Cal Poly Theatre Presents Joan Schirle in 'Second Skin' Dec. 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO - The Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department presents internationally-renowned physical theatre performer Joan Schirle, co-artistic director of the Dell'Arte Company, in her acclaimed one-woman show, "Second Skin." The performance begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Cal Poly Theatre.

"Second Skin" has been described by critics as "inspiring," "mesmerizing," "funny," "beautiful," "stunning," "moving," "magical," and "a tour de force."

Featuring dynamic and original physical theatre, "Second Skin" uses the magic of masks and the wit and talent of a master performer to transport the audience on an all-soul's journey to the threshold of the afterlife.

In a series of virtuoso transformations, Schirle introduces the audience to a group of 15 unforgettable characters, related to a young woman convinced she possesses the living soul of Marilyn Monroe.

"Masks themselves, as well as from the very human desire to be someone other than who we are, evoke the image of a second skin," says Schirle.

The Dell'Arte company has explored theatrical masks for many years and Schirle has made several study trips to Bali. In the Balinese religious tradition, the mask actually mediates between two opposing worlds.

Written and performed by Joan Schirle, "Second Skin" was directed by Dell'Arte Associate Artist Giulio Cesare Perrone, with sound design by Tim Gray and lights by Michael Foster.

The Dell'Arte Company is one of the few actor-managed ensembles in the U.S. Based in Blue Lake, California, Dell'Arte has an international reputation for its touring performances and professional school, the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.
"Second Skin" is presented by the Theatre and Dance Department and supported with funds from the Cal Poly Plan.

Tickets for the "Second Skin" performance are $6 all seats and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

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Cal Poly Public Affairs
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu