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For immediate release:

## **MOMIX Returns to Mondavi Center Stage with *Best of MOMIX* Retrospective**

*September 23, 2008; Davis, California*—The uncannily athletic dancers of **MOMIX** return to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis** next month with *The Best of MOMIX*, a presentation of highlights from the company’s remarkable 25-year history. An unpredictable, sometimes bizarre, and often stunningly beautiful production filled with eye-popping, athletic choreography, *The Best of MOMIX* offers a dazzling overview of the work of the world-renowned company.

The event will begin at 3 pm on October 26 in the 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](http://MondaviArts.org). The event is presented as part of Mondavi Center’s **Target Marvels Family** series.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program will also present *The Best of MOMIX* as part of the 2008-09 **Mondavi Center School Matinee** program on October 27 at 11 am in Jackson Hall. 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 Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.4689.

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is the brainchild of choreographer and director **Moses Pendleton**. A co-founder of the acclaimed **Pilobolus Dance Theatre** as well as MOMIX, Pendleton has helped to create a new genre in which acrobatics, choreography, multimedia imagery, and more combine to create a poetic and lyrical style of theatre that is never short on dazzling visual effects. Critics have called MOMIX “eye-popping and mind-boggling” (*The New York Times*) and “mesmerizingly beautiful” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*).

Writing of Pendleton’s *Lunar Sea*, which delighted a sold-out Mondavi Center audience in October 2006, *The New York Times* critic described an enchanted world in which “ordinary

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## Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

concepts of weight are constantly defied” and “dancers bound about without touching the floor, or if they do, they constantly bound heavenward again... Body parts miraculously detach themselves and reassemble. Waving arms become bird wings. Shapes zip in and out as if on celestial skateboards. A duet in which [the dancers] are recognizably human beings, rather than odd critters, becomes a study in passionate entanglements.”

*The Best of MOMIX* features Pendleton’s “Moon Beams,” an excerpt from *Lunar Sea*, as well as his “Zaar” from *Passion*, and “Discman,” “Pole Dance,” “Sidewinder,” “Gila Dance,” “Millenium Skiva,” “Dream Catcher,” “Sputnik (Fellow Traveller),” and “E.C.” Also on the program are “Aqua Flora” and “The Wind Up,” choreographed by Pendleton and MOMIX Associate Director **Cynthia Quinn**, as well as “Tuu,” by Pendleton, **Tim Acito**, and **Solveig Olsen**.

For more than 30 years, Pendleton has been among America’s most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors. After co-founding Pilobolus Dance Theater in 1971, he went on to form MOMIX in the early 1980s and has been artistic director since 1984. He has also worked extensively in film, TV, and opera, and as a choreographer for ballet companies and special events.

Pendleton was born and raised on a dairy farm in Northern Vermont and thinks of his experiences showing his family’s dairy cows at the Caledonian County Fair as his first taste of the theatre. He received his B.A. in English Literature from **Dartmouth College** in 1971 and immediately began touring with Pilobolus, which had grown out of dance classes with **Alison Chase** at Dartmouth. The group shot to fame in the 1970s, performing on Broadway under the sponsorship of **Pierre Cardin**, touring internationally, and appearing in PBS’s *Dance in America* and *Great Performances* series.

By the end of the decade, Pendleton had begun to work outside of Pilobolus, performing in and serving as principal choreographer for the **Paris Opera**’s *Integrale Erik Satie* in 1979 and choreographing the Closing Ceremonies of the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in 1980. In 1981 he created MOMIX, which rapidly established an international reputation for highly inventive and often illusionistic choreography. Since the beginning, the troupe has been touring steadily and is currently performing several programs internationally. The company has made numerous special programs for Italian and French television and received the Gold Medal of the Verona Festival in 1994.

*The Best of MOMIX* is a dazzling summary of the company’s spectacular history, offering audiences an opportunity to experience 13 of the troupe’s signature pieces in one full-evening performance. Performing in the production will be **Samuel Beckman, Nicole Loizides, Heather Magee, Steven Marshall, Rebecca Rasmussen, Paula Rivera, Brian Simerson, and Jared Wootan**.

“MOMIX offers a unique theatrical experience and a stunning visual spectacle that has delighted audiences for more than 25 years,” said **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center’s executive director. “We’re pleased to be bringing the company back to the Mondavi Center as part of our 2008-09 Target Marvels Family series.”

Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

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**What:** MOMIX  
*The Best of MOMIX*

**When:** Sunday, October 26, 3 pm

**Where:** Jackson Hall  
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts  
University of California, Davis

**Admission:** \$45/\$35/\$25 Adults • \$22.50/\$17.50/\$12.50 Students, Children

**Tickets/Info:** 530.754.ARTS (2787)  
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)  
Patrons with disabilities: 530.754.2787  
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