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For Immediate Release

Dance Repertory (dRep) presents
Two weekends of special dance events at Cowell Theater
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco

VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 5 and 12 @ 4pm

A non-competitive first come, first served showcase of diverse **emerging talent** from 12 Bay Area **high schools** and 12 professional **companies/colleges** each day, *plus* special performances by Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program and our newest Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble

Dance Repertory Extravaganza

Saturday, March 5 @ 8pm

An adjudicated showcase featuring special guest artists returns for its 2nd year

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program and our newest
Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble

with seven specially selected and curated **high school dance groups**

New this year!

Dance Repertory Review

Press preview Friday, March 4 and 11 @ 7 pm, public performance Saturday, March 12 @ 8pm

This **concert presentation** features dance works of four **professional emerging artists and college dance programs** selected by a committee of respected professionals, *plus* special performances by KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company, Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, and the Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble

(Calendar information below, along with a breakdown by region of participating schools & groups)

SAN FRANCISCO February 3, 2011 – Dance Repertory (dRep) returns for its 11th season to present two dynamic weekends of dance featuring professional dancers along with an array of exciting young dance and choreographic talent emerging right here in the greater Bay Area. All performances take place at **Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco March 4-5 and March 11-12.**

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This unique annual Bay Area dance showcase attracts seasoned dance fans as well as a new audience for dance, thanks in part to popular reality television shows such as “So You Think You Can Dance” and “Live to Dance.” These reality-based TV talent searches are sparking a mass audience appeal with a greater appreciation of the art form.

Dance Repertory (dRep) founder and artistic director **Donnette Heath** welcomes the increased visibility of dance. “This fits my vision and purpose for Dance Repertory. Our mission is to build value for dance, both competitive and noncompetitive, and an appreciation for the form itself and the performers of all ages and expertise.”

For its annual season, dRep brings to the stage pioneering veterans and youth, high school, college and professional emerging artists together in a celebration of the art of dance. **Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company**, along with dRep’s newest **Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble** take the stage alongside these talented and diverse artists from the Greater Bay Area.

Vision Series Non-Competitive Showcases

dRep’s call went out in August, and 12 high schools and dance studios as well as 12 colleges and emerging dance companies were the first to respond to dRep’s “first come, first serve” no juried invitation. The vast array of dancers derived from various abilities and expertise are featured in Saturday matinee showcases March 5 and 12. Heath is fiercely committed to these non-competitive (non-adjudicated) young dancers. “We all deserve to be seen and appreciated, regardless of our level of talent or conformity to a so-called *ideal* body type. In dance, as in most areas of life, it’s important to accept where we are rather than obsess on where we think we should be.” This non-competitive aspect is given full attention in the two Saturday matinee showcases.

At the same time Heath recognizes the value of competition. She leavens her egalitarian philosophy with the knowledge that competition is a normal part of life, one that can spur excellence. To that end she has incorporated two competitive programs into the series, in which participants are selected by a panel of dance experts. These are:

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The March 5 **DANCE REPERTORY EXTRAVAGANZA**, now in its second year, offers an adjudicated showcase of seven selected and curated *high school dance groups* (see calendar listing for names of the schools). They are joined by guest artists from Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program and dRep's Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble.

The March 12 **DANCE REPERTORY REVIEW**, a new addition this year, offers modern works by *professional emerging artists and college dance programs* selected by a committee of dance professionals (see calendar listing for groups). This concert program also features KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company and Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program. The **Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble**, talented high school students selected through an audition process, will perform a work created for them by a member of the LINES Ballet Training Program.

Media critics are invited to attend preview performances of this concert on March 4 and 11 at 7 pm. "It's important for these emerging professionals to get reviewed, expand their portfolios and continue building their reputations," Heath explains, adding, "I hope dance critics will take this opportunity to experience and write about these emerging stars, amazingly talented pre-professionals."

Returning to the topic of TV dance programs, Heath agrees they are popularizing the art form, but attributes some of that to the highly competitive nature of the contest format, which produces a "winner" at the end of the season. While parts of dRep's programs are adjudicated and require auditions, once on stage, she asserts, "all of our dancers are winners and walk away with confidence."

Now in its 11th season, the VISIONS SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL provides rare opportunities for young dance artists to develop their own creative voices through master classes and interactive choreographic sessions with an outstanding array of professional choreographers and dancers. Through the EXTRAVAGANZA, participants have the opportunity to perform their dances in a professional setting. With the introduction of the DANCE REPERTORY REVIEW this year, they will be seen – and potentially reviewed – by the media. Dance Repertory's 2011 Showcase Season offers a transformative experience, with potential for a lasting and profound impact on the lives of these gifted artists.

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Dance Repertory's Long History of Commitment to Youth Artists

Since 1999, dRep has provided opportunities to more than 600 choreographers and 2,275 performers from 41 California high schools, youth programs and dance studios and 73 professional emerging companies and college dance programs. Some 72 professional educators, along with professionals from *Dance Magazine* and California Dance Education Association, have given their time, energy, and expertise to the advancement of the program. This project has also provided exposure for these artists to over 7,500 audience members. More than \$6,000 in scholarships have been developed and distributed to participating choreographers and/or participating programs as support for expansion of artistic careers and program enhancement. In addition, Dance Day Conventions, sponsored by Alonzo King LINES Dance Center, have given professional dance training to some 1,850 high school students through mentorship.

These statistics demonstrate Dance Repertory's success in meeting the youth development goals of its Vision Series: 1) to provide high school dancers and dance groups with high quality arts education and training; 2) to offer a unique and meaningful opportunity for these dancers to express their imaginations through dance and performance; and 3) to introduce high school dancers to professional dancers and companies and share the stage in a highly respected venue in San Francisco.

About Artistic Director Donnette Heath

A former dancer turned educator and presenter, Donnette Heath produced dance workshops and performances from 1992 until 1995 while obtaining a Master of Fine Arts Degree and subsequently working with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City as master teacher of their Teen Board Project. During that time, she began to notice a gap in the education and development of young artists' work, as well as a lack of performance opportunities for them in the professional arena. Based on programs she had previously implemented, Heath conceived a program to feature works of the younger generation and emerging professionals, while providing them with guidance and support. "Such an approach helps young artists gain self-confidence and inspires them to create from a deeper place inside themselves," Heath asserts. "I also wanted these young artists to enhance their work through mentorship from highly experienced and respected dance educators and choreographers." San Francisco's Dancers Group has been a co-sponsor of Dance Repertory since its founding in 1999. Now married and mother of a young child, Heath and her family relocated from San Francisco to New York, but she continues to present Dance Repertory in San Francisco, home of one of the largest dance communities in the country.

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Praise for the Vision Series Dance Festival

Joanna Gewertz Harris, Ph.D., of Voice of Dance, is one of the program's many admirers in the field. Responding to a Vision Dance Festival, she said, "We need more such programs to prove to educators, administrators, politicians and the public that dance and the arts make for strong people and great performers." Dance legend Anna Halprin (a Featured Guest in 2009) has commented on the Festival: "It was delightful. Congratulations on the wonderful contribution you are making. Bravo!" And Gary W. Masters, Artistic Director of sjDANCEco and former principal dancer at Jose Limon Dance Company, called VISIONS "...one of the most vital dance programs in the Bay Area. Considering the breadth and wealth of dance in our region, this is quite a statement, but completely factual."

*Breakout by region and contact info for high school, youth, college,
and professional participants below.*

CALENDAR LISTING FOLLOWS

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**DANCE REPERTORY
CALENDAR INFORMATION**

Note: high resolution jpegs may be downloaded at www.dancerepitory.org. Please click press kit link on the home page.

WHAT: VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL 11th Season
WHEN: Saturday, March 5 and 12
TIME: 4:00pm
WHO: Special guest artists: **Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program** and **Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble**, plus the following dance ensembles and programs:

Saturday March 5 showcase:

St. Mary's College Dance Company, Maria Carillo High School Dance , Cal State University East Bay Dancers, Mercy High School – Burlingame, Zhe Jerry Lin, The Village Dancers, Growth Dance Company, Fancy Dancers, New Dance Company, East Oakland School of the Arts, Adhesive: physical theater, Lick-Wilmerding Dance Ensemble

Saturday, March 12 showcase:

Rugged Dance Company, Crystal Springs Uplands Dancers, RISK Dance Company, El Molino High School, Modesto Jr. College Off Balance, Nor Cal Dance Arts Posse, KTdavidance, Lowell Dance Company, SFSU University Dance Theater, GWHS Dance Company, RDC, Sequoia High School

WHAT: DANCE REPERTORY EXTRAVAGANZA 2nd Season
WHEN: Saturday, March 5
TIME: 8:00pm
WHO: Special guests: **Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program** and **Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble** plus seven adjudicated high school ensembles:

Body Language, Ro Co's Youth Dance Company, Lowell Dance Company, Marin School of the Arts Dancers, Mercy High School San Francisco Dance Ensemble, GWHS Dance Company, Arch Contemporary Ensemble II (IDance), Branson Dance Performance Ensemble

WHAT: NEW! First Annual DANCE REPERTORY REVIEW
WHEN: Saturday, March 12
TIME: 8:00pm
WHO: Special guests: **Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company** and **Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble** plus four curated ensembles:

Modesto Jr. College Off-Balance, KTdavidance, Rugged Dance Company, Sarah Bush Dance Project

ALL PERFORMANCES HELD AT:

WHERE: Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center (Marina & Buchanan Streets, San Francisco)
TICKETS: \$20 adult; \$15 ages 17 and under; group rates available by pre-sale only, call Box Office
BOX OFFICE: (415) 345-7575 and www.fortmason.org

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Regions Represented in Dance Repertory's 2011 Showcase Season

EAST BAY:

St. Mary's College Dance Company
Cal State University East Bay Dancers
East Oakland School of the Arts

NORTH BAY:

Body Language, Ro Co's Youth Dance Company
Marin School of the Arts Dancers
Branson Dance Performance Ensemble

SOUTH BAY/PENINSULA:

Fancy Dancers
Rugged Dance Company
Crystal Springs Uplands Dancers
Nor Cal Dance Arts Posse
Sequoia High School
Arch Contemporary Ensemble II (IDance)

SAN FRANCISCO:

Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program
KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company
Mercy High School – Burlingame
The Village Dancers
Adhesive: physical theater
Lick-Wilmerding Dance Ensemble
Lowell Dance Company
SFSU University Dance Theater
GWHS Dance Company
Mercy High School San Francisco Dance Ensemble
Sarah Bush Dance Project

BEYOND THE BAY:

Maria Carillo High School Dance (Santa Rosa)
New Dance Company (Stockton)
RISK Dance Company (Santa Rosa)
El Molino High School (Santa Rosa)
Modesto Jr. College Off Balance (Modesto)
KTdaviddance (Modesto)
Dance Repertory Youth Ensemble (Santa Rosa, Novato, San Francisco, Redwood City)

CONTACT LISTING FOLLOWS

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Dance Repertory 2011 Contacts

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<p style="text-align: center;">Yannis Adoniou KUNST-STOFF Contemporary Dance Company 415.425.5593 yannis@kunst-stoff.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holly Howard Marin School of the Arts (C) 415.299.7606 holly_howard@comcast.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sheena Hagy Arch Contemporary Ensemble II (C) 408.835.0282 sheenahagy@yahoo.com Kellye Dodd - Director (W) 408.928.9651 doddk@esuhsd.edu</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Tawnya Kuzia Nor Cal Dance Posse 408.687.3823 tawnya@norcaldance.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Colleen S. Pettis El Molino High School 707.481.1157 cspettis@elmolino.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Taylor White Sequoia High School 650.743.4248 twhite@seq.org</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Rose Henry Maria Carrillo High School Dance 707.528.5798</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Albirda Rose The Village Dancers 650.270.6183 birdrose@sfsu.edu</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zoe Fyfe Lick Wilmerding 415.310.9247 zfyfe@lwhs.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Zhe Jerry Lin (SMC) St. Mary's College 415.272.1258 zjl1@stmarys-ca.edu</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Rie New Dance Company 209.464.0855 209.518.1887 mlisarie@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hailey Yaffee St. Mary's College 707.349.5524 hailey.yaffee@gmail.com</p>

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