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Master Flamenco Artist Takes the Stage in San Luis Obispo

Hailed as the "undisputed king of flamenco dancing," (ROMA), Antonio Marquez takes to the stage in the Christopher Cohan Center on Sunday, March 24 at 7 p.m. (Please note special curtain time)

Cal Poly Arts presents the Compania Espanola de Antonio Marquez on its first national U.S. tour. Artistic director Marquez - whose heel tapping is said to be so fierce as to cause vibration throughout the hall - performs with a company of 19 dancers, singers, and musicians.

Marquez began his formal training in 1975 at the age of 12. In 1982, he joined the Ballet Nacional de España and attained the category of First Dancer, under Jose Antonio's guidance. During his period with the Ballet Nacional, he performed the leading roles in the ballets "Las Tardes de la Alameda," "Los Tarantos," "El Sombrero de Tres Picos," "Don Juan Tenorio," Ravel's "Bolero," "Ritmos," "Danza y Tronio," Sarasate's "Zapateado," and many other works throughout his career with the company.

He was also invited by Victor Ullate's ballet company to perform the role of Carmelo in "El Amor Brujo" and by the Nice Opera to play the role of the Miller in Falla's "El Sombrero de Tres Picos," while also performing in numerous Festivals of Stars, including Reggio Emilia, Trieste, and Carcasone (Italy), the Lyon Biennial in France, the Leningrad Festival (Russia), and the Havana Festival in Cuba.

In 1995, Antonio Márquez formed his own company under the name Compañía Espanol de Antonio Márquez. This company's debut took place in Seville at the Teatro de la Maestranza, with a presentation of "Movimiento Perpetuo," with choreography by Jose Granero and music by Jose L. Greco.

With his company, he also starred in "El Sombrero de Tres Picos" at the opening of the Royal Theatre in Madrid. He created choreography for the opera "Carmen" for the Monte Carlo Opera, as well as at the Teatro Real in Madrid. In 1997, after the Company's tour in Italy, Mr. Márquez was awarded the Nureyev Prize.
In 1998, as a result of his brilliant performance at the 50th Anniversary of the Havana Festival, Cuba awarded him a Position of Honor in the Golden Book of the History of the Ballet in Cuba.

Tickets range from $26 - $38, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at 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/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by James and Esther Landreth.

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