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California Polytechnic State University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Orchestis Dance Company To Present 'Signatures in Dance' Performance

"Signatures in Dance," the 32nd annual Orchestis Dance Company concert, will showcase the talent of Cal Poly students plus new work from guest choreographers in a variety of techniques, including ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop and capoeira (a Brazilian dance form similar to martial arts).

Performances are planned at 8 p.m. Feb. 1-2 and 7-9, and a 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled Feb. 3.

All performances will be at the Cal Poly Theatre. The concert is under the direction of Maria Junco, a faculty member in the university's Theatre and Dance Department.

"The exciting lineup of guest artists includes local favorite and critically acclaimed Lisa Deyo, who will premiere her newest ballet, 'Found at Sea,'" Junco said. "The dance is set to the hauntingly evocative piece 'The Promise,' by composer Michael Nyman, and the dancers seemingly move with an invisible tide that sweeps them together one moment, and apart the next."

Before returning to her hometown of San Luis Obispo, Deyo's professional activities included membership in the Hubbard Street Dance Company and the Los Angeles Chamber Ballet. She currently choreographs for companies throughout the country.

Cal Poly faculty member Diana Stanton's new work, "This Channel Is Open, But No Words Are Coming," explores the complexities of human communication, using detailed gestures combined with full-bodied kinetic dancing. The dance abstractly explores the uniqueness of interpretation and demonstrates powerful rhythmic, athletic dance technique and focused performance. Stanton earned an MFA in dance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and teaches dance at Cal Poly and at Allan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria. 20

"Popular local choreographer Valerie Kline takes a satirical look at anxiety in her comic piece 'Sweaty Palms' by picturing life as a game with nonsensical rules," Junco said. "It's a game no one can win, and the contestants become increasingly unhinged by trying. Sure to leave you laughing, Kline's idiosyncratic movement vocabulary and wry text accompaniment poses the question, 'Is it surprising how often our

contestants get mixed up?"

Kline earned a master's degree in dance from Colorado State University.

Los Angeles choreographers Dennon and Sayhber Rawles have created a Fosse-style jazz finale for "Signatures in Dance" that "promises to charm even the most demanding dance critic," according to Junco. "The Rawleses are famous for their work in both film and television, including choreography for 'Staying Alive' with John Travolta and 'Bugsy' with Warren Beatty."

Ben Reyes, a Central Coast native, will appear as a guest artist in his new hip-hop dance "Raize Da Roof" and in several student pieces. Reyes' "dynamic movement and charismatic performance quality have made him extremely popular with local audiences," said Junco.

First-time Orchesis guest choreographer Gabriel Francisco combines an eclectic blend of West Coast hip hop and East Coast house with influences of post-modern and jazz in his work titled "Culture Shocked." Francisco, who hails from Southern California, has trained with hip-hop pioneers Eric Fenn, Angie Bunch, Rennie Harris and Gus Bembery, and is currently a core dancer in Culture Shock San Diego.

"In a contemporary piece by Joe Orta, another Southern California guest artist, the performers seem to move with a combative force, oppressing those who don't fall in line," Junco said. "Choreographed to 'Army of Me' by Bjork, this piece takes on a very rugged and industrial tone."

Modern and jazz works created by selected student choreographers will round out the evening's program. Mechanical engineering student Caren Carreiro's lyrical jazz piece, set to "My Skin" by Natalie Merchant, illustrates the emotional trials that the heart and soul must endure and how the strong overcome them. Food science major Amanda Smith's lyrical dance, set to Tori Amos' "Precious Things," addresses issues of self-image by juxtaposing unusual and conventional movement to create a metaphor for distorted reflection. Liberal studies major Jessica Presnall's fast-paced contemporary jazz dance parallels the dancing in the upbeat and entertaining song to which it is set, "Mr. Jones" by the Counting Crows.

Tickets for "Signatures in Dance" are \$12 for the general public and \$9 for students and senior citizens with ID. Tickets for children under 18 in a group of seven or more will be \$7. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 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. For more information, call the Theatre and Dance

Department at 756-1465.

- 30 -

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Several newspapers were mailed hard copies of this news release together with photographs. Some digital images are also available on request by contacting Jo Ann Lloyd at 756-1511 or jjlloyd@calpoly.edu.)

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