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For Immediate Release

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Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents
'West Side Story' the film,
followed by a discussion and a dance performance by Buck World One.

Summary Facts:

- Showing of *West Side Story*, the film (1961)
- Presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance
- A panel discussion will follow the film
- Live performance by dance group Buck World One
- Monday, December 10
- 5:30-8:30pm
- The Marjorie Luke Theatre, 721 E Cota
- FREE

Hear the songs "Tonight," "Maria," and "America" and you conjure haunting images of two teenage lovers from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds torn apart by the devastating effects of racism, intolerance and bitter rivalry.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the groundbreaking Broadway musical, *West Side Story*. Santa Barbara Dance Alliance (SBDA) feels strongly that the messages in *West Side Story* are relevant now more than ever, and our youth, especially the at-risk youth, need to see this film. Julie McLeod, Executive Director of SBDA says, "Art has the powerful ability to touch people deeper in their hearts than any other medium. Besides, the dancing is fabulous."

SBDA will present a FREE showing of *West Side Story*, the film along with a panel discussion and a 'Buck' dance performance from African American group Buck World One, will bring the dance up to date.

West Side Story is a FREE event held at the Marjorie Luke Theatre on Monday, December 10, 2007 from 5:30-8:30pm. For more information call the SBDA office at 805.966.6950 or visit www.sbdancealliance.org.

End

300 dpi photos, courtesy of Julie McLeod, available at:

<http://www.sbdancealliance.org/productions/WestSideStory/> or by emailing dance@sbdancealliance.org

Bios

Julie McLeod, Executive Director of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, is an original cast member of the Broadway Musical, *West Side Story*. In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Julie will return to New York City for a reunion performance of *West Side Story* at the Neil Simon Theater on Broadway December 17 and 18. Julie has devoted her endless passion, energy and fortitude to teaching dance and supporting dance and dancers from every genre. Julie received SBDA's first Lifetime Achievement Award. She is involved with many non-profit organizations including co-founding California Dance Network, and is President of Santa Barbara Performing Arts League. Julie also teaches ballet and private Reformer Pilates.

Buck World One, a dance group of African-American High School and Junior College students from San Bernadino, CA. is mentored by Rickerby Hinds, an Assistant Professor of Playwriting at UC Riverside. Buck World One offers a safe haven and creative outlet for youth and young adults who would otherwise be at risk of succumbing to the violence and pressures of their surroundings. Buck World One will be performing the dance genre, "Bucking" which is a derivative of the latest Hip-Hop style called "Krumping".