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Paul Taylor Dance Company Performs at the Cohan Center April 13

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Legendary choreographer Paul Taylor has become a cultural icon and one of dance history's most celebrated artists. His career has spanned 50 years of unequalled creativity and his two renowned dance companies embody his distinctive choreographic style.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 8 p.m., Cal Poly Arts presents The Paul Taylor Dance Company in a return engagement to the Christopher Cohan Center.

"Paul Taylor occupies a giant place in modern dance. In an art form that prizes originality, his unique and audacious vision has led the field." (The Washington Times)

For the 2004-2005 season, Mr. Taylor created four anniversary works to add to his existing repertoire of 119 dances.

The Cal Poly Arts evening features "Cloven Kingdom," "Black Tuesday," and "Promethean Fire," which is Taylor's response to the challenge of 9/11. The signature piece features the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and exemplifies the grandeur and spiritual dimensions of a great nation at the crossroads.

"The Paul Taylor Dance Company is, quite simply, as good as modern dance can get." (San Francisco Chronicle)

"One of the most exciting, innovative, and delightful dance companies in the entire world."
(The New York Times)

Over the last 50 years, Paul Taylor's choreography -- once deemed "experimental" and "avant-garde" -- has quickly become the gold standard of contemporary dance.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company is now one of the world's most sought-after dance troupes. It has toured extensively, representing the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries and has appeared in more than 450 cities in over 60 countries.

Not limiting their performance venues to only major cities and large cultural centers, "Taylor Across America" -- the tour that brought the Paul Taylor Dance Company and its sister company, Taylor 2, to all 50 states -- underscored the Taylor Company's historic role as one of the early touring companies of American modern dance.

The Company also engaged in a Cultural Capitals of the World Tour in celebration of the new millennium and has made notable multi-week tours throughout India and the People's Republic of China.

In the United States, the Paul Taylor Dance Company has annual engagements in Boston, Durham, New York and San Francisco, the Company's West Coast home through 2007.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company has appeared on PBS' "Dance In America" nine times, including the 1991 Emmy Award-winning segment "Speaking in Tongues" and "The Wrecker's Ball,"

which was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1997.

Mr. Taylor and his Company are the subject of "Dancemaker," Matthew Diamond's award-winning, Oscar-nominated film, hailed by Time Magazine as "perhaps the best dance documentary ever."

Mr. Taylor is the recipient of dozens of awards and honors, including 1992's Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts awarded by President Clinton in 1993.

In 1995, Mr. Taylor received the Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts and was named one of 50 prominent Americans honored in recognition of their outstanding achievement by the Library of Congress's Office of Scholarly Programs.

Mr. Taylor was also elected to knighthood by the French government in 1969 and in January 2000, he was awarded France's highest honor for exceptional contributions to French culture.

He is the recipient of three Guggenheim Fellowships and has received honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees from many American universities.

Awards for lifetime achievement include a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship – often called the "genius award" – and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award.

Paul Taylor's autobiography, "Private Domain," was nominated by the National Book Critics Circle as the most distinguished biography of 1987.

A pre-show lecture will be held by Cal Poly Theatre/Dance Dept. professor Moon Ja Minn Suhr beginning at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

Tickets for the performance range from \$26 - \$38, 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.

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