FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Wrinkle in Time' To Play at Cal Poly Nov. 14-16, Nov. 21-23

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- One of the America's best-selling classic novels, "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle, will have its world premiere as a multimedia theatrical production at 8 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Cal Poly Theatre.

The play will also show at 8 p.m. Nov. 15-16 and Nov. 21-23, and at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 and Nov. 23.

"A Wrinkle in Time" was adapted for the stage by Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department faculty members Al Schnupp and Erma Stauffer, both of whom are directing the large cast that includes live actors and puppets.

"All of the dialogue was lifted from the novel, then edited and prepared in a script format," Schnupp said.

The production features 20 puppets created by Schnupp and original sound by Antonio G. Barata of the university's Music Department, as well as colorful costumes and choreography.

According to Stauffer, on the surface the story is about three children undertaking a dangerous mission to save their father, but it is really about saving the world from "the dark side."

"'A Wrinkle in Time' centers on Meg and Charles Wallace, who travel across galaxies and battle dark forces to find and free their scientist father from the planet Camazotz," Stauffer said. "On their journey,
they are accompanied by Calvin and the delightfully eccentric trio of Mrs. Who, Mrs. Whatsit, and Mrs. Which."

One of the greatest challenges was to enact the tesseracts (time travel sequences), Schnupp said.

Jude Warnisher, a Los Osos resident and dance teacher at Cuesta College, and Sarah Adams, a San Luis Obispo resident and a Cal Poly theatre major, found a solution.

"To effect the tesseracts, the chorus lifts and moves the characters around," Schnupp explained.

The cast includes San Luis Obispo resident and Mission Elementary School fourth grader Sam Cowitz, making his stage debut playing Charles Wallace.

Dina Lucchesi, a theatre major from San Ramon, will play Meg. Brian Ward, a theatre major from Porterville, will portray Calvin.

Mrs. Who will be played by Mariam Jabr, a theatre major from Morgan Hill. Allana Miner, a theatre major from Lower Lake, will appear as Mrs. Whatsit. Laticia Widman, a theatre major from Spokane, Wash., will play Mrs. Which.

The chorus is made of up 20 additional cast members, whose duties include moving the puppets, playing trees, moving set pieces, dancing and playing minor roles.

Theatre and Dance Department staff members involved in the project include scenic and lighting designer Tim Dugan, costume and make-up designer Teresa Shea and technical director Howard Gee.

Chris Page, a theatre major from Benicia, is the stage manager. Melanie Overcashier, a theatre major from El Dorado Hills, is serving as assistant stage manager.

Tickets are $12 for the public and $10 for students, senior citizens and children. Tickets can be ordered by phone at 756-2787 or online at www.pacslo.org. Ticket office hours for walk-up sales are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

"A Wrinkle in Time" is sponsored by Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department and the College of Liberal Arts. For more information, call 756-1465.
(NOTE TO EDITORS: For electronic images of some of the cast members, please contact Jo Ann Lloyd at 756-1511 or jlloyd@calpoly.edu.)