

For Immediate Release

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Montalvo announces Teaching Artist Fellowship winners

SARATOGA, Calif. – Montalvo Arts Center today announced that **Daniel A. Kelin II (Honolulu, HI); Carol Ponder (Nashville, TN); Nilea Rohrer-Parvin (Austin, TX);** and **Sophia L. Torres (Houston, TX)** have been named as recipients of the new Teaching Artist Fellowship, a joint initiative between Montalvo's education program and the Sally and Don Lucas Artists Programs.

Teaching artists are professional artists who concurrently dedicate themselves to arts education, with both artistic and educational skills, teaching within and beyond their artistic discipline. The first national award of its kind dedicated to professionals in the teaching artist field, the Teaching Artist Fellowship provides a three-month residency at Montalvo's Lucas Artists Programs and partnership with a local school for curriculum development. Fellowship winners were selected from more than 100 applicants by a jury of distinguished leaders in the arts education world.

Daniel A. Kelin II is the Director of Drama Education with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. Kelin has taught in Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands and Samoa, and developed specialty programs for Pacific Island English as a Second Language Learners throughout Hawaii. The American Alliance for Theatre and Education awarded him the 1995 Youth Theatre Director of the Year award and in 2002 he was honored with the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Barbara Karlin grant. His published works include *Marshall Islands Legends and Stories* and *To Feel As Our Ancestors Did, Collecting and Performing Oral Histories*.

Carol Ponder, a professional singer, actress, and musician of almost 40 years, has more than 18 years of experience in education through the arts. In her capacities as teaching artist and consultant, Ponder has taught in the classroom and worked with many configurations of teachers, from one-on-one intensives to workshops of over 100 participants, leading professional development seminars for Teaching Artists throughout the North and Southeast. Ponder has also worked both individually and with teachers in numerous organizations to design and execute assessment strategies and program evaluations for arts education curricula.

Nilea Rohrer-Parvin is a leader and activist in the field of arts education whose work emphasizes inquiry-based, integrated curricula within schools and classrooms. She has conducted professional development programs and facilitated numerous art programs for people with disabilities and ESL students. Rohrer-Parvin designed and implemented the A.E.I.O.U. Program (*Arts Education Increases Our Understanding*), establishing an interdisciplinary arts curriculum for an International Baccalaureate program in Hot Springs, Arkansas. A teaching artist with the Arkansas Arts Council and VSAarts, Texas, she is the recipient of the Arkansas Art Educators Award and continues her own education studying metallurgy and engineering design graphics.

Sophia L. Torres is a Founding Member and Co-Artistic Director of Psophonia Dance Company in Houston, Texas. She has choreographed 20 original works under Psophonia and has been recognized by American College Dance Festival, DiverseWorks Artspace, JCC's Choreographer's X6, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre for her innovative choreography. She received the Artist Fellowship Award in Choreography and three Artist Project Awards for arts in education programming from Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County, Texas. Torres is on the faculty at the University of Houston and is actively involved in creating quality arts in education programs for Houston students.

"We were overwhelmed with the number of submissions we received from passionate and committed candidates from across the country, and are thrilled with the fellows that have been selected," said Katie Haggerty, director of education at Montalvo Arts Center. "The four Teaching Artist Fellows share a special, creative approach to their lives, and their ideas of what can happen when the community of artists at Montalvo

and the students at Downtown College Prep come together were truly inspiring.”

The fellows will first meet together at Montalvo in June 2007 for an intensive planning week and will return for individual three-month residencies over the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. While in residence, the fellows will divide their time between the Lucas Artists Programs, Montalvo’s education program and their partnership with Downtown College Preparatory School in San Jose.

"This is a great opportunity for our students," said Jennifer Andaluz, principal at Downtown College Prep. "At a time when the arts are being cut in schools across the nation, we have the opportunity to have incredible teaching artists in the classroom, developing new curriculum that will inspire creativity across the disciplines."

"The Teaching Fellows program is such a rich opportunity for everyone involved – the artists, the students and the community," said Robert Sain, executive director at Montalvo. "We see this as an amazing opportunity to provide the fellows with time to dedicate to their work, as well as the chance to share this work and their breadth of experience with the youth and community members of Silicon Valley."

For additional information about the Teaching Artist Fellowship program and selected fellows, visit www.montalvoarts.org or call (408) 961-5812 or (408) 777-2119.

About Montalvo Arts Center

Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging meaningful connections between art, artists and the communities it serves through creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. Located in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center occupies a Mediterranean-style villa on 175 stunning acres, which Senator James Phelan left to the people of California for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture. In January 2005, the organization changed its name from "Montalvo" to "Montalvo Arts Center" to commemorate its 75th year as an arts center and to better communicate its mission to expanding local, national and international audiences. For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call (408) 961-5800 or visit www.montalvoarts.org.

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