

UCSD to present the "American Indian Dance Theatre" on Feb. 10 in Mandeville Auditorium

January 28, 1993

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UCSD TO PRESENT THE "AMERICAN INDIAN DANCE THEATRE" ON FEB. 10

The highly acclaimed American Indian Dance Theatre will perform traditional Native American dance and music at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets are \$18/\$20 general admission and \$14/\$16 student, and may be purchased from the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

The dancers and musicians represent numerous areas in North America, including the Dakotas, the Southwest, the Great Plains and Canada. They are Apache, Arapaho, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chippewa, Comanche, Cree, Creek, Kiowa, Makah, Mandan-Hidatsa, Navajo, Sioux, Southern Ute and Zuni.

The company will present traditional dances from many regions, including ceremonial and seasonal dances, spiritual and social dances offering wide individual expression. Some of the dances to be offered are The Fancy Shawl Dance, Hoop Dance, and "Eastern Woodlands Suite" featuring the Standing Quiver or Stomp Dance, Raccoon Dance, Old Style War Dance, Smoke Dance and Stick Dance. The "Woodland Suite" dances are social dances common to Eastern woodlands tribes.

Also to be performed, Northwest Coast Suite, representing the Paddle Dance, Raven, Sparrow and Spear dances and a mask dance from the Kwakiutl Tribe of Alert Bay, B.C.; Zuni Butterfly Dance, Eagle Dance, the "Appreciation Song," Apache Crown Dance and Fancy Dance Suite.

The music in the production includes ancient songs passed down from generation to generation by the tribal elders, along with more contemporary songs presented in the traditional style. None of the music is written down. Elders of the tribes may know several hundred songs, which they teach to newer, less experienced singers. The drum is the central instrument, accompanied by gourdes, rattles and bells.

The costumes worn by the dancers represent their tribe or nation in some way, made either by the performers or their families. Many of the pieces are handed down. The costumes are worn at important ceremonial events as well, and not designed specifically for the ensemble's performances. Company members are expert silversmiths, jewelers, mask carvers, bead workers and feather workers.

The company was founded by Barbara Schwei, a New York-based concert and theatrical producer, and Hanay Geiogamah, a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma, who is a renowned Native American playwright/director.

The ensemble was featured on public television's Great Performances in February 1990. A second hour-long special will be aired on Great Performances on May 21, 1993. The film, "The Doctor," starring William Hurt, featured the ensemble.

This event is brought to San Diego by The UCSD University Events Office. Parking permits are required on the UCSD campus and may be purchased at the Gilman Drive and Northview Drive information pavilions. For additional information call 534-4090.

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