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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Luis Valdez, Father of Chicano Theater, to Visit Cal Poly On May 22**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – **Luis Valdez is regarded as one of the most important and influential American playwrights living today.** His internationally renowned, and Obie award winning theater company, El Teatro Campesino (The Farm Workers' Theater) was founded by Valdez in 1965 – in the heat of the United Farm Workers (UFW) struggle and the Great Delano Grape Strike in California's Central Valley.

**His play, *Zoot Suit*, is considered a masterpiece of the American Theater as well as the first Chicano play on Broadway and the first Chicano major feature film.**

Luis' numerous feature film and television credits include, among others, the box office hit film *La Bamba* starring Lou Diamond Phillips, *Cisco Kid* starring Jimmy Smits and Cheech Marin and *Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution* starring Linda Ronstadt.

**Mr. Valdez has written numerous plays, authored numerous articles and books and won numerous awards.** His latest anthology *Mummified Deer and Other Plays* was recently published by Arte Publico Press. As an educator, he has taught at the University of California, Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, Fresno State University and was one of the founding professors of CSU Monterey Bay. He is the recipient of honorary doctorates from, among others, the University of Rhode Island, the University of South Florida, Cal Arts, the University of Santa Clara, and his alma mater, San Jose State University. Mr. Valdez was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. In 2007 he was awarded a Rockefeller fellowship as one of fifty USArtists so honored across the United States.

**A free lecture will be offered at 6:30-8:00 p.m. with book signing at 8:00-10:00 p.m. in Phillips Hall at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center, Building 6—Room 124, on the Cal Poly campus.**

**The event is free and open to the public.** It is sponsored by the Chicana Latino Faculty Staff Association, Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts, Modern Languages and Literatures Department, Ethnic Studies Department, Theatre and Dance Department, the Division of Student Affairs and the Movimiento Estudiantil Xicana/o de Aztlan (MEXA).

For more information, contact Modern Languages and Literatures Professor Dr. Gloria Velasquez at (805) 756-2992 or [gvelasqu@calpoly.edu](mailto:gvelasqu@calpoly.edu).

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