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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Orchesis Dance Company To Present 'Dance Mosaic' Concert

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- "Dance Mosaic," the 33rd annual Orchesis Dance Company concert, will showcase the talent of Cal Poly students plus new work from guest choreographers in a variety of dance styles, including ballet, jazz, modern, tap, hip hop and traditional Irish and Indian dance.

Evening performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. Jan. 31-Feb. 1 and Feb. 6-8. In addition, a 2 p.m. matinee is set for Feb. 2. All performances will be in the Cal Poly Theatre.

The diverse lineup of guest artists includes local choreographer Jude Clark Warnisher in "We Who Remain," a dance number that premiered in 1996 as part of San Luis Obispo Civic Ballet's Spring Gala.

"In the dance, nine women dance to Arvo Part's hauntingly moving 'Fratres,'" said Maria Junco, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department and director of the Orchesis Dance Company. "The dance was created the year after the choreographer's brother died. It draws on the physicality of grief and comfort for its movement invention."

Diana Stanton will perform "Imbroglio," a dance she choreographed to music by Kodo. "The dance abstractly explores the development of natural evolution into the chaos and complexities of modern life," Junco said. "With sensual and mysterious movement and unique athletic partnering, this piece challenges the norm of movement invention and promises a provocative expressive experience." Stanton earned an MFA in dance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and currently teaches at Cal Poly and Allan Hancock Community College.

"In a number titled 'Sketches of the Kitchen,' popular local choreographer Lisa Deyo continues an exploration from an earlier work titled 'Brasileiro.' Her goal is to identify that line between organic movement and ballet and find a way to integrate them to communicate a human story," Junco explained. "What could be more normal than that

morning trek to the kitchen?"

Deyo, a former member of the Hubbard Street Dance Company and Los Angeles Chamber Ballet, recently earned critical acclaim in Russia for her choreography and performance with her company, Deyo Dances.

This year two Santa Barbara-area dance companies will perform with Orchesis. UCSB Dance Company, directed by Delila Moseley, will perform "What's Cool," choreographed by Christopher Pilafian. The dance, according to Junco, is a visceral response to the music of Miles Davis -- a modern dance approach with a jazz edge. "The multi-layered, improvisational nature of the music is mirrored in the choreography," Junco said.

UCSB will also dance "La Luna," choreographed by Valerie Huston. "This piece creates a theme of timelessness or universal time with curvilinear shapes and soft resolves using ballet movement vocabulary without constraints," Junco said.

Santa Barbara Dance Theatre will perform "Surya Namaskara" and "Ecstatic Dance," choreographed and directed by Jerry Pearson.

Los Angeles choreographers Dennon and Sayhber Rawles have created a Fosse-style jazz finale. "The Rawleses are famous for their professional work in both film and television, including choreography for 'Staying Alive' with John Travolta and 'Bugsy' with Warren Beatty," Junco said.

Modern, ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, traditional Irish and Bharathnatyam dance works created by additional guest artists and selected student choreographers will round out the concert.

Among these, liberal studies senior Jessica Presnall's lyrical jazz piece 'Anticipation,' set to Michelle Branch's 'Here With Me,' portrays the yearning of a young woman for her beloved -- despite their failed relationship," Junco explained. Food science senior Amanda Smith's modern piece, choreographed to Depeche Mode, "mimics the challenge of escaping from a world of repetition through the use of unconventional movement," Junco said.

Faculty member Michelle Walter will assist Junco in directing the Orchesis Dance Company.

Tickets for "Dance Mosaic" are \$12 for the public and \$9 for students and senior citizens with I.D. Tickets for children in a group of seven or more are \$7. Tickets can be bought at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays.

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos are being mailed to many newspapers with a hard copy of this release. Anyone who would like electronic images should contact Jo Ann Lloyd at

756-1511 or jlloyd@calpoly.edu.)

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