California Polytechnic State University

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Cal Poly Arts Brings Miami City Ballet To PAC Oct. 5
For Performance of "Coppelia"

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The light-hearted tale of star-crossed lovers and mistaken identities is exquisitely danced in “Coppelia,” the full-length comic ballet performed by Miami City Ballet on Tuesday, October 5, 2004 at the Christopher Cohan Center.

Part of the Cal Poly Arts Great Performances Series, the 19th Century, Romantic era masterpiece of comedy is presented at a special 7 p.m. curtain time.

“Coppelia” takes place in three acts and tells the story of two mischievous lovers who, on the eve of their nuptials, find their affection for each other surprisingly put to the test.

The beloved classical ballet was first presented by the Paris Opera Ballet on May 2, 1870. The Miami City Ballet production captures the timeless beauty and sweet sensibilities of the classic story.

The New Yorker magazine called Miami City Ballet “one of the most daring and rewarding of the younger companies now on the rise.”

Founding Miami City Ballet Artistic Director Edward Villella was the first American-born male principal ballet stars of the New York City Ballet (1957-1975). His career is said to have established the male's role in classical dance in the U.S.

Villella's vision and style for the Company is based on the neoclassical 20th-century aesthetic established by famed choreographer George Balanchine. The Company’s repertoire features 90 ballets -- including 38 world premieres -- ranging from Balanchine masterworks to pieces by contemporary choreographers such as Paul Taylor.

In 1997, Edward Villella received the highest, most prestigious cultural honor, the National Medal of Arts, presented by President Bill Clinton.
Miami City Ballet’s 46 dancers also come from a range of prominent companies, such as the New York City Ballet, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Deutsche Opera, and the Paris Opera Ballet.

Miami City Ballet has performed in 83 U.S. cities, including engagements at The Kennedy Center, the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival in Atlanta, Wolf Trap Farm Park, the Spoleto Festival U.S.A, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Internationally, Miami City Ballet has performed in Europe, South America, Central America, and Israel. Appearances include the Edinburgh International Festival, the Lyon Biennale Internationale de la Danse (France), and the Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz (Guatemala).

In 2000, Miami City Ballet took occupancy of its own Miami Beach headquarters and presents itself in four major Florida counties. The Miami City Ballet is also presented as the resident ballet company at the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic Center.

A pre-show lecture will be held by Cal Poly Theatre/Dance Dept. professor Moon Ja Minn Suhr, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Philips Recital hall.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 - $54, 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.

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