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For Immediate Release

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Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents

ON THE VERGE: TEEN CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE

Summary Facts:

- ON THE VERGE: 14th Annual Teen Choreographers' Showcase
- Saturday, May 30, 2009, 8pm
- Marjorie Luke Theatre, 721 E Cota St, Santa Barbara
- Presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance
- General \$15, Dance Alliance Members \$12, Students/Seniors \$10, Patrons \$50
- For tickets or more information, contact Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or visit www.sbdancealliance.org. Tickets also available at the door.
- Editors note: Photo opportunities and interviews available upon request
- **High Resolution 300dpi photos are available under "Gallery" on the SBDA website**

Santa Barbara, CA – Eleven teens will present their original choreography at the Marjorie Luke Theater on Saturday, May 30th at 8pm at Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's 14th Annual ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcase. These creative and inspiring works will be performed by young dancers with everything from lighting to costumes designed by the young people.

The teens are all local and many are already veteran performers and scholarship winners. They range in age from 13 to 19, and come from local schools and dance studios including San Marcos High, Nordhoff High in Ojai, Westmont College, Santa Barbara Dance Arts, 14K Jules Dance, Cruz Dance & Entertainment, Linda Vega School of Dance, Gustafson School of Ballet, and UCSB. The showcase features a diverse mix of dance styles ranging from flamenco, hip-hop, modern and classical ballet. Eleven carefully mentored pieces will be performed, all from the unique perspectives of these cutting-edge, emerging artists.

All pre-professionals, the young dancers are given classes in choreography, costuming, music and lighting. They are coached in writing bios for programs and press releases. They gain skills of choosing their dancers, directing them, scheduling rehearsals and are working with professional mentors who guide them through the creative process. The teens also have the opportunity to show their work and discuss it with under-served youth, peers and seniors. They give out 350 tickets to these groups.

Mayor Marty Blum and Margo Cohen-Feinberg, who is a patron of the Dance Alliance scholarship program, will present Summer scholarships awards at the performance to young dancers 8-17 years old who all have talent, dedication and financial need. They are chosen by a panel of professional dancers/instructors after auditioning for them and being recommended by their studios. The funds are to study technique in Santa Barbara studios.

The entire production is directed by Heather Shea who has a dance degree from UCSB and teaches dance to youngsters in Santa Barbara. Julie McLeod, Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Executive Director co-directs the program.

Tickets are available on line at www.sbdancealliance.org or by calling Dance Alliance at 966-6950.

DESCRIPTION OF ARTISTS

Taylor Fisher, 16, is choreographing a modern quartet which she describes as quirky, feminine and uncomfortable. Costumes are based on 1920's era lingerie and the piece is set to an alternative folk ballad.

Armando Cervantes, 17, has choreographed an all boys hip-hop dance that includes break-dancing, pop, locking and stunts. He is a member of the performance group D-Boyz at Santa Barbara High School.

Kaci Yamanaka, 18, brings together a group of talented at-risk youth who perform with the organization Everybody Dance Now!. The 14 dancers are dancing in a high-energy hip-hop routine.

Gianna Burreight, from Nordhoff High in Ojai, is working on a piece that brings elements of release and tension together through her movement in a contemporary lyrical solo.

Robin Zelko, 16, develops her own theatrical hip-hop style to the stage for the 3rd year. Her ensemble of 11 dancers showcases a fluid style of feminine inspired hip-hop moves with a sassy twist.

Corrie Jiminez and Cari Helchuis are performing a flamenco duet with props, a hat and a fan, and amazingly quick footwork. Their beautiful costumes in blue and green compliment their smooth style and captivating charisma. Both choreographers dance with Linda Vega Dance Studio.

Maria Avila, 15, is a first time teen choreographer from San Marcos High and she is presenting a piece with both salsa and merengue styles in it for two couples.

Aryanna Aronson, 13, dances with Santa Barbara Dance Arts and she has created a hip-hop duet with extreme attitude and intricacy.

Alaina Lucido from Nordhoff High is performing her solo to music with Afro-jazz roots. Her modern movement moves from floor to air as she uses momentum and release in a highly physical piece about repression and freedom.

Year after year, Santa Barbara Dance Alliance watches the teens mature in their choreography as they return to be part of the showcase. These talented youngsters go on to university dance departments, become professional dancers, and many return to Santa Barbara to teach.

We are proud of our “Future Choreographers of America!”

This years mentors include: Cybil Gilbertson, Nicole Helton, Kim Hoj, Beth Deopante, Linda Vega, Alana Tillim, Derrick Curtis, Pamela Lappen, Shannon Abero, Steven Lovelace and Heather Shea. All are well-known Santa Barbara teachers and performers and provide professional guidance for the teen artists whose work is presented for ON THE VERGE.

ON THE VERGE: 14th Annual Teen Choreographers’ Showcase is presented by the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and is generously supported by Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Marjorie Luke Theatre’s Dreier Family Rent Subsidy Foundation,

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About Santa Barbara Dance Alliance

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a unique service organization focused on promoting dance and dance education in Santa Barbara County. In addition to ON THE VERGE, SBDA presents year round performances and community events including the DaM Festival (Multicultural Dance and Music), NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers, master classes in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures, and BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip Hop. In the past five years, SBDA has awarded over 100 scholarships to local, talented, dedicated young artists in need of financial support.

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