



MEDIA CONTACT:

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**For Immediate Release - LATEST ADDITION – LEGEND ANNA HALPRIN JOINS
WITH DANCE REPERTORY TO SHARE HER KNOWLEDGE
ANNA HALPRIN Dancers join the stage to educate aspiring dancers!**

Dance Repertory announces their
Vision Series Dance Festival 10th Anniversary Celebration

March 7 & 8, 2009 at 4:00 pm
Fort Mason's Cowell Theater (San Francisco)

TEN YEARS celebrating the emergence of today's Bay Area choreographers, high school dance artists, and academic instructors through education, mentorship and production of a professional showcase environment for aspiring dancers. We present special guests and new works by both the Bay Area's most seasoned and up-and-coming artists.

Vision Series Special Guests:

ANNA HALPRIN Dancers and AXIS Dance Company

Saturday, March 7th Showcase:

St. Mary's College Dance Company, Crystal Springs Uplands Dancers, One Performing Arts Group, New Dance Company, BodyLanguage- RoCo's Youth Dance Company, Capuchino High School, CORE Dance Collective, Moreau Catholic High School Dance Company, Gina Ritorto & Dancers, Marin School of the Arts, MJC - Off-Balance Dance Company, Hillsdale HS Dance Ensemble

Sunday, March 8th Showcase:

Nickerson-Rossi Dance, GWHS Dance Company, Dana Lawton Dances, Mercy HS- Burlingame, Expressive Motion, DONNA CERIOS Broadway Dance Company, RISK Dance Company, El Molino High School, Santa Rosa Junior College Dance Co., Maria Carrillo High School Dance, dance ceres, Lowell Dance Company

**Dance Repertory Extravaganza
NEW, ADJUDICATED SHOWCASE**

March 7, 2009 at 8:00 pm
Fort Mason's Cowell Theater (San Francisco)

Extravaganza Special Guests:

ANNA HALPRIN Dancers, LINES Ballet Training Program, Off-Balance Dance Company

Specially selected high school groups: Crystal Springs Dancers, Moreau Catholic High School Dance Company, The Branson Dance Performance Ensemble, Lowell Dance Company, Mercy High School San Francisco Dance Ensemble, DONNA CERIO'S Broadway Dance Company, IndepDance, Nor Cal Dance Arts, PACK Dance Company

(December 8, 2008 – San Francisco, CA) The celebrated **VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL** is back! The 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION features new works by some of the Bay Area's most talented and diverse new artists as well as esteemed and recognized guests! For the past ten years, Dance Repertory (dRep) has provided one of the premiere opportunities for young and seasoned dance artists to be seen in the Bay Area. The VISION SERIES is an outstanding program that has had a lasting and profound impact on the lives of young artists. This program provides rare opportunities for participants with a varied range of expertise and experience to develop their work under the tutelage of professional dance artists and to perform their dances in a professional setting, while enhancing their abilities through professional master classes and interactive choreographic sessions.

VISION SERIES SPECIAL GUESTS: This year we have invited two **special guest artist companies, ANNA HALPRIN Dancers and AXIS Dance Company**, to participate in the pre-performance master classes and the Vision Series 10th

Anniversary Celebration performances. **ANNA HALPRIN** will present a new choreographic work called, STOMP DANCE: A Rhythmic Dance Adventure. The piece, directed by Anna Halprin and **created specifically for the Vision Series**, is a trio that includes audience participation led by musician Billy Cauley. STOMP DANCE is a “rhythmic experience of fun, exhilaration, and excitement.” Anna explains that she created this piece as a means to “connect with the vitality and spirit of teenagers and young dancers” in the Vision Series. In offering this dynamic interactive format, Anna also aspires to “open up new ideas for how one could explore and expand possibilities for dance to be brought into a conventional theater space.” In this way, she models one way “to break through the traditional proscenium arch and engage the audience so they become participants in the creation of the dance as it evolves based on a rhythmic theme.” Anna will also offer master classes for the teen participants in a special program on January 25th, 2008.

AXIS Dance Company will also present a dance piece in the showcases. AXIS creates contemporary dance that is developed through the collaboration of dancers with and without disabilities. The inclusion of AXIS dance introduces an important aspect to the Vision Series, educating about collaboration and disability through workshops and the performance experience.

NEW THIS YEAR! DANCE REPERTORY EXTRAVAGANZA that features ANNA HALPRIN Dancers, LINES Ballet Training Program and Modesto Jr. College - Off-Balance Dance Company

dRep’s **FIRST ANNUAL DANCE REPERTORY EXTRAVAGANZA**, is a new adjudicated performance featuring new and diverse works from 8 selected Bay Area high schools, LINES Ballet Training Program at LINES Ballet School, Modesto Jr. College’s Off-Balance Dance Company and Anna Halprin Dancers as the esteemed guest artist. dRep is honored to announce their alliance with **LINES Ballet Training Program** at LINES Ballet School, which will be the annual featured artistic group in the Extravaganza each year. One invited college company, to vary each year, will also be presented to serve as role models to high school participants. This year, **Modesto Jr. College’s Off-Balance Dance Company** will join the production in this role. As part of participation in the Extravaganza, young high school artists will expand their training through master classes in technique, along with mentoring in choreography and performance through working side by side with developing professional artists. Through the Extravaganza, these young artists further expand their performance experience in an esteemed and respected venue, initiating them into the life of a dancer in the professional realm.

History and philosophy of the VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL and more

For the past 10 years, founder Donnette Heath has assembled a cross-section of high school, college, and professional dancers ranging from the novice dancemaker to the professional choreographer. Schools that participate include public, private, and arts magnet schools, such that participants are of diverse ethnic backgrounds. dRep strives to give these students a place to share their ideas, build their self-esteem through professional experience, and join together onstage with artists from throughout California. Guided by the philosophy to “Follow a VISION; Embrace it with HOPE; REACH out to others; TRIUMPH awaits,” the structure of all-inclusive performances have helped to educate these young artists and choreographers, unify the arts, and offer audiences a broad perspective of creative interpretation. For students, the Vision Series inspires imagination and enhances confidence, while giving a new generation of young men and women a place to shine.

Since 1999, the VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL has provided opportunities to over 525 choreographers and 1,950 performers from 35 California high schools, youth programs and dance studios and 62 professional emerging companies and college dance programs. Over 67 professional educators, master teachers, Dance Magazine and California Dance Education Association have graciously given their time, energy and expertise in the past to the advancement of all participants. This project has also provided the artists exposure to over 6,500 audience members. Over \$6,000 in scholarships have been given to participating choreographers and/or participating programs as support for expansion of their artistic careers. In addition, Vision Series Fundraiser Workshops have given professional technical training to nearly 1,600 high school students.

In preparation for the festival, participants are mentored by senior dance educators as they craft their work in addition to guidance on festival day. Participants are also paired with each other (a professional emerging company/college and a high school group) to have as their special “Buddy.” The participants engage in formal conversations and share ideas about each other’s creative and artistic process. Peer Spirit Awards are given to each other by their “Buddy” to show their belief and support of one another and to enhance the non-competitive spirit of the festival. Everyone walks away a winner!

Dance Repertory was founded in 1997 by dancer/choreographer Donnette Heath to provide professional opportunities and increased exposure to emerging local, national, and international choreographers, Bay Area dancers, and youth. Executive/Artistic Director Donnette Heath has been producing dance performances and educational events since her college days at Sam Houston State University in 1992 and as Master Teacher and Director of Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company’s TEEN BOARD Project, where she created a choreography performance festival, the brain child of the Vision Series Dance Festival. The organization is a fiscally sponsored project of Dancers’ Group in San Francisco.

Vision Series Dance Festival 10th Anniversary Celebration

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Fort Mason's Cowell Theater (San Francisco)

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WHAT: VISION SERIES DANCE FESTIVAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
WHEN: Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8, 2009
TIME: 4:00 PM
WHERE: Fort Mason's Cowell Theater (Marina and Buchanan streets, SF)
TICKETS: \$20 adult/\$15 student with H.S. ID; Group rates \$17/\$12
BOX OFFICE: (415) 345-7575 or www.fortmason.org

Dance Repertory Extravaganza

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