

PRESS RELEASE from Dance Films Association

CARMEN AND GEOFFREY Opens March 13 Thanks to Fair Use Laws

March 2, 2009

CARMEN AND GEOFFREY

Directed by Linda Atkinson and Nick Doob

Distributed by First Run Features

An intimate look at two extraordinary personalities, Carmen De Lavallade and Geoffrey Holder, married fifty-three years. De Lavallade, a legendary dancer and choreographer whose career began in California, came to New York with Alvin Ailey, performing as a soloist with his company and as a ballerina with the Metropolitan Opera. Holder, a 6'6" "gentle giant" from Trinidad, has worked as a Broadway dancer, actor, director, choreographer, costume and set designer, painter and musician, winning a Tony Award for directing "The Wiz."

"More than an outstanding, five-decade creative collaboration," says Dance Magazine, *CARMEN AND GEOFFREY* which had its premiere with DFA's Dance on Camera Festival co-sponsored by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, tells "one of the dance world's great love stories." Atkinson's film, shot over three years, explores this romantic and creative partnership. Containing rare dance footage from the 50's and 60's, featuring Alvin Ailey, Herbert Ross, Lester Horton, Joe Layton, Duke Ellington and Josephine Baker in Paris, among others, the film also features contemporary works, including Carmen's on-going partnership with Gus Solomons, Jr and Dudley Williams.

Filmmaker Linda Atkinson first met Carmen and Geoffrey while studying acting at the Yale School of Drama. She graduated with an MFA, having won the Carol Dye Acting Prize, and has since performed at theatres around the country. Working with her husband, Nick Doob, she produced a prize winning series of health related documentaries for high school students. She has recently directed an original play, FINEPRINT, at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. She is currently producing a film based on Robert Coles's "Women of Crisis."

Nick Doob has been a director, cinematographer and editor on numerous award-winning films. He has shot four Oscar nominated films including FROM MAO TO MOZART, which won an Oscar. He directed DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN with D.A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus, and ELAINE STRITCH AT LIBERTY, which won an Emmy. In 2000 he won an Emmy as a producer on AMERICAN HIGH, the acclaimed verité TV series. For HBO he co-directed A BOY'S LIFE with Rory Kennedy, and is currently directing and producing a film about Alzheimer's Disease for HBO.

Fair Use and *CARMEN AND GEOFFREY*

Distribution for *CARMEN AND GEOFFREY* was delayed for years because of prohibitively expensive rights to music and footage. Lawyer Karen Shatzkin specialist in documentary film issues, worked with filmmakers Linda Atkinson and Nick Doob to allow their project to move forward by adopting the fair use provision.

The "fair use" provisions of copyright law provide a flexible and potentially powerful tool for organizations and individuals whose work furthers significant cultural, educational, and civic missions. Documentary filmmakers, whose work frequently requires the use of presumptively copyrighted materials, launched a national initiative to arrive at a balanced and informed understanding of how "fair use" could be invoked for their projects. The Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use was the culmination of the project in November 2005. DFA's Dance on Camera Festival 2008 co-presented with Dance Heritage Coalition a special event on fair use at the Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center.

In May of 2009, Dance Heritage Coalition will launch a library fair use statement at a Media Event to include DFA in Washington, DC.