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Chapman Dance Piece Will Compete in Prestigious National Festival, June 4

ORANGE, Calif., May 2, 2008 A Chapman University student-choreographed dance piece has been selected to compete at the prestigious national American College Dance Festival in New York City on June 4, the university's College of Performing Arts announced today.

P-Noki (Puppet Edit) by Sarah Mann, a senior dance major who will be graduating from Chapman on May 17, was selected after the ACDF southwest regional competition in March (held at UC Irvine) to move on to the national festival. Actually, two Chapman dance works Mann's piece and In Nomine Artis by Giulia Carotenuto, another senior, were selected for the national competition, but because of an American College Dance Festival Association rule, only one piece per university is allowed to compete at the national level. The ACDF board and professional adjudicators finally chose Mann's piece to move on to the nationals.

In addition, Mann has been nominated as Outstanding Student Choreographer in the southwest region and will be considered for the national student choreographer award, which will be presented by Dance Magazine at the New York festival.

This is a prestigious opportunity and a testament to the choreographic training our students are receiving here at Chapman, said Dale Merrill, chair of Chapman University's Department of Dance.

The 13th Annual American College Dance Festival will be held at the Miller Theatre at Columbia University, New York City, on June 4-6, 2008. The Festival presents 29 dances performed in three gala performances featuring outstanding college and university dance groups, ensembles and choreographers. Dances represent a breadth of styles, including ballet, modern dance and African-influenced dance.

Chapman University and Pomona College are the only California schools represented among the finalist universities this year.