Cal Poly Arts Brings Flamenco Fusion to Cohan Center Feb. 9

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – There is an emerging trend in Spanish dance and the art of Flamenco and the leader of this edgy fusion is the dazzling dance company, Nuevo Ballet Espanol.

Cal Poly Arts presents NBE’s latest masterful work, “Flamenco Directo,” on Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center. The young company features co-founders/choreographers/lead dancers Angel Rojas and Carlos Rodriguez.

“Angel and Carlos dance with soul...And if it is virtuosity that we are talking about, we can already class these two as new stars.” (El Pais, Madrid)

After two successful residencies in Madrid and a world tour, “Flamenco Directo” is one of the most successful and acclaimed shows of the company’s ten production repertory.

“Flamenco Directo” combines traditional Flamenco with touches of ballet and jazz. The charismatic principle dancers and synchronized ensemble are joined on stage by a cello- and flute-inspired group of musicians and singers.

Nuevo Ballet Español was formed in 1995 after Rojas and Rodriguez both won best dancer at Spain ‘94 and garnered that year’s Flamenco Annual Choreography Awards. The two young talents continue to be the driving force behind the company.

Their creative energy spans from genuine Flamenco to contemporary dance, resulting in an original interpretation of Flamenco which adds a new dimension to the dance form without betraying its traditions.

As a result of its growing popularity, NBE has toured extensively throughout Spain, Europe and South America for the last decade and has become the hottest dance sensation on the Spanish cultural scene.

Many of the company’s award-winning works are still on tour around the world and have been part of many prestigious international festivals.

NBE has embarked on a two-year tour with “Flamenco Directo,” which premiered on October 9, 1998 in the Teatro de Madrid. This international tour has already visited more than ten countries, including France, Finland, Spain, Italy, Holland, Germany, and Belgium.

In May 2005, NBE performed at the Flamenco Festival in Japan and received excellent reviews.

The choreographic works of Rojas and Rodriguez were filmed for a special 2002 PBS show and NBE’s 24 dancers and 13 musicians were simultaneously recorded for a performance DVD entitled “Fury.”

The group’s founders remain involved outside of NBE as well. Rojas continues to teach dance and to choreograph for other companies, including the Jose Antonio Spanish Ballet Company in which he has also worked as solo dancer.

In addition to teaching and designing costumes, Rodriguez also contributes choreography to the Jose Antonio Spanish Ballet. His last collaboration was at the Flamenco Festival 2005 with the show, “The Four Elements,” which had its premiere in London and toured in the United States.

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 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.
Sponsored by Clifford Chapman and Gene Shidler, James and Esther Landreth, and by KCBX 90.1 FM.

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

- 30 -