Weird Al Yankovic Comes to Cal Poly with 'Poodle Hat' Tour June 22

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA -- "Weird Al" Yankovic, the undisputed champion of musical satire, will return to San Luis Obispo with his all-new "Poodle Hat" tour on Sunday, June 22, 2003.

Yankovic's 8 p.m. show at the Christopher Cohan Center, which launches the new Cal Poly Arts Center Stage Summer series, will feature the Gold and Platinum-selling comedy artist performing new pop culture send-ups that are as hot as the artists he spoofs.

In a career that has spanned more than 20 years, the two-time Grammy winner's knack for finding absurdity in the mundane is as sharp and incisive as ever. Yankovic's newly-released CD, "Poodle Hat," (Way Moby/Volcano), features parodies of Eminem, Avril Lavigne, Nelly, the Backstreet Boys, and Billy Joel, among others.

"Weird Al" concerts are known to be high-energy, multimedia extravaganzas, complete with hilarious video montages and elaborate costume changes. The Poodle Hat Tour promises to be no exception and features Yankovic's long-time band: Jim West on guitar, Steve Jay on bass, and Jon "Bermuda" Schwartz on drums.

Local audiences will remember that Yankovic's recording career began in the men's room across the hall from Cal Poly's KCPR radio station, where Yankovic was a DJ in 1979. The restroom's acoustics proved perfect for his recording of "My Bologna," a delicious parody of The Knack's "My Sharona."

A few years later, Yankovic landed his first recording contract and has since created an extraordinary legacy of music and videos, including parodies such as "Eat It," "Like A Surgeon," "Fat," "Smells Like Nirvana," "Bedrock Anthem," "Amish Paradise," and "The Saga Begins."

"Weird Al" Yankovic continues to pursue new musical challenges as he lampoons popular culture with unmatched passion, wit and his own distinctive style.
"I don't really fit neatly into any one category," says the singer-songwriter-director-producer-comedian-musician. "I'm just thrilled that I'm able to do exactly what I want to do for a living. It never ceases to amaze me that I get to be 'Weird Al' full-time."

Tickets for the Center Stage performance are $38 & $44 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

Center Stage Program Partner: SLY 96 FM

Tickets are also on sale for all Cal Poly Arts Center Stage Summer events performing at the Christopher Cohan Center, which include neo-soul singer/songwriter India.Arie on Saturday, August 16; legendary pop/rocker Joe Cocker on Tuesday, August 26; An Evening With Dave Brubeck, featuring his renowned Dave Brubeck Quartet, on Friday, August 29, and premier Broadway vocalist Audra McDonald on Friday, September 12.

For audio and video samples of all Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.