



News & Events

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

Jan. 6, 2004

Contact: Maria Junco
(805) 756-1248

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Costumes Created for '51 Balanchine Ballet On Loan For Cal Poly Orchestis Dance Company's 'Reflections' Concert

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Orchestis Dance Company's 34th annual concert on Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 5-7 will showcase the talent of Cal Poly students and new work from guest choreographers, as well as a dance with costumes created for a George Balanchine production.

Titled "Reflections," this year's program will feature a variety of dance styles, including ballet, modern, jazz, tap, hip hop and Mexican folkloric dance, under the direction of Maria Junco, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, and assistant director and faculty member Michelle Walter.

Evening performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. Jan. 30 and 31 and Feb. 5-7. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled Feb. 1. All performances will be in the Cal Poly Theatre.

"The exceptional lineup of guest artists for 'Reflections' includes popular local choreographer and faculty member Valerie Kline," Junco said.

"In 'Dream #25' the transformation of a bad dream turning good is comically portrayed by 17 pajama-clad dancers, twitching their way through the frightening and the unknown to end up clownishly calypso dancing their way to Utopia," Junco said.

"Under the Influence," with music by Tool and choreographed by faculty member Diana Stanton, showcases a raw, athletic movement style and highlights innovative partnering and movement invention. The original work focuses on the ideas of conformity, manipulation and rebellion. Stanton earned an MFA in dance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and teaches dance at Cal Poly and Allan Hancock Community College.

In "WE, Part II," a ballet by local choreographer Lisa Deyo, the dancers will wear historic costumes created for Balanchine's 1951 ballet "La Valse." "WE, Part II" is a continuation of Deyo's exploration of the significance, definition and value of being "we." Deyo's professional activities included membership in the Hubbard Street Dance Company and Los Angeles Chamber Ballet.

Mike Esperanza's "IV" with music by Peter Gabriel is a moving modern dance in which

four struggling individuals find strength in unity, according to Junco. Esperanza presented "IV" by invitation at the American College Dance Festival Gala Concert in 2003. He teaches at Defore Dance Center and Ballet Conservatory and choreographs for various California companies.

Southern California guest choreographer Gabriel Francisco will present "Book of the Month," an eclectic hip-hop work. Francisco is the artistic director for Future Shock and trains with such hip hop dance pioneers as Eric Fenn, Angie Bunch and Gus Bembery.

"'Excerpts from Epode,' choreographed by New York native Alexander Pelham, is a fast-paced jazz piece with innovative 'movement vocabulary' and a strong ballet influence," Junco said. Alexander has performed with Donald Byrd, Elisa Monte Dance, Hamburg Ballet and the Georgia Ballet and recently received three consecutive NAACP Awards for choreography and acting.

"Los Angeles choreographers Dennon and Sayhber Rawles have created an exciting jazz finale to 'With a Little Help From My Friends,' by Joe Cocker," Junco said. "The Rawles are famous for their professional work in both film and television, including choreography for 'Staying Alive' with John Travolta, and 'Bugsy' with Warren Beatty."

Student works include modern, tap, jazz and lyrical pieces. "Political science junior Amanda Alquist draws upon the soul power of Aretha Franklin's 'Think' for her sassy and upbeat tap dance." Junco said. "'Cell Block Tango,' from the musical 'Chicago,' choreographed by Orchesis alumnus Matthew Bartlett and current Orchesis President Camille Bikle, explodes with energy and passion."

Tickets for "Reflections," are \$9 to \$12 and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, dial SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax, dial 756-6088; to order online go to www.pacslo.org.

The Orchesis Dance concert is sponsored by Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Instructionally Related Activities program office. For more information, call Junco at (805) 756-1248.

- 30 -

(NOTE TO EDITORS: We have several photographs available. Please contact the Public Affairs office at (805) 756-1511 if you would like images e-mailed to you.)