

# Alonzo King to bring ‘Handel’ and ‘Common Ground’ to Aspen

*Alonzo King LINES Ballet to perform at Aspen District Theatre on Saturday*

**Shannon Asher**  
Special to The Aspen Times

Esteemed dancer and choreographer Alonzo King said he’s always amazed at the beauty of Colorado and Aspen, and he is reminded of it each time he gets over the Rocky Mountains.

“Flying from Denver to Aspen is humbling because you see how beautiful the land is when it’s left undeveloped,” he said during a recent phone interview. “It makes you think of pristine times and what it must have been like when bison buffalo roamed in the millions before they were destroyed.”

King returns to Aspen with his company for a one-night-only performance presented by the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. On Saturday, Alonzo King LINES Ballet appears at the Aspen District Theatre to perform two of their works: “Handel” and “Common Ground.”

“We are a company of truth-seekers,” King said. “Our goal and our aim are to

remind people of the spirit that animates our bodies, the spirit that animates all creation. I think that’s the real message in everything — we are not, as many describe, weak, whining mortals. We are immortal and we are capable of unlimited possibilities.”

Born in Georgia and now based in San Francisco, King is the son of two civil rights activists. He grew up with two very influential people in his life who were willing to die for what they believed in.

King explains that it was inspiring and intimidating to grow up in an environment like this.

“You are surrounded by people who, what comes out of their mouth and out of their being is no contradiction,” King said. “The way that they live and the way that they speak are in harmony. When they give their word, they give it under percentage, but they don’t fail on it.”

With only 12 to 14 members in his 36-year-old company, the audition process



ALONZO KING LINES BALLET/COURTESY PHOTO

Alonzo King, seen here performing in “Handel,” will be in Aspen this weekend to perform the piece as well as “Common Ground” with his ballet company.

**KING, A7**

# Nonprofit visits Aspen, announces global initiative

*Childhelp plans global campus as international location for aiding children*

**Maddie Vincent**  
The Aspen Times

More than 70 people gathered in Aspen’s L’Hostaria restaurant Thursday for the 60th anniversary of Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of child abuse, neglect and at-risk children.

Founded in 1959 by Hollywood actresses Sara O’Meara and Yvonne Feddersen, who starred in “The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet” TV show, Childhelp has transitioned from a series of orphanages in Japan housing “throwaway” children; to flying children out of war-torn Vietnam to adoptive parents, known as “Operation Baby Lift”; to the diverse U.S.-based initiative helping victims of child abuse, including sexual abuse, and neglect that the nonprofit is known for today.

“I’ve known these ladies for over 15 years,” said Rose Ann Leiner, a real estate agent who has worked in Aspen for over

a decade. “Their cause and mission is just unbelievable.”

Leiner was one of many Aspen locals at the celebration Thursday afternoon, smiling and voicing her approval as a handful of Childhelp videos played and speakers, including O’Meara and Feddersen, reflected on the past 60 years of service.

Over 10 million children across the U.S. have been impacted by Childhelp over the past 60 years, either through its preventative educational initiatives taught in schools across the country, its residential treatment programs or “villages,” and its national call/text hotline, according to the nonprofit’s data.

In Colorado, more than 11,000 children have been impacted through Childhelp services and resources, and the organization received nearly 2,000 calls from at-risk children in the state to its 1-800-4-A-CHILD hotline in 2018, its numbers show, officials said.

Since Leiner met the Childhelp founders and even visited one of the call centers for its national call and text hotline, she said she’s donated 25% of her real estate earnings to the nonprofit.



MADDIE VINCENT/THE ASPEN TIMES

Sara O’Meara, left, and Yvonne Feddersen, former Hollywood actresses and founders of the Childhelp nonprofit, spoke to over 70 people gathered in the L’Hostaria restaurant in Aspen on Thursday afternoon about their nonprofit’s 60 year history and plans to develop a global child abuse education, research and treatment campus.

Leiner was recognized as a key supporter of Childhelp on Thursday along with several other full-time and part-time locals

— which is why she felt it was so important to help organize this 60th anniversary celebration in Aspen.

“I decided this was a good thing for our community to be involved in and to understand what it’s going to take to change,” Leiner said of bringing the Childhelp event to Aspen.

But this wasn’t just a celebration focused on Childhelp’s long history of helping at-risk and abused kids — it also was the official launch of its plans to create a Childhelp Global Campus.

As announced at the private luncheon Thursday, the vision for this campus is an all-encompassing, city-like environment that would serve as a global research and education center, residential treatment facility for child abuse victims, housing for foster families, employment training and services, treatment and therapy programs and more.

Simply put, it would be a hub for various organizations to collaborate with Childhelp to address child abuse across the U.S. and the world through research, education

**CHILDHELP, A7**

Aspen Snowmass

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

CLASSY. CAPTIVATING. CONVENIENT.

Great Year-Round Location

The sounds of Maroon Creek resonate from both decks in this stylish, updated 4-bedroom Le Chamonix townhome. Upper level includes, master, guest suite, and office. Lower level 2 bedrooms open up to the deck. Designer kitchen, modern details and professionally maintained front garden. Easy access to Maroon Bells and Aspen Highlands.

\$2,995,000

• 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths • 2,278 sq ft, 3 levels

• 2 level deck • Hike/bike Maroon Bells

Please call to see this property!

Penney

Penney Evans Carruth

970.379.9133

Penney.Carruth@sir.com

PenneyCarruth.com

CHILDHELP

From page A3

and treatment.

After Childhelp officials introduced the global campus vision, the luncheon guests were invited to ask questions.

One of the first was arguably the elephant in the room: When is the campus going to go up, how much is it going to cost and where is the money going to come from?

Childhelp spokespeople explained the nonprofit aimed to raise \$200 million from its supporters, like those sitting in the Aspen restaurant, right off the bat to help acquire the existing property in Pheonix, which Childhelp feels will be the best fit for its global campus and get the various envisioned

programs started there.

If Childhelp can purchase this property, its organizers believe it can have its campus up and running within 10 years.

With this advocacy and fundraising mission in mind, speakers from across the country and from Aspen spoke about their confidence in O'Meara and Feddersen's 60-year track record, their own personal experiences with child abuse and what they believe is an overwhelming need to address child abuse, referred by many as a silent epidemic.

Most of the speakers felt this global campus could be part of the solution, acknowledging it wouldn't be easy and would take a lot of outside support.

"The biggest problem is that no one wants to talk about it," said Rebecca

Cooper, Childhelp's national spokesperson. "We knew we needed to come to a place where people would take a hard look at what's not being done and want to do something about it."

Cooper said that's why Childhelp organizers chose Aspen as its unveiling for the global campus project. The nonprofit felt that because the city already has a handful of key supporters and is an "open-hearted" community, it would be the perfect place to start its global mission.

"Yes, Aspen is a wealthy city, but it's different here," Cooper said. "There are a lot of wealthy cities in the United States, but Aspen is unique because it has a rare combination of wealth and privilege combined with generosity and purposefulness."

KING

From page A3

can be very competitive. When choosing the members of his company, King searches for individuals with enthusiasm. The dancers obviously need to have the proper technique and stamina, but that is not what's most important.

If the dancer is not excited, inspired and filled with spirit, King will keep looking.

"I am drawn to people who are kind, people who have technique under their belt and people who want to continue to grow," King said. "People who look at the art-making as a service. They're more concerned about what they're giving than what they're getting."

King notes that it's very rare to hire someone just from the audition

alone — the company needs to spend time working with that person for an extended period. For it to be fair, they must understand how intense the company works. The bottom line is character — King is looking for character.

"As in anyone who's looking to work and to create a relationship with someone, I'm looking for the quality of their character. Is there loyalty, is there a big vision, is there sincerity?" King said. "Dancing is an incredible thing to see. It's human traits, it's the pinnacle of human qualities that you're looking for. People who are tapped into creativity, or they want to be, are fun to work with."

If King were to give advice to an aspiring ballet dancer, he would tell them their love needs to be greater than their fear — or else it doesn't work.

Understanding where artists pull their inspiration from and learning what inspires them can often offer fascinating insight into the art that they produce.

"We are already surrounded by the most eternal light, and we have to tap into that light for inspiration," King said. "We have to realize that we are not the doers. If we're going to be creating, we want to tune in with the Creator. That is where the inspiration comes from."

He said what is interesting about art-making is going through that process of evolution.

"We go from me to we, to oneness," King said. "The whole point of the evolutionary process is for the individual to melt into the universal. That means that if you're going to become something, the individual must die. The ego must die."

**THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY!**

Enjoy a night of great music featuring musicians that hail from Colorful Colorado!

**SUNSET SESSIONS — COLORADO MUSIC SHOWCASE**

Mon, Aug 12 | 8:00 PM  
The Vault at the Wheeler

**VELVET CACTUS**

**HOGAN AND MOSS**

**FEEDING GIANTS**

**GRACE CLARK**

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE ONLINE OR COME EARLY FOR A FREE GENERAL ADMISSION SEAT!**

**790.920.5770 | wheeleroperahouse.com**

### The Results Speak For Themselves

\$40M in closed transactions in last 12 months.

94 Stonefly Drive, Carbondale

**Own a piece of Carbondale's history.**

\$180,000 | 2.4 AC Lot

Value, value, value. Here is your chance to own 2.4 Acres of flat buildable land, less than five minutes outside the heart of downtown Carbondale. With private Roaring Fork River fishing Access, a pond in your back yard, large building envelope, low HOA fees and great views, this lot is seriously worth considering!

**Sam Augustine**  
646.629.4353  
sam.augustine@compass.com  
compass.com/aspen

COMPASS

Real estate agents affiliated with Compass are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Compass. Equal Housing Opportunity. Compass is a licensed real estate broker located at 117 South Monarch, Aspen, Colorado 81601. All information furnished regarding property for sale or rent or regarding financing is from sources deemed reliable, but Compass makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy thereof. All property information is presented subject to errors, omissions, price changes, changed property conditions, and withdrawal of the property from the market, without notice. To reach the Compass main office call 970.925.6063.

## Featured Artist

# Jeff Sojka

## ELLIOTT YEARY GALLERY

FINE ART AND JEWELRY

419 E HYMAN AVE | 970.429.1111  
ELLIOTTYEARY.COM | INSTAGRAM: EYGASPEN