



For Immediate Release:

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**Dance Camera West Presents
A Rare Public Screening of *AMERICAN MASTERS* Film
Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About
At the Hammer Museums' Billy Wilder Theater
During DCW's Eighth Annual Dance Media Film Festival
Saturday, June 13, 2009**

LOS ANGELES, CA – **Dance Camera West**, in conjunction with the Hammer Museum, is honored to present *Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About*, in a rare public screening on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 7:00pm. This is the first and only documentary on Jerome Robbins, the preeminent American choreographer of Broadway and ballet. Directed and produced by six-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker **Judy Kinberg** and written by best-selling Robbins biographer **Amanda Vaill**, the film chronicles the life of this complex mid-century artist. Screened in the month of June during Dance Camera West's eighth annual Dance Media Film Festival, the event will include a Q&A immediately following the screening with director Kinberg and biographer Vaill. Admission is free, no reservations are necessary, and seating is on a first come first served basis. The Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024. For more information on this venue please call 310-443-7000 or visit www.hammer.ucla.edu. For more information on Dance Camera West (DCW) and to see its June 2009 schedule please visit www.dancecamerawest.org.

Hailed as "Enthralling," (*Chicago Sun-Times*), "Stunning," (*Vogue*), and "A remarkable documentary," (*Vanity Fair*), *Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About* aired nationally on PBS in February, 2009, as part of WNET/Thirteen's award-winning series, *AMERICAN MASTERS*. Dance Camera West festival Director **Lynette Kessler** worked with local LA affiliate KCET to hold off any additional southern California screenings of the film until after June so that Dance Camera West could have the honor of screening it as one of the jewels in its month-long festival.

No other creative figure of the latter twentieth century was as contradictory as Jerome Robbins, and few were as controversial; but no one disputes the place he holds as the preeminent director/choreographer of American musical theater. He transformed the possibilities of the Broadway musical with such works as *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He forged a career in ballet, first at American Ballet Theatre and then at New York City Ballet, with unparalleled artistry. And with *The King and I*, *Peter Pan*, and *West Side Story*, he extended that artistry to Hollywood.

The *AMERICAN MASTERS* film examines with candor and humor, Robbins' creative process, his perfectionism, and the controversies that plagued his life. It includes never-before-seen rehearsal footage as well as archival performance films, and is illuminated by excerpts from Robbins' personal journals, interviews with Robbins himself, and the testimony of over forty colleagues, collaborators, and witnesses, among them Mikhail Baryshnikov, Suzanne Farrell, Jacques d'Amboise, Chita Rivera, Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents, Peter Martins, Rita Moreno, Austin Pendleton, Frank Rich, and Robbins' *Fiddler* collaborators Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick, and Joseph Stein.

The 2008/USA production, with a running time of 112 minutes, is narrated by **Ron Rifkin** (*Brothers & Sisters*), who performed the roles of both Robbins and his father in a workshop production of the director/choreographer's theatrical autobiography, *The Poppa Piece*.

“Robbins’ remarkable body of work forever redefined dance and musical theater for a contemporary audience,” said *AMERICAN MASTERS* Creator and Executive Producer **Susan Lacy**. “The revival of *West Side Story* on Broadway this winter just validates his lasting importance, his lasting impression. We are thrilled to air this film in tribute to Robbins’ genius, celebrating the 90th anniversary of his birth.”

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as Great Performances, Worldfocus, Nature, *AMERICAN MASTERS*, Charlie Rose, Wide Angle, Secrets of the Dead, Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, Visions, Consuelo Mack WealthTrack, Wild Chronicles, Miffy and Friends, and Cyberchase to national and international audiences. Through its wide range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information visit www.wnet.org.

AMERICAN MASTERS is made possible by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding for *AMERICAN MASTERS* is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers.

Special funding for *Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About* provided by National Endowment for the Humanities, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, SHS Foundation, The Lillian Goldman Programming Endowment, Victor and Sono Elmaleh, National Endowment for the Arts, Holtsinger Foundation, Bernice Arnold, Vivian Milstein, Rolf and Elizabeth Rosenthal, H.F. Dickenson Foundation, Geraldine Stutz Trust, The Shubert Organization, Bob and Martha Lipp, The Murray L. and Belle C. Nathan Fund, Arlene C. Cooper, James L. Nederlander, Jeffrey Gural, Judi Elterman and Valerie-Charles Diker Fund.

Dance Camera West’s annual Dance Media Film Festival Los Angeles, recognized as one of the world’s foremost celebrations of dance on film, celebrates its eighth year in June 2009, screening at venues throughout southern California. A unique cinematic experience that focuses on the intersection of cinematography and choreography, the month-long film festival features all forms of dance media. Chosen by *Los Angeles Magazine* as “Pick of the Month” for their June 2008 issue, Dance Camera West again partners with the city’s most prestigious venues in offering a global perspective on a new visual language through a host of experimental shorts, documentaries, features, and symposiums with visiting international artists.

Dance Camera West events are supported in part by the Metabolic Studio of the Annenberg Foundation, Mortimer Levitt Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Quebec Government Office-Los Angeles.

Please visit DCW’s website for continuous updates - www.dancecamerawest.org.

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For more information, photos, or to set up interviews, please contact Green Galactic’s Lynn Hasty at 213-840-1201 or lynn@greengalactic.com.