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Cal Poly Arts Season Begins with the Blues Sept. 25

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly Arts' 2005-06 performance season opens with the "Rockin' Blues Revue" featuring John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, Robben Ford, and Eric Bibb Sunday, Sept. 25, in the Spanos Theatre. Showtime is 7 p.m., with a complimentary barbecue in the theatre plaza starting at 5:30 p.m.

"Rockin' Blues Revue" is a showcase of blues styles featuring some of the great modern practitioners of the genre.

Chicago-style blues legend John Mayall pioneered the British blues boom of the late '60s. With The Bluesbreakers, Mayall helped launch the careers of a string of musicians, including Eric Clapton, Fleetwood Mac founders John McVie, Mick Fleetwood and Peter Green, and former Rolling Stones member Mick Taylor.

In 2003, the BBC aired an hour-long documentary on Mayall's life and career, entitled "The Godfather of British Blues" and his 70th birthday celebration concert in Liverpool -- featuring Eric Clapton, Mick Taylor and Chris Barber -- was recorded and broadcast.

Guitar great Robben Ford has explored many musical paths but always returns to his roots -- the blues. A four-time Grammy nominee, he is founder of the legendary group Yellowjackets. He was chosen by George Harrison to join Harrison's "Dark Horse" tour -- Harrison's only solo tour.

Ford has also toured or recorded with numerous music greats including Joni Mitchell, jazz legend Miles Davis, Jimmy Witherspoon, Little Feat, and Kiss. Mike Joyce of the Washington Post wrote "...blues guitarist Robben Ford leaves most of the competition sucking dust."

Grammy nominee Eric Bibb has also received four W.C. Handy nominations: Best Acoustic Blues Artist of the Year, Best Acoustic Blues Song of the Year for "Kokomo," and for the albums "Spirit and the Blues" and "Home To Me." His songs have also been featured on television and in film.

Bibb's intimate, warm style of blues has earned him much critical acclaim -- the Los Angeles Times called him "stunning" and the Music Review Quarterly declared "... this man has all the credentials to be one of the premier blues artists of all times . . . he is the real thing."

"'Rockin' Blues Revue' ticket holders are also invited to a complimentary season kick-off barbecue prior to the performance," notes Cal Poly Arts rep Lisa Woske. "Cal Poly Arts contributors, sponsors, and friends will gather on the Spanos Theatre Plaza at 6:30 p.m. to launch another great season."

Tickets for the performance are \$28 & \$34, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the

Performing Arts 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.pacslo.org.

Sponsored by KPIG 94.9 FM, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, La Cuesta Inn, KCBX 90.1 FM, and the San Luis Obispo Blues Society.

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

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