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For immediate release:

Pacífico Dance Company Brings Mexican Music, Dance to the Mondavi Center

April 18, 2008; Davis, California—**Pacífico Dance Company**, California's premier Mexican *folklórico* dance ensemble, will take audience members on a trip to Mexico with its vibrant celebration of traditional music and dance at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**. In a special event featuring Grammy Award-nominated vocalist **Perla Batalla** and **Mariachi Los Torros**, the 19 dancers and 10 musicians of Pacífico Dance Company will perform music and dance from Chihuahua, Chiapas, Jalisco, and other regions of Mexico.

The concert will begin at 8 pm on May 14 in the Mondavi Center's Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.2787 or online at MondaviArts.org. The concert is presented as a Mondavi Center **Global Beat** event. There will be a Pre-performance Lecture by **Rudy F. Garcia**, treasurer, Board of Directors, Festival Danzantes Unidos, in the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre at 7 pm.

The **Mondavi Center Arts Education Program** will also present Pacífico Dance Company as part of the 2007-08 **Wells Fargo School Matinee Series** at the Mondavi Center on May 14 at 11 am. The School Matinee Series is made available for teachers and students, including homeschooled students. Performances in this series support the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Teachers, educators, and others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

Founded in 1992, Pacífico Dance Company (formerly **Ballet Folklórico del Pacífico**) is one of the premier companies adapting Mexican folk dance for the concert stage. The company performs both traditional works and contemporary pieces that reflect folk traditions. Artistic Director **Adriana Astorga-Gainey** is a native Californian who studied dance in Mexico at the **Escuela del Ballet Folklórico** under the direction of **Amalia Hernandez**. She also trained at **La Escuela de Danza, Mizoc** and with the legendary **Rafael Zamarripa Castaneda**, in addition to studying classical ballet with **Don Hewitt**, **Joanna DiGiovanna**, and **Stephan Wentz**. As director, she has seen Pacífico Dance Company grow to include more than 40 dancers and musicians and tour California, New Mexico, Washington, North Korea, and China. Astorga-Gainey has received numerous honors for her efforts, including awards in 2003 and 2005 of California DanceMaker Grants and certificates of recognition from the City of Los Angeles and the Mexican Cultural Institute.

The folkloric music and dance performed by Pacífico Dance Company are as varied as the different cultural and geographical regions within Mexico. Characteristics unique to each region are reflected in differing music, footwork, skirt work, patterning and patterning styles, and costuming. Mexican folk dance is a veritable history

of colonization and settlement in the country, with each region showing the outside influences of various other traditions. The dance styles of the northern region of Mexico suggest the European influences of the polka and ballroom dance forms, while the southeastern coast displays more influences from Africa, the Caribbean, and Spain. Yet these traditions are still evolving, and even as the earliest dances of the Mayan and Aztec civilizations are carefully preserved, influences of modern and ballet dance also find their way into Pacifico Dance Company performances.

Joining the company for its Mondavi Center performance will be vocalist, composer, and arranger Perla Batalla. She first gained international attention as a backup singer for **Leonard Cohen**, and has since released five highly acclaimed albums, including *Discoteca Batalla*, a recording named after her father's record store, and *Bird on the Wire*, an album of Leonard Cohen songs that features guest artists including **David Hidalgo** (of **Los Lobos**), **Bill Gable**, **Vinnie Coliauta**, and **Greg Leisz**. Battala is currently working to establish Paloma, a foundation she is creating to bring music to youth in underserved communities. Performing with Batalla will be guitarist **Gilberto Gonzales** as well as the group Mariachi Los Torros under the direction of **Carlos Parra**.

Dances scheduled to be performed at the Mondavi Center include *Los Concheros*, in which pre-Hispanic and Catholic religions are fused; *Sones de Michoacan*, which depicts the beauty of the flora and fauna surrounding Michoacan, as well as the Spanish culture that was readily adapted there; *Tierra Calentana*, a set of dances from the Pacific port of Guerrero; *Feria Chiapaneca*, a series of celebratory dances done to honor **Dona Maria de Agulo**, a Chiapas legend; *Que Lindo es Chihuahua*, a celebration of *norteno* music and dance; *Zafra en Tamaulipas*, a ballet depicting the agricultural heritage of the region and its connection to the harvesting of sugar cane; and *Viva Jalisco*, which includes the Mexican hat dance, the mariachi, and other well-known products of that state.

Company dancers slated to perform at the event include **Guadalupe Aguilera**, **Daniela Alejandra Alvarez**, **Adriana Gainey**, **Luis Castellanos**, **Cecilia Diaz**, **Jesenia Gardea**, **Veronica Grajeda**, **Juan Guzman**, **Jose Juan Herrera**, **Hugo Horta**, **Carlos Ibarra**, **Tracy Marin**, **Dianne Martinez**, **Ricardo Perez**, **Manuel Quintero**, **Ariel Riggs**, **Gabriel Avila Rodriguez**, **Trinidad Saldana**, **Joel Sandoval**, **Michelle Palacios**, and **Jose A. Velez**. Company musicians include **Ruben Hernandez**, **Ricardo Arias**, **Luis Garcia**, **Alfredo Gomez**, **Gustavo Peña**, **John Aguilar**, **Eduardo Reynoso, Jr.**, **Everardo Cardenas**, **Miguel Gutierrez**, and **Carlos Parra**.

"It seems fitting that we should conclude our 2007-08 season with a celebration, and there are few companies as celebratory as Pacifico Dance Company, with their festive performance of traditional Mexican music and dance," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director.

What: Pacifico Dance Company
When: Wednesday, May 14 • 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis
Admission: \$39/\$34/\$24 Adults • \$19.50/\$17/\$12 Students & Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.2787
866.754.2787 (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
530.754.5402 [TDD]

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