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For immediate release:

Ronald K. Brown Brings *One Shot* to Mondavi Center

October 3, 2007; Davis, California—Acclaimed choreographer **Ronald K. Brown**, who wowed local audiences with his **Billie Holiday** tribute *Blueprint of a Lady* in October 2005, will return to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** with another multimedia tribute to a great African-American artist. Brown and his company, **EVIDENCE**, will perform *One Shot*, a work inspired by the life and art of photographer **Charles “Teenie” Harris**, at the Mondavi Center on October 27.

The event will begin at 8 pm in the Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the **UC Davis** campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org. The event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Dance Series**. There will be a **Post-performance Q&A** featuring Brown, members of **EVIDENCE**, and **Halifu Osumare**, a dancer, choreographer, and UC Davis professor of African American and African Studies, following the performance.

The **Mondavi Center Arts Education Program** will also present *One Shot* as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** at the Mondavi Center on October 26 at 11 am in Jackson Hall. Performances in this series support the **California Department of Education** Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Teachers, educators, and others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

There will also be a free panel discussion featuring Brown and Osumare, *Legacy in the World of Dance: Ronald K. Brown/Alvin Ailey/Merce Cunningham*. The event will be held at 4 pm on October 26 in the Mondavi Center’s Studio Theatre. The free discussion is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Forum@MC** series.

Brooklyn-born Ronald K. Brown has been called “one of the few major choreographers to emerge in American modern dance in the last 10 years” by *The New York Times*. His work brings together modern dance, West African traditional dance, and urban street styles to form a powerful and unique vocabulary of movement. He has danced with and created work for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre** and other leading companies, and since 1985 has directed his own company, **EVIDENCE**.

Brown has received numerous awards and fellowships, including a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Choreography, a National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer's Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in choreography, New York Dance and Performance Award, a Black Theater Alliance Award, and fellowships from the Edward and Sally van Lier Fund. In 2003, Brown received an AUDELCO (Black Theatre Award) for his choreography for *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*.

“Brown has created a gorgeously layered movement vocabulary that, though admirably technical, creates a contagious sense of freedom,” wrote *Metroland*. “He successfully does what so many choreographers claim to do, which is to fuse modern dance with traditional African dance vocabulary. Brown really does meld the two disciplines, rather than paste them together in a haphazard collage... Ronald K. Brown has choreographic talent to burn and an unflinching eye on society.”

In *One Shot*, Brown sets his choreography to music by jazz greats including **Ahmad Jamal, Mary Lou Williams, Billy Strayhorn, Lena Horne**, and others, in a presentation that includes film and images shot by Charles “Teenie” Harris, whose photography—and life story—formed the inspiration for the piece.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1908, Harris grew up in the African-American neighborhood known as the “Hill District,” and spent almost four decades as a working-class photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, the city's African America newspaper. Nicknamed “One Shot” because he rarely required his subjects to pose for more than one exposure, Harris took more than 80,000 photographs during his career with the *Courier*, which spanned from the Great Depression to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Though he captured the likenesses of famous athletes, jazz musicians, and politicians—including images of **Louis Armstrong, Muhammad Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., and John F. Kennedy**—many of his most memorable photographs depict the lives of average people at work and at play in the Hill District. His work was rarely seen outside of Pittsburgh until after his death in 1998, but is now increasingly recognized as an enormous contribution to both African-American history and 20th-century photography.

There will be an exhibition of Brown's photography on view throughout the Mondavi Center from October 21 to November 4. Entitled *Charles “Teenie” Harris: Rhapsody in Black and White*, the exhibition is co-curated by Brown and **Deborah Willis, New York University** professor of Photography and Imaging, and organized by the **August Wilson Center for African American Culture** with the help of **Carnegie Museum of Art**, Pittsburgh, and **PMG Arts Management**. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Mondavi Center and the **C. N. Gorman Museum**.

One Shot will be performed in seven parts, with one intermission. Dancers scheduled to perform include Brown, **Keon Thoulouis, Arcell Cabuag, Juel Lane, Clarice Young, Tiffany Jackson, Shani Collins, Otis Donovan Herring**, and **Khetanya Henderson**.

Ronald K. Brown can be heard discussing *One Shot* with Mondavi Center Executive Director **Don Roth** in a podcast available at www.MondaviArts.org/podcasts.

“Ronald K. Brown is a very special artist, and it has been a pleasure to work with him in presenting *One Shot* and putting together our podcast, photo exhibit, and Forum@MC discussion,” said Roth. “We look forward with great anticipation to seeing him and his company perform once again on our stage.”

What: **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE**
One Shot

When: Saturday, October 27 • 8 pm

Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis

Admission: \$43/\$37/\$29 Adults • \$16/\$14/\$12 Students & Children

Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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