

[Skip to Content](#)

[Cal Poly](#)

[News](#)

Search Cal Poly News

 Go

California Polytechnic State University

Jan. 3, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LISA WOSKE
(805) 756-7110

Famed Twyla Tharp Dance Company Comes to Cal Poly Jan. 19

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Twyla Tharp has been hailed by many as America's greatest living choreographer. On Sunday, January 19 the acclaimed Twyla Tharp Dance troupe brings an exciting repertoire to the Christopher Cohan Center, with a special 3 p.m. curtain time.

The New York Times raves that Tharp and her dancers display "Non-stop fierce bravura delivered with mind-boggling stamina...Energy at its most turbulent... Sheer dance power."

"Tharp's dancers are miracles of technique and stamina. When Tharp sets bodies into motion, you can't take your eyes off them." (Newsday)

Cal Poly Arts presents the 7-member professional dance company in an eclectic program. Tharp's imagination is showcased in the powerful sextet of "Surfer at the River Styx," which is a loose exploration of Euripides' "Bacchae."

On a thoroughly different note is the witty and charming "Westerly Round," featuring the folk-inspired music of Mark O'Connor. Tharp's use of abstracted square dance suggests a "cowboy romance" for the 21st century.

The company's afternoon show will also include a new work -- premiering during this upcoming tour -- which is set to the music of Schoenberg and Kaiserwalzer.

In her 35-year career, Twyla Tharp has created more than 125 dances, choreographed five Hollywood movies, choreographed and directed two Broadway shows, written an autobiography, and received two Emmy Awards, 17 honorary doctorates, and numerous grants, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship.

In 1965, Ms. Tharp formed Twyla Tharp Dance and in 1988, Twyla Tharp Dance merged with American Ballet Theatre where Ms. Tharp held the

position of Associate Artistic Director for two years and created more than a dozen works.

Since that time, Ms. Tharp has choreographed dances for many companies, including the Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, The Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance, and The Martha Graham Dance Company. She has also created pieces for such dance luminaries as Mikhail Baryshnikov.

In 1992, Ms. Tharp published her autobiography, "Push Comes to Shove." She is currently working on a second book, soon to be published by Simon and Schuster, on the creative process.

In 1993, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1997, Ms. Tharp was made an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1999, Ms. Tharp re-created her Twyla Tharp Dance company which has been touring internationally to critical acclaim.

Currently, Ms. Tharp and Billy Joel's successful dance musical, "Movin' Out," is playing on Broadway.

A pre-performance lecture will be presented by Theatre/Dance Dept. faculty member Moon Ja Minn Suhr in the Philips Recital Hall at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the performance range from \$26 - \$38, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by John and Deborah Spatafore and Barbara and Scott Radovich.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

- 30 -

[CP Home](#) • [CP Find It](#) [Get Adobe Reader](#) • [Microsoft Viewers](#)

[Events](#) • [Recent Releases](#) • [Cal Poly Magazine](#) •
[Cal Poly Update E-newsletter](#) • [Contact Public Affairs](#) • [Alumni](#) • [Giving](#) • [Athletics](#)

Cal Poly Public Affairs

California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu