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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cal Poly Theatre And Dance Department Presents "Guys and Dolls Feb. 27-March 8**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA - Dice-game promoters, night club singers, horse players, slick big-time gamblers, and the Salvation Army will all invade the Cal Poly Theatre when the musical fable of Broadway, "Guys and Dolls," opens at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 27 and runs for six performances through March 8, 2003.

The classic tale about the Times Square underworld of tinnhorn gamblers and sentimental chorus girls is a joint production of Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance and Music Departments. The 1950 Tony Award-winning production boasts music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, with a book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling

Called "the greatest musical of all time" by legendary director-choreographer Bob Fosse, "Guys and Dolls" is set in a mythical 1940's New York City. The rich plot revolves around the lives and loves of two couples: gambler Sky Masterson, who is in love with straight-laced Sarah Brown, and crap shooter Nathan Detroit, who has been engaged for fourteen years to night club star, Miss Adelaide.

The show gets the full Broadway treatment from a team of talented artists culled from both departments. Theatre & Dance Associate Head Pamela Malkin is the stage director. Some of Ms. Malkin's Cal Poly department productions include "A Streetcar Named Desire," "All My Sons," and "Buried Child."

Dr. Thomas Davies, musical director, is Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Studies at Cal Poly where he conducts Polyphonics, the University Singers and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. In addition, he is the musical director and conductor of both the Cuesta Master Chorale and the annual Mozart Festival.

Kathryn Stephens, a 1999 graduate of the Theatre and Dance Department,

is the choreographer. Ms. Stephens has choreographed shows for the California Theatre Center in San Jose, the Odyssey Theatre Company, and PCPA's Young People's Project.

Les Solomon, from the Foothill Theatre Company in Nevada City, CA, is the guest lighting designer. Previously, Solomon designed the lighting for Cal Poly's production of "All My Sons."

Timothy Dugan of the Theatre and Dance Department is scenic designer. Costume design is by Kathy Dugan, and Theatre and Dance Department staff member Howard Gee is the technical director.

Cast as the quietly powerful Sky Masterson is Brandon Silar. A junior architecture major from Fort Collins, Colorado, Brandon has extensive musical theatre experience including roles in "My Fair Lady," "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Brigadoon." Brandon is a member of the Music Department's chamber choir, Polyphonics, as well as the featured vocalist for the department's Jazz band.

Sara Buskirk, a senior theatre arts major from Laguna Niguel, portrays Sarah Brown, the Salvation Army sergeant who falls in love with Sky. Ms. Buskirk has appeared in several Theatre and Dance Department productions, including "I Hate Hamlet," "Dancing at Lughnasa," and "Buried Child." She has also had roles in such musicals as "Oliver!" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Playing the hapless Nathan Detroit is senior music major Jamie Marx. A Concord, California native, Mr. Marx is also a member of Polyphonics and has appeared in a variety of shows and musicals in northern California.

Senior theatre arts student Joanne Amato will play the wonderfully comic showgirl, Miss Adelaide. An accomplished singer, dancer, and gymnast, Ms. Amato was last seen as Puck in the Theatre and Dance Department's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She has also had leading roles in "Grease" and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

San Luis Obispo native Matt Richter portrays Arvide Abernethy, the kindly head of the Save a Soul Mission. Matt has been seen in the Theatre and Dance productions "Buried Child," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Cal Foly Pollies."

Eric Johnson, a computer science major from Fullerton, plays Nathan's close friend, Benny Southstreet. Eric has had leading roles in such musicals as "Into the Woods," "42nd Street," and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Nicely-Nicely Johnson, another of Nathan's henchmen, will be played by computer science major Ryan Ernst from Bakersfield.

Additional crapshooters will be portrayed by Dallas Carter, a sophomore music major from Fresno; Jeremy Lamb, a freshman industrial engineering

major from San Jose; Carson Britz, an agricultural business sophomore from Fresno; Ben Piper, a junior majoring in aerospace engineering from Napa; Nick Breslin, a graduate student at the University Center of Teacher Education; Floyd Michael Watson, a junior business major from Laguna Hills; Matt Gray, a political science sophomore from Poway; and Matt Arellano, a civil engineering student from Riverside.

The Hot Box show girls will be played by Tanya Tolmasoff, a sophomore theatre arts student from Healdsburg; Abby Bowles, a junior history major; Tricia Dooly, a sophomore studying agricultural business and Becky Roland, a freshman majoring in agricultural science.

Other members of the large ensemble cast include Brad Bentz, a senior theatre arts major playing Lt. Brannigan and Latitia Widman, a senior theatre arts major from Spokane, Washington who will portray General Mathilda Cartwright. Sarah Claspell, a junior theatre arts and business major from Gilroy, Jessica Reed, a freshman music major from Bakersfield and Lauren Groff, a sophomore music major from Huntington Beach.

Stage Managers are theatre arts majors Allana Miner from Lower Lake, California; Evan Pohl from Fremont; and Marcy Lariz from Morgan Hill. Jessica Depper, a sophomore theatre arts major from Walnut Creek, serves as the dance captain.

Production dates are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, February 27 through March 8. All performances begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre.

Ticket prices are \$12.00 for general admission; \$10 for students and seniors. Group rates are also available. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office or by calling 756-2787. Box Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri., and 10-4 on Saturday.

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