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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Eleemosynary" Presented by Cal Poly Theatre and Dance May 15-24

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department will present Lee Blessing's prize-winning play 'Eleemosynary' as their final production of the 2002-03 theatre season at the Cal Poly Theatre. The play will be given 8 performances between on May 15-24

Guest director Erma Stauffer explains that while the word 'eleemosynary,' meaning charitable, may be an unfamiliar word to many, the subject of the play will be familiar to anyone who has been a member of a family.

"It's an evocative story about the complex relationships among a teenager, Echo, her mother, Artie, and her grandmother, Dorothea. Each of the three women is remarkable," Stauffer says.

Dorothea is a notable eccentric, Artie is a respected scientist and Echo is the National Spelling Bee Champion after she successfully spells eleemosynary. The play flows back and forth in time to examine the origins and the outcomes of the conflict and the love that bind the three generations of women together.

Kiristin Copeland, a second year theatre major from Newport Beach, plays the role of Echo; Amanda Sitko, a senior theatre major from Morgan Hill, plays Artie; and Mariam Jabr, a third year theatre major also from Morgan Hill, plays Dorothea. This production also features Kristin Harris, a third year music major from Garden Grove, on the cello. Lighting and sets are designed by Tim Dugan, and costumes are designed by Kathy Dugan.

"Eleemosynary" will be performed May 15-17 and May 21-24 at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m.. There will be talk-backs following the shows on May 15 and 21. After the Sunday matinee there will be a special discussion entitled,

"Our Daughters/Our Mothers/Our Grandmothers/Ourselves."

Because both the play and the audience will be on the stage, the seating size is limited for this show. Therefore patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. General admission tickets are priced at \$10.00 and \$9.00 and may be purchased by calling the Performing Arts Ticket Office at 756-2787. Due to the intimacy of the production there will be no late seating.

Eleemosynary is produced with permission from Dramatist Play Service and is co-presented by the College of Liberal Arts.

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