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For immediate release:

Author and Social Critic Jonathan Kozol to Speak on School Segregation at Mondavi Center

September 6, 2006; Davis, California—At the height of the Civil Rights movement in the early '60s, a young white teacher, the Harvard-educated Rhodes Scholar **Jonathan Kozol**, left his comfortable surroundings in Cambridge, Massachusetts to teach in the public schools of the predominantly African American, low-income city of Roxbury. His experiences there prompted him to write the National Book Award-winning *Death at an Early Age*, a classic dissection of inequalities in the American educational system, and Kozol went on to become one of the nation's leading social critics. Next month, Kozol will discuss the continuing segregation of American schools in a presentation entitled *Still Separate, Still Unequal* at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** at UC Davis.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 12, 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 **Western Health Advantage Distinguished Speakers** series.

Kozol will also participate in a panel discussion on *Arts Education in America*, featuring **Muriel Johnson**, director of the California Arts Council; **Halifu Osumare**, assistant professor, UC Davis Department of African American and African Studies; and moderator **Harold Levine**, dean of the UC Davis School of Education. The discussion is free and open to the public as part of Mondavi Center's **Forum @MC** series, and begins at 4 pm on October 12 in Jackson Hall.

Widely recognized as an outstanding and inspirational speaker, Kozol is a long-time activist and author whose sharp criticism of social inequalities is always based on personal experience and a firm sense of moral responsibility. His lectures are rousing appeals for audiences to resist apathy and strive for a more just society. Award-winning author and Holocaust survivor **Elie Wiesel** has written, "What [Kozol] says must be heard. His outcry must shake our nation out of its guilty indifference."

A native of Boston, Kozol graduated from **Harvard University** summa cum laude (1958) and was a Rhodes scholar to **Magdalen College**, Oxford. In 1964, he went to teach low-income, predominantly African-American students—only to be fired in 1967 for reading a controversial **Langston Hughes** poem to his fourth-grade class. He left to teach briefly in one of Boston's most affluent suburban schools, which led to a graphic realization of how economic disparities affect the quality of public education.

Death At An Early Age, published in 1967, describes his first year of experience as a teacher in Roxbury. It was followed by *Illiterate America*, which helped generate a movement to remedy the problem of adult literacy. His next work, *Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America* is a narrative portrayal of the day-to-day struggles of some of America's poorest people based in part on Kozol's experiences staying in a New York City homeless shelter. The book received the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award in 1989 and The Conscience in Media Award of the American Society of Journalists and Authors.

Based on visits to public schools in 30 different communities, 1992's *Savage Inequities: Children in America's Schools* returned to the issue of disparities in America's school system. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*, detailed two years of conversations with children, parents, and clergy in an impoverished urban neighborhood. In 2000, *Ordinary Resurrections* proved something of a departure for Kozol, examining the persistent optimism of poor children in the South Bronx. His most recent book, *The Shame of a Nation* is a searing look at what Kozol calls the "cognitive decapitation" of black and Hispanic children in our nation's segregated and unequal public schools based on visits to nearly 60 schools in 11 states over the course of five years.

"Jonathan Kozol's lectures are renowned for being both informative and highly inspirational, and his upcoming presentation of *Still Separate, Still Unequal* promises to be an unforgettable experience for all of us who care about education in America," said **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center's executive director.

What: Jonathan Kozol
Still Separate, Still Unequal
When: Thursday, October 12, 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$36/\$31/\$26 Adults • \$18/\$15.50/\$13 Students, Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
Patrons with disabilities: 530.754.2787
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530.754.5402 [TDD]

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