Cal Poly Arts Announces New 2003-04 Season

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Tickets for the new Cal Poly Arts subscription series are now on sale at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office. With its 2003/04 season, Cal Poly Arts continues to bridge the worlds of arts and entertainment.

"Our goal was to find the most exciting and talented live acts available," said Cal Poly Arts Director Ralph Hoskins. "To do that, you have to look beyond labels and categories. We look for fine arts that are fun and entertainment that is sophisticated."

The Cal Poly Arts full-color season brochure, available from the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office, describes the 40 diverse events to be presented at the Christopher Cohan Center, Cal Poly Theatre, and Clark Center during the 2003-04 season.

Audiences may look forward to popular entertainers Bob Newhart, Bill Maher, and Michael Feinstein headlining at the Performing Arts Center. As part of a special Center Stage event staged in November, tickets are on sale now to subscribers to see Garrison Keillor in "A Prairie Home Companion."

Broadway musical touring companies will stage the provocative "Rent" and a popular revival of "The Music Man," while a return engagement of STOMP plays for three shows only.

World music and dance are well represented by Buena Vista Social Club's vocalist Omara Portuondo, the martial artistry of China's Shaolin Warriors, Yamato Taiko drummers of Japan, the Celtic fiddlers of Leahy, and Senegal's Orchestra Baobab, blending African melodies and Latin rhythms.

The new season features evenings of jazz and blues, with San Paolo's premier jazz pianist Eliane Elias, the Joe Lovano Nonet, and a multi-group effort entitled "Bayou to Bourbon Street," starring the Dirty Dozen Brass band, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, and honky-tonk queen Marcia Ball.

Folk and ethnic music includes bluegrass legend Doc Watson and his grandson, Richard Watson, Australia's roots-pop band The Waifs, the renowned Mariachi Sol de Mexico, and Ireland's Cherish the Ladies Holiday concert. Rock and soul is in full force with vocalist Solomon Burke.

A main focus in any Cal Poly Arts season, classical music is strong with the 90-member Shanghai Symphony and pianist Tian Jiang, contemporary ensemble Eighth Blackbird, the virtuoso strings of I Musici de Montreal, percussionist Evelyn Glennie, and the high-spirited Eroica Trio.
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Cal Poly Arts' grand opera offering is Teatro Lirico d'Europa's "Il Trovatore" and this season's full scale ballet is the Romantic classic piece, "Giselle," performed by the 50-member Moscow Festival Ballet.

Fans of modern and jazz dance and innovative stage movement have a wide range of choices with Moses Pendleton's creative Momix, the energetic and sexy Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and Ronald K. Brown's unique blend of street, ballet, and West African social dance performed by his 10-member troupe, Evidence.

New York City's Suzanne Farrell Ballet company dances "A Balanchine/Tchaikovsky Tribute," celebrating the genius and works of the two Russian-born artists.

Additional theatre offerings this season include professional illusionists performing a new installment of the popular "It's Magic!" tour, the Salzburg Marionette Theatre production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," comic speaker Sarah Vowell, and the one-man circus that is Michael Moschen.

The popular, low-cost Cal Poly Arts Family Event series offers a full range of fun, including Master of the Impossible Tomas Kubinek, the return of Fred Garbo's wacky Inflatable Theatre Company, the sense sensation of Lazer Vaudeville, and the young people's beloved stage show, "The Little Engine That Could."

To become a Cal Poly Arts season subscriber, order four or more events on the 2003-04 series and receive substantial ticket discounts, priority seating, and many other subscriber benefits, including advance notification of special-added celebrity Center Stage events.

Single tickets go on sale to the general public on September 2. Regardless of date received, orders with three or less events listed will be filled after all subscription orders are completed.

For all ticket information or a Cal Poly Arts new season brochure, please contact the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Call (805) 756-2787 or stop by the Ticket Office at One Grand Avenue in San Luis Obispo. Audio and video samples for all Cal Poly Arts series and Center Stage events are available through www.calpolyarts.org.

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