

## News

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California



March 25, 2011

Contact: Lisa Woske, lwoske@calpoly.edu

Ticket Sales: 805/756-2787

## Sultry Hot and Crazy Cool Music at the Spanos

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers are considered one of the top swing and jump blues bands in the country.

On Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alex & Faye Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly Arts presents Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers for a special Spanos engagement.

The Blues Revue raved that Smith embodies "Pure class and a sense of humor...a time machine in vintage threads."

The San Francisco Examiner agrees that Smith and her seven-piece band have "First-rate vocals...magnificent arrangements...the best combo in town."

Smith's singing style is influenced by Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Bessie Smith and Little Esther Phillips. Her enticing stage style is a cross between Marilyn Monroe and Bettie Page. Whether singing her own compositions or drawing on a large repertoire of classics, Smith evokes a sensuous era of glamorous jazz divas while adding a modern, feminist twist.

Smith approaches her material from the standpoint of an independent woman, combining world-class singing and musicianship with contemporary and provocative lyrics. Her debut smash hit CD, *One Hour Mama*, received widespread critical acclaim and has sold over 40,000 copies in the United States. Her glamorous stage presence and high musical standards ensure that this chanteusse will continue to be a best-selling phenomenon.

"The saucy vocalist and her crew actually know the difference between jump music and bland R&B...and sound as tight as the legendary musicians they choose to emulate." (The Boston Globe)

The Red Hot Skillet Lickers features horns, piano, bass, and drums. These musicians have performed and recorded with Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat "King" Cole, Frank Sinatra, Tito Puente, Lionel Hampton, Jay McShann, Johnny Otis, Wynton Marsalis, Big Joe Turner, Ray Charles, Big Mama Thornton, and Taj Mahal to name a few.

Television and radio appearances include "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer," Fox network's "Fox Files," and NPR's "To the Best of Our Knowledge."

World-famous celebrities have jumped on the Lavay Smith bandwagon as well. Johnny Otis says, "Lavay is wonderful! She and her band are a breath of fresh air." Dan Aykroyd says of Lavay's debut album "...this CD is guaranteed to make you feel better." Even Bill Clinton has seen the light, proclaiming, "I love this band – they're great!"

Student and adult tickets for the performance are \$29 and \$36 respectively and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

24-hour on-line ordering is available at www.calpolyarts.org.

Sponsored by Clayhouse Wines.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit www.calpolyarts.org.

###

CP Home • CP Find It • Get Adobe Reader • Help Accessing Public Affairs Web Content

Cal Poly News Web • Cal Poly Magazine • Cal Poly Update E-newsletter

Giving to Cal Poly

Public Affairs Office California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

polynews [at] calpoly.edu