

**For Immediate Release 05/8/09**

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**SUU Department of Theatre Arts and Dance Awarded Prestigious NEA Grant**

(Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT) Southern Utah University Department of Theatre Arts and Dance was one of seventeen colleges and universities to be awarded the prestigious American Masterpieces: Dance NEA grant. This grant is awarded to colleges and university dance programs for the re-staging, performance and documentation of significant dance choreography in order to provide dance students with access to the legacy of American dance history. The \$15,000 grant puts SUU in the ranks of major universities such as University of Wisconsin- Madison, University of Michigan, North Carolina School of the Arts and the University of Washington.

This funding will allow the department to license Alwin Nikolais' *Imago* and restaged by Alberto Del Saz on SUU students during a campus residency. *Imago* was selected because of its broad appeal to audiences of all ages. Activities associated with this project will include: an artist residency, six performances of *Imago* on the SUU campus, lecture demonstrations at seven elementary schools, a cooperative learning project with the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company and finally culminating by representing the western United States as part of the Alwin Nikolais Centennial Celebration at Hunter College in New York City.

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**ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah

Shakespearean Festival, the performance group Acclamation, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. Over 550 students are majoring in 16 different degree areas in the arts. Both liberal arts B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, as well four professional degrees: Bachelor of Music (B.M.); Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Arts Education; and the B.F.A. in Theatre. The College's Art and Design, Music, and Dance programs are nationally accredited. More than 60 full and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring students in their pursuit of a degree in the arts. The College regularly enrolls 1100 students each semester in over 195 classes on the SUU campus. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean 435-865-8561 or by e-mail at [cpvamktg@suu.edu](mailto:cpvamktg@suu.edu).