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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANDELION DANCETHEATER and the DANDELION SEEDS
PRESENT

RADICAL INCLUSION
Conversations at the Intersection of Art, Spiritual Practice and Social Activism

Friday November 18th, 7:30pm
Hillside Club -- 2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

**Featuring an onstage interview with Dance/Theater innovator *Joe Goode*, by *Eric Kupers*;
Performance by *Dandelion Dancetheater* with *Frank Shawl* and guest artists;
Live Music by *Bandelion* for inclusive dancing and celebration**

Dandelion Dancetheater launches *Radical Inclusion*, a new series of events investigating the interplay of inclusion, accessibility, and bold risk-taking within the realms of art, spiritual practice and social activism.

In this opening event Dandelion Co-Director Eric Kupers will interview long-term mentor Joe Goode. They will discuss Goode's "felt performance" creation methods, the relationship of meditation to art-making, the ways in which sexual orientation and other facets of identity are embraced by or excluded from artistic, spiritual and activist movements, how Goode's artistic approaches and philosophies have evolved over the past two decades, and how young artists and activists might learn from and build upon the major shifts Goode initiated in contemporary performance.

Following the onstage conversation will be performance by Dandelion Dancetheater with Frank Shawl and guests, and an inclusive dance party with live music by Bandelion.
More info: www.dandeliondancetheater.org

Radical Inclusion emerges out of Dandelion Dancetheater's years of exploration into the ways that dance, theater and music can come together to create something more powerful than the sum of its parts. For more than 15 years the company has created interdisciplinary works out of a longing for personal, community and global transformation—wrestling with issues of race, gender, sexuality, trauma, mortality, spiritual seeking, body image, ability / disability and more. As the company moves into it's next 15 years of work, co-director Eric Kupers is inviting influential artists, activists and spiritual teachers onto the stage for conversations

about the challenges and possibilities encountered in doing work that takes bold, inclusive risks.

Proceeds from the series will go towards the Dandelion Dancetheater and Cal State University East Bay (CSUEB) 2013 tour of *Tongues* and other works to Europe.

Tongues is an experimental play by Sam Sheppard and Joseph Chaikin originally written in the early 1970's for one speaker and one musician. In 2008 Kupers directed a 25-person dance/theater/music adaptation of this play with Dandelion performers, students and alumni from CSUEB and community members with and without disabilities. The production was chosen from a pool of university productions across the country to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Kupers and the cast are working towards remounting the work and performing it at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and other cities in 2013.

This production of *Tongues* was a highly successful experiment in Radical Inclusion. The performers who collaborated with Kupers in its creation come from vastly different backgrounds and artistic fields including modern dance, theater, new music, adaptive sports, Noh Theatre, street dancing and more. The performers with and without disabilities ranged in age from 18 to 70, and ranged in performance experience from seasoned professional to absolute beginner.

From Kupers, the director of the *Radical Inclusion* series:

"I have begun to call the work I do in dance/theater Radically Inclusive Performance. While I usually distrust labels due to their tendency to solidify that which is ultimately fluid, I find that radically inclusive is as close as I can get to describing the kind of performance I'm most interested in. Intuitively this description fits comfortably. However, on closer examination I see that each of these words can be vague and too easily generalized. When we put them together the possibilities for confusion multiply. So I am on a quest to better understand what the label Radical Inclusion can point us towards. As I search I find multiple meanings and further questions.

I first saw Joe Goode's work in the early 1990's. Up until that point I had experienced modern dance as a highly abstract, intellectual form that helped us to experience aspects of life through a transcendence of them. Joe's work turned my understanding upside down. It was gritty and raw. It was up-close and profoundly human. He brought vigorous dance together with speaking, breath, emotional disclosure, identity questions, sexuality, humor, and extreme vulnerability. I remember feeling so excited throughout the show, and as soon as it ended walking straight backstage and thanking Joe profusely as he stood half-naked in his dressing room. I felt validated. I felt charged with a sacred mission."

Radical Inclusion will begin with an onstage interview of Goode by Kupers. Dandelion Dancetheater will then perform *There*, a work that weaves back in forth through fears and longings about aging and fading memories of our younger selves. Directed by Kimiko Guthrie, this work is performed as a duet between Kupers and Frank Shawl, set to rhythmic, driving text and accompanied by a small chorus of Dandelion dancers. Then additional performances by *Tongues* cast members will lead into a participatory dance party with Bandelion, the band that has emerged out of Dandelion's musical adventures.

See a 5-minute preview video of *Tongues* at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMbbOcMLKGA>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Eric Kupers has directed, choreographed, and performed with Dandelion Dancetheater since its inception, creating numerous works that have been presented throughout California, nationally and internationally. He has spent the last decade focused on creating and developing a physically and disciplinary diverse performance ensemble within Dandelion, that is passionately collaborative. He is deeply influenced by his work as a performer in the companies of Della Davidson and Margaret Jenkins and his intensive study with Joe Goode. Eric is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Cal State University East Bay and is heading up the development of an Inclusive Dance Program at the university. Eric has created commissioned works for AXIS Dance Company (supported by a Princess Grace Award for Choreography and the Creative Work Fund), Big Moves, Cal State University East Bay, California Choreographers Festival, Dancing in the Streets/NYC, and choreography for projects by John Killacky, California Shakespeare Festival, and Highland Summer Theatre. He has been a resident artist at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, ODC Theater, Jon Sims Center for the Arts and CELLspace.

Dandelion Dancetheater

Through dance, collided with experimental theater, video, writing, music, and image, Dandelion Dancetheater aims a kinesthetic microscope at the ever-changing intricacies of the human heart. Its work is emotionally driven and grounded in a fascination with the intersections of bold risk-taking and public accessibility. The company, which was founded in 1996, is committed to the individual and combined artistic visions of Kimiko Guthrie and Eric Kupers. It views the bodily exploration of human vulnerability, strength and paradox as a potent means for personal and collective growth, and through teaching and creating with people of diverse sizes, shapes, ages, cultures and abilities, Dandelion Dancetheater allow viewers of all walks of life to find themselves reflected in its work.

Dandelion has received numerous awards and grants, including a Dancemaker grant from Dance USA/Irvine Foundation, a Gerbode Foundation Choreography Commission, a Rockefeller MAP Fund grant, an award from the Grants for the Arts non-recurring events fund, a grant from the Wattis Foundation, and repeated funding from the Zellerbach Family Fund, the Theatre Bay Area CA\$H Program, San Francisco Arts Commission, an anonymous foundation and many individual supporters. Dandelion received a Creative Work Fund grant with AXIS Dance Company to create a physically integrated dance piece with both companies in 2011.

Joe Goode is a choreographer, writer, and director widely known as an innovator in the field of dance for his willingness to collide movement with spoken word, song, and visual imagery. He was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007, and the United States Artists Glover Fellowship in 2008. In 2006 Goode directed the opera Transformations for the San Francisco Opera Center. His play Body Familiar, commissioned by the Magic Theatre in 2003, was met with critical acclaim.

The Joe Goode Performance Group, formed in 1986, tours regularly throughout the U.S., and has toured internationally to Canada, Europe, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Goode is known as a master teacher; his summer workshops in "felt performance" attract participants from around the world, and the company's teaching residencies on tour are hugely popular. He is a member of the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley in the department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies.

Goode's performance-installation works have been commissioned by the Fowler Museum of Natural History in Los Angeles, Krannert Art Museum, the Capp Street Project, the M.H. de Young Museum, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. His dance theater work has been commissioned by Pennsylvania Ballet, Zenon Dance Company, AXIS Dance Company and Dance Alloy Theater among others. Goode and his work have been recognized by numerous awards for excellence including the American Council on the Arts, the New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie), and Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (Izzies).

Frank Shawl is the co-founder with Victor Anderson of the Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in Berkeley. Frank has been active as a teacher, performing dancer and choreographer in the Bay Area for over 50 years. The Shawl-Anderson Dance Company was an active dance repertory group in the '60's and '70's and spawned many of today's prominent dance artists.

Prior to coming to the Bay Area, Frank performed mainly in New York City. He appeared in numerous Broadway and network television shows and toured throughout the United States and Canada. He appeared in concert with the late Charles Weidman and for over eight years with the May O'Donnell Dance Company. He returned to New York in the role of assistant to Miss O'Donnell, as well as having taught, directed, and performed in Amsterdam and throughout the Netherlands.

He has been the recipient of grants from the N.E.A. and California Arts Council, and in 1990 received, along with Mr. Anderson, the Isadora Duncan Award for Sustained Achievement in Dance. Also in 1990 they were awarded the California Dance Educators Association's "Heritage Award" and in 1991 Frank received the Isadora Duncan "Special Award" for the production of "Time Over Time" with June Watanabe and Marni Thomas-Wood. In 1993, he and Mr. Anderson were honored by receipt of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department "Recognition Award" for their outstanding contributions to Oakland's dance community as well as to the OPR dance programs. In 2001, they received the Ruth Beckford Award for Extraordinary Contributions in the Field of Dance.

Bandelion - the band component of Dandelion Dancetheater - plays a wide range of original music composed by the ensemble members. The band seeks to collide live music and live dance/theater culture in a celebration of diversity, wildness, vulnerability and community based art. Bandelion has performed at CounterPULSE, The Starry Plough, The Uptown Club, CELLspace and CSU East Bay's Queer Dance Festival.

Bandelion is:

Eric Kupers - Mandolin, Tenor Banjo, Vocals; Dana DeGuzman - Guitar; Heather Lukens - Vocals; Suki O'Kane - Drums and Percussion; Mantra Plonsey - Vocals; Keith Penney - Accordion, Keyboards, Percussion; David Ryther - Violin; Chris Gallegos - Video and Movement; Dorine Hoeksema, Corissa Johnson, Anne-Lise Reusswig, Stacz Sadowski - Movement

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS

WHAT: *Radical Inclusion: Conversations at the Intersection of Art, Spiritual Practice and Social Activism*

WHO: Dandelion Dancetheater
Joe Goode
Eric Kupers
Frank Shawl
Bandelion

WHERE: Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709

WHEN: November 18th 2011, 7:30pm

HOW MUCH: \$25 General, \$15 student / senior / disabled,
(no one turned away for lack of funds)

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