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American Ballet Theatre II Comes to PAC Nov. 20

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – “(American Ballet Theatre II) is one of the great success stories in recent years,” claims the New York Times.

American Ballet Theatre is one of the most revered companies in the world. Now in its 13th season, ABT II is a preparatory studio that trains young dancers to enter American Ballet Theatre, as well as performing with other professional ballet companies.

Comprised of 13 classical young dancers of outstanding potential – hand-picked from around the world – Cal Poly Arts is proud to present the innovative ABT II company on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 8 p.m. in the Cohan Center.

The repertoire for the Cohan Center evening includes the Balanchine ballet, *Allegro Brillante*, and the *Pas de Deux* from *Swan Lake* (Act II), both featuring soaring Tchaikovsky music. New works will include a piece entitled *slokas* and another entitled *Barbara*.

Wes Chapman, former principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, is ABT II's Artistic Director. His background includes having performed all the leading roles in the ballet repertoire and starring in works by many of the twentieth century's master choreographers, including George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille, Twyla Tharp, and Antony Tudor.

He was named Artistic Director in 2007 and has further enhanced the ABT II's acclaimed reputation on national level. ABT II dancers will train with Chapman for up to two years before joining American Ballet Theatre's main company or other leading national and international professional companies.

ABT II also provides opportunities for the development of emerging choreographers and composers.

In addition to bringing the excitement of close contact with a professional company to communities across the country through public performances, company participation in outreach programs for children and other selected groups is an important part of the ABT II mission. ABT II dancers continually perform in schools around the New York City area and throughout the United States on tour.

A pre-show lecture by Cal Poly Dance Dept. professor Moon Ja Minn Suhr will be held in the Gallery level lobby at 7 p.m.

General public tickets for the performance are \$38 to \$44, with student discounts available on all seats, 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.

Order on-line at www.calpolyarts.org.

Sponsored by Barbara Bell, Dr. Dawn Starr and Family, Tom and Susan Stenovec, and Med+Stop Urgent Care Center.

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