

California Polytechnic State University

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### **Cal Poly Arts Brings Passionate Portuguese Music to Spanos Theatre Oct. 19**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Fado, Portugal's passionate traditional folk music, is considered to be the "blues" of that culture. On Tuesday, October 19 at 8 p.m., chanteuse Mariza -- Portugal's "Voice of Fado" -- will bring her lush vocals to the Spanos Theatre. "When Mariza sings, time stands still," according to BBC Radio.

Cal Poly Arts presents the fado singer as part of their innovative Director's Choice Series. Known for her crystal voice and mesmerizing stage performance, Mariza will make her San Luis Obispo debut backed by a Portuguese 12-string guitar, a classical guitar, and a string bass,

Fado is an emotionally-loaded music, filled with the poetry of longing, unrequited love, and romantic nostalgia. But Fado also exudes a great joy in just feeling alive.

According to Billboard magazine, "It takes special gifts to perform fado and to garner acceptance as a 'fadista' in Portugal...Mariza proves she has the voice."

The London Evening Standard reported, "Mariza is a soulful singer who seems unable to hit a wrong note...The audience fell silent, as if under a spell."

Mariza was born in Mozambique and her family moved to Portugal when she was a baby. She was exposed to fado directly in the "Fado Houses," where singing is spontaneous and part of everyday life.

In her teens, Mariza was attracted to soul, gospel, and jazz; in her twenties, Mariza's "old" feelings for fado were rejuvenated.

In 1999, Mariza had her first major national exposure as one of the guest performers in Tribute Concerts for fadista Amália Rodrigues in the Coliseums of Lisbon and Oporto. These performances captured the interest of the public and national media and she has been performing in Portugal

and throughout Europe and the U.S. ever since.

In 2000, Mariza received Portugal's main radio station's "Voice of Fado" award more recently was nominated for the German Critics' Award, the "Deutsche Schallplatten." Her debut 2002 CD, "Fado em Mim," immediately entered the Hot 100 album charts in Europe and garnered critical acclaim and a wide fan base.

She recently released her follow-up CD, "Fado Curvo."

"Mariza (remains) firmly in touch with the fado roots while spreading her own newly-blossoming creative interpretations." (Los Angeles Times)

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](http://www.pacslo.org).

Sponsored by Scott and Barbara Radovich and KCBX 90.1 FM.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

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