



Contact: Joe Martin
530.754.5428

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For immediate release:

Davidson's COLLAPSE to Feature 3-D Computer Images, Dance, and More at Mondavi Center

September 26, 2007; Davis, California—Why do systems collapse? *COLLAPSE (suddenly falling down)*, a new work by acclaimed choreographer and theater artist **Della Davidson**, explores the breakdown of social orders and ecosystems in a production including dance, spoken word, and highly advanced, three-dimensional computer-generated images that patrons may view using special 3-D glasses. Featuring **Sideshow Physical Theatre**, the resident professional company of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts** and the **UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance**, *COLLAPSE* will be presented in a series of performances in the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre.

COLLAPSE will be presented Thursday through Saturday, October 25-27, at 8 pm; on Sunday, October 28, at 7 pm; Thursday through Saturday, November 1-3, at 8 pm; and Sunday, November 4, at 7 pm, in the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org.

"In many ways, *COLLAPSE* is unlike anything I've done before," said Davidson, whose *10 PM Dream* was presented at the Mondavi Center in October 2005. "This piece has developed very collaboratively, in a process that involved several members of the university's science faculty, and with the 3-D computer projections, which the performers onstage can actually interact with, it's going to have a different look and feel from almost anything that local audiences might have seen before."

Davidson, a UC Davis professor of Theater and Dance and artistic director of Sideshow Physical Theatre, is the creator of more than 35 works, many of them performed by the **Della Davidson Dance Company**, which she directed in San Francisco for 15 years. Her work has been recognized by numerous awards and grants including an Isadora Duncan Award for Choreography, a North American Choreographers Award, a Gerbode Fellowship, Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production Grant, and many years of **National Endowment for the Arts** support.

Commissioned by the Mondavi Center to produce a new work as part the **Creativity Project**, a year-long series of performances, panel discussions, and other events examining the creative process, Davidson approached friend and writer **Ed Gaible** about collaborating on a new project in early summer. Gaible suggested a work based on ideas discussed in the recent bestseller *Collapse* by **Jared Diamond**, the author of

the highly influential *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. As many will remember from Diamond's May 2005 lecture at the Mondavi Center, the book uses a variety of examples to illustrate how societies collapse when they engage in practices that destroy basic resources. Davidson felt the idea was ripe for exploration, and the pair began work.

Around the same time, Davidson began conversations with two UC Davis science faculty, geologist **Dawn Sumner** and geophysicist **Louise Kellogg**, about collaborating on a project using the powerful KeckCAVES technology used by scientists at the **UC Davis W. M. Keck Center for Active Visualization in Earth Sciences**. The system's computer-generated three-dimensional images are typically used to study landscape changes, yet proved a perfect way to integrate images of ecological change and decay into Davidson's new stage presentation. Davidson's work with Sumner and Kellogg led to further conversations with other UC Davis faculty, including physicist **James Crutchfield**, computer scientists **Oliver Kreylos** and **Michael Neff**, and geophysicist **Gerald Bawden**, all of whom contributed to what Davidson has described as a "wonderful interdisciplinary collaboration between artists and scientists."

Davidson explained that audiences attending *COLLAPSE* will be given the option of wearing special glasses that will enable them to see the KeckCAVES projections in 3-D. On stage, dancers and actors will interact with the images using "wands" that allow them to move and change the projected landscapes. The production uses a variety of projected images—from news footage of social disorder in Rwanda and the Twin Towers collapsing to KeckCAVES images of shorelines eroding—to form a collective sense of the forces behind the collapse of social and ecological systems, as well as what happens when people lose faith and hope.

The production features the performers and designers of Sideshow Physical Theatre, the resident professional company of the Mondavi Center and the UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance. Sideshow Physical Theatre is devoted to the exploration of new performance forms and the creation of interdisciplinary work that merges text, dance, video, and film into productions that are viscerally, artistically, and intellectually challenging. The company supports the programs of the Department of Theatre and Dance by acting as a laboratory for the exploration of contemporary issues in dance and theater.

Performing onstage in *COLLAPSE* will be Sideshow members **Jane Schnorrenberg**, **Victor Toman**, **Christine Chen**, **Kegan Marling**, **Kerry Mehling**, **David Orzechowicz**, **Victoria Terrell-Carazo**, and **Sara Zimmerman**. The production includes music by **Richard Marriott**, principal composer of the **Clubfoot Orchestra**, which he founded in 1983. He has composed new soundtracks for several classic silent films, including *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Nosferatu*, and collaborative scores that have been performed live by the Clubfoot Orchestra at various theaters and venues throughout the country.

COLLAPSE is commissioned by the Mondavi Center, and made possible in part by funding received from an **Irvine Foundation** Creation to Performance grant as well as support from the UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance and the **W. M. Keck Foundation**.

"We are very proud to have been able to support the creation of *COLLAPSE*, and especially pleased to have been part of this unique collaboration between the science and arts faculty at UC Davis," said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center's executive director. "We look forward with great anticipation to presenting this groundbreaking work."

What: Sideshow Physical Theatre
COLLAPSE (suddenly falling down)

When: Thursday-Saturday, October 25-27 • 8 pm
Sunday, October 28 • 7 pm
Thursday-Saturday, November 1-3 • 8 pm
Sunday, November 4 • 7 pm

Where: Studio Theatre
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
University of California, Davis

Admission: \$29 Adults • \$14.50 Students & Children

Tickets/Info: 530.754.ARTS (2787)
866.754.ARTS (toll-free)
<http://www.MondaviArts.org>
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