



CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXPERIMENTAL FESTIVAL EXPLORES EDGES OF ARTS SCENE **Center for the Performing Arts Celebrates Diversity of Up-and-Coming Local Groups**

PHOENIX, AZ (January 19, 2006) -- Dr. Christopher Scinto, chair for the Performing and Fine Arts division at Paradise Valley Community College, sensed that a niche needed to be filled in the local arts scene. While the Valley's arts offerings continues to grow with new venues springing up almost as fast as gated communities, Scinto, an accomplished musician and composer, passionately believes it's time to showcase the edgier, avant-garde groups that are pushing the boundaries on the nature of performance. The result is the **FIRST ANNUAL PHOENIX EXPERIMENTAL ARTS FESTIVAL**, co-sponsored by Maricopa Community Colleges and Phoenix New Times, on February 9-11, 2006, at the Center for the Performing Arts in North Phoenix. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 any single night or \$25 for a three-day festival pass.

Scinto commented, "Although the general public may not be aware, Phoenix does have an emerging scene of young artists creating works that are often defined as "alternative." This festival will provide these artists with a venue to present their work to a new audience in a state-of-the-art performing arts facility." He continued, "We believe it's imperative to support the emerging artists and performance groups as an important development in the vitality of the Phoenix arts scene similar to the way the First Fridays in Downtown Phoenix has spotlighted the visual arts."

The schedule for the festival follows:

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Thursday, February 9, 2006: *An Evening of Modern Dance*
Performed by Scorpius Dance Theatre, Ryan Dance Theatre,
Via Corpo Dance Research and Foot Klan

Friday, February 10, 2006: *An Evening of Contemporary Theatre*
Performed by Theatre In My Basement and Stray Cat Theatre

Saturday, February 11, 2006: *An Evening of Experimental Music*
Performed by Crossing 32nd Street

New to the Valley's rapidly-expanding cultural scene, the **Center for the Performing Arts** opened to great acclaim this past October. It is a 25,000-square-foot fully-professional theatre equipped for music, theater and dance productions, plus film presentations. In addition, the lobby space serves as an art gallery. The multi-use facility houses student productions, touring acts and educational programs, and will be utilized for instructional purposes. The venue is outfitted with the latest technology and contains state-of-the-art lighting, sound and audio visual equipment as well as an orchestra pit and seating that accommodate approximately 300 patrons. The **Center for the Performing Arts** is conveniently located at 34th Street and Union Hills at the east end of the campus of Paradise Valley Community College, 18401 North 32nd Street in North Phoenix. Reservations are suggested. For tickets or more information, call 602.787.7738.

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