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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Sam Shepard's 'Buried Child' To Be Final Cal Poly 2001-2002 Production**

The Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department will close its 2001-2002 season with a six-day run in May of Sam Shepard's 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Buried Child."

The production will be staged at 8 p.m. May 16-18 and May 23-25 in the Cal Poly Theatre.

Universally acclaimed as a work of extraordinary vision and force, the darkly comic play explores the disintegration of a family filled with deep secrets and suppressed violence, according to the play's director, Pamela Malkin, associate department head of the Theatre and Dance Department.

Shepard is regarded as one of the country's most significant contemporary playwrights. His other credits include the plays "Fool for Love," "True West" and "The Curse of the Starving Class." Shepard explores the rootlessness and isolation of modern America, Malkin said.

San Luis Obispo native and social sciences junior Matt Richter is cast in the leading role of Dodge, the wickedly funny patriarch of the dysfunctional family. Richter has appeared in many Cal Poly productions, including "The Cal Poly Follies" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and as a member of the improvisational company Smile and Nod.

Amanda Sitko of Morgan Hill portrays Halie, Dodge's equally eccentric wife. Sitko, a theatre arts senior and director of Smile and Nod, has also appeared in the Cal Poly productions of "All My Sons," "Dancing at Lughnasa," "I Hate Hamlet" and "A Man for All Seasons."

David Edwards, director of the University Union at Cal Poly, is cast as Tilden, the oldest son. Edwards has appeared in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Indiana in such diverse roles as Bernardo in "West Side

Story," Mr. Web in "Our Town" and Ken in "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"

Brad Bentz, a junior engineering major from Vina, plays Bradley, the young, brutal son.

This will mark Bentz's first main-stage acting experience.

Brian Ward portrays Vince, the long-lost grandson, whose arrival at Dodge's Illinois home unleashes the secrets that have tormented his family. Ward, a theatre arts senior, played the leading role in the Theatre and Dance production of "The Importance of Being Earnest." His other performances at Cal Poly include "I Hate Hamlet," "A Man for All Seasons" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Sarah Buskirk, a theatre arts junior from Laguna Niguel, plays Shelley, Vince's street-wise girlfriend, who ultimately escapes the family's violence. She has had leading roles in the Theatre and Dance Department productions of "Dancing at Lughnasa" and "I Hate Hamlet."

Rounding out the cast is Sam Dependahl as the hapless Father Dewis.

Dependahl, a business administration junior from Santa Barbara, is also a member of Smile and Nod. His main-stage experience in Theatre and Dance Department productions includes roles in "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Theatre arts major Colin Moran, the scenic designer, is undertaking the project in partial fulfillment of his senior project. Moran, originally from Bell Canyon, has several scenic and lighting designs to his credit, including the student-directed productions of "Equus" and "The Shadow Box." He has also performed Theatre and Dance productions of "All My Sons," "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Faculty member Kira Franz-Knight is the production's costume designer.

Jarrold Bray, a theatre arts senior from Paso Robles, is the lighting designer. Bray is a junior-college transfer student from Cuesta College, where he designed the scenery for "The Grapes of Wrath," a production that was nominated for an award by the American College Theatre Festival.

Theatre and Dance Department staff member Howard Gee is the production's technical director.

Joshua Lopour, a theatre arts junior from Orange, is the stage manager.

Janelle Bayard, a theatre arts junior from La Canada, is assistant stage manager.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens and can be bought 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, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax, dial 756-6088.

The production is sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts and Theatre and Dance Department. For more information, call the Theatre

and Dance Department at 756-1465.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: For electronic images of the production, contact Jo Ann Lloyd at 756-1511 or [jllloyd@calpoly.edu](mailto:jllloyd@calpoly.edu).)

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