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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fiction Writer Dan Chaon Speaks May 17

Award-winning fiction writer Dan Chaon, the final visiting author in Cal Poly's 2001-2002 WriterSpeak series, will read from his work at 7 p.m. May 17 in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

Chaon's newest collection, "Among the Missing: Stories," received rave reviews. The title story, "Among the Missing," was named a Distinguished Story in the 1999 edition of "Best American Short Stories" and won a Pushcart Prize 2000.

Chaon also won the Pushcart Prize for the story "Falling Backwards" and an O. Henry Award for the story "Big Me." His work has been published in such magazines as Story, Ploughshares and Triquarterly.

In addition to his numerous awards, he received a grant from the Ohio Arts Council, and his first collection of short stories, "Fitting Ends and Other Stories," will be reissued as a Ballantine Reader's Circle edition next year.

Ha Jin, a National Book Award winner, praises the stories in "Among the Missing" as "ingeniously conceived and shrewdly written 'Among the Missing' is an important collection of stories, a genuine literary accomplishment."

Lorrie Moore, author of "Birds of America," writes, "One of the best short story writers around . . . Dan Chaon's stories are funny, heartbreaking, beautifully written and intelligently conceived."

The Library Journal said, "In his splendid second collection, the past always remains a huge presence Chaon's contemporary stories ultimately reveal modern life and the secrets people keep."

Chaon earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing at Syracuse

University under Tobias Wolff. He is currently a writer-in-residence at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he lives with his wife and children. He is working on his first novel.

The reading is free and open to the public. The Cal Poly WriterSpeak series is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and English Department. For more information, contact series organizer Adam Hill at 756-1622 or ahill@calpoly.edu.

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