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For immediate release:

David Grisman Quintet, Old School Freight Train to Play Mondavi Center

September 20, 2006; Davis, California—From his beginnings as a devotee of bluegrass founding father **Bill Monroe** through his work with artists as wide-ranging as the **Grateful Dead**, **Dolly Parton**, **Bela Fleck**, and **Stephane Grappelli**, and through 25 years of leading his own quintet, master mandolinist **David Grisman** has covered a lot of musical territory. Affectionately known as “Dawg”—a nickname given by jamming buddy **Jerry Garcia**—Grisman’s blend of bluegrass, gypsy jazz, Afro-Caribbean, blues, Brazilian, and more is so unique it can only be called “dawg music.” Next month, Grisman will bring his quintet to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at **UC Davis** for an evening of “dawg music,” with an opening set by up-and-coming string band stars **Old School Freight Train**.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 26 in Mondavi Center’s Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org. The event is presented as part of Mondavi Center’s **Java City Global Beat** series. There will be a Pre-performance Lecture featuring **Jon Fox** beginning at 7 pm in the AGR Room of the **Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center** on the UC Davis campus adjacent to Mondavi Center.

The Petaluma-based Grisman is still best-known in some circles for his association with the Grateful Dead, the much-loved, musically adventurous rock band that introduced a generation of fans to folk and bluegrass influences. With Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, Grisman played in **Old & In the Way**, a seminal crossover band that further served to bridge the gap between rock audiences and traditional music, and Grisman and Garcia enjoyed a long musical partnership documented on numerous recordings and in the film *Grateful Dawg*.

Yet the Dead connection is only a small part of Grisman’s considerable legacy as a both a master musician and a leader of a multi-faceted musical movement—sometimes called “newgrass”—that has built upon traditional bluegrass to form a new, eclectic style of acoustic string band music. Grisman has been an ambassador and educator on behalf of bluegrass and the mandolin, and a documenter of the contemporary scene through his work with Acoustic Disc Records, a label he runs from his home studio. Through it all, Grisman’s musicianship has been impeccable, and his example has been an inspiration to pioneering musicians of all genres.

Grisman discovered the mandolin as a teenager growing up in New Jersey, where he became a disciple of mandolinist/folklorist **Ralph Rinzler** and learned to play in the style of Bill Monroe. He took it with him to Greenwich Village where he studied English at **New York University** and became immersed in the

proliferating folk music scene of the early 1960s. Within a few years, he made his first recordings with groups like the **Even Dozen Jug Band** and the **Kentuckians**. His interests spread to jazz in 1967, while playing in the folk-rock ensemble, **Earth Opera**, and began work as a session musician, a career path that would lead him to record with **Emmylou Harris**, **Chris Isaak**, **Bonnie Raitt**, **Linda Ronstadt**, **James Taylor**, and many others.

Grisman's unique instrumental style found a home in 1974 when he formed the **Great American Music Band** with fiddler **Richard Greene**. But Greene left the group within a year, which led to the formation of the first **David Grisman Quintet**, which included guitar player **Tony Rice**, bassist/ mandolinist **Todd Phillips**, and violinist **Darol Anger**. The rest is string band history. For the past 25 years, the DGQ has won numerous polls and awards and has headlined at major jazz, folk, and bluegrass festivals around the world. Current members include bassist **Jim Kerwin**, multi-instrumentalist **Joe Craven**, flutist **Matt Eakle**, and Argentine guitarist **Enrique Coria**.

Blending jazz, Latin, Celtic, bluegrass and pop, Old School Freight Train creates electrifying acoustic music. This young Charlottesville, Virginia-based group, formed in 2000, has already gained national recognition, touring the country and winning awards at the prestigious Telluride Bluegrass and Rockygrass Bluegrass contests. No less an authority than Grisman himself has declared OSFT "an emerging force to reckon with in today's world of acoustic music," and the group has released its latest CD, *Run*, on Grisman's Acoustic Disc label. *Run* spans a broad spectrum of contemporary styles and highlights their instrumental virtuosity, smooth soulful vocals, captivating melodies and musical passion.

"In the David Grisman Quintet and Old School Freight Train, we're able to present two generations of bluegrass performers, each of them exploring and expanding the music's rich heritage in unique ways that contribute to America's ongoing and vibrant tradition of acoustic string band music," said Mondavi Center Executive Director **Don Roth**.

What: **David Grisman Quintet**
Old School Freight Train
When: Friday, October 27, 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$39/\$34/\$29 Adults • \$19.50/\$17/\$14.50 Students, Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
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