's experiences have paved the way for unique opportunities beyond the music industry. He composed a major drum production performed by an assembly of 100 percussionists for the opening ceremony of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Additionally, Mickey has composed scores, soundtracks and themes for movies and television including *Apocalypse Now*, *Gang Related*, *Hearts of Darkness*, *The Twilight Zone*, the 1987 score to *The America’s Cup: The Walter Cronkite Report*, *Vietnam: A Television History*, and *The Next Step*. In 1994 Mickey was inducted with The Grateful Dead into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Mickey has written four books documenting his lifelong fascination with the history and mythology of music. These include *Drumming at the Edge of Magic*, *Planet Drum*, *Spirit into Sound: The Magic of Music*, and *Songcatchers: In Search of the World’s Music*.

**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE**

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Spring Home Season in collaboration with architect Christopher Haas

**Where:**

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
700 Howard Street @ 3rd Street, San Francisco

**When:**

Friday, April 15, 8pm  
Saturday, April 16, 8pm  
Sunday, April 17, 5pm, Family Day\*  
Wednesday, April 20, 7:30pm (Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King and Christopher Haas)  
Thursday, April 21, 7:30pm (Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King)\*\*  
Friday, April 22, 8pm  
Saturday, April 23, 8 pm  
Sunday, April 24, 5pm

\*April 17: Family Day at 4 pm with Chris Haas, Museum of Craft and Design, and live music, free with performance ticket

\*\*April 21: Post-performance Q&A with Alonzo King, Extensions Night Out, and UCSF/Women's HIV Program Benefit Night.

For Spring Tickets:

Buy Tickets at [www.linesballet.org](http://www.linesballet.org) or call 415.978.2787

General ticket prices: \$15\*, 25, 35, 50, 65

\* student prices for April 17, 19, 20, 21 performances only

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](http://www.linesballet.org)**