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Photos available on request

Wesleyan University Dance Department and Center for the Arts Present

Joe Goode Performance Group

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Bay Area's premiere dance theater gives east coast premiere of works at Wesleyan.

Middletown, Conn., December 20, 2006—The east coast premiere of Joe Goode's *Stay Together*, a dance-theater piece collaboratively written with San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, takes place at Wesleyan University Friday and Saturday, February 2 and 3, 2007. The work, a poetic exploration of the challenges imposed by personal relationships, will be performed along with *Deeply There*, an intimate exploration of the AIDS crisis in a work widely acknowledged to be Goode's masterpiece. Both performances take place at 8pm at the CFA Theater at Wesleyan University. A pre-show talk by Laurie Uprichard, Executive Director of New York City's Dancespace takes place before Friday's performance at 7:15 in Zilkha Gallery on the Wesleyan campus. Admission is \$20 general admission; \$17 student and senior admission. For more information and tickets, call 860-685-3355 or visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

"...subversive artist who must be watched..."—*Los Angeles Times* on Joe Goode

"...fresh, touching and wickedly funny."—Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*, on Goode's *Deeply There*

Presented as the highlight of the company's 20th anniversary season, *Stay Together* marks the first time Goode and Tilson Thomas have worked together and the first time Tilson Thomas has composed music for a dance company. The genesis of the Goode-Tilson Thomas collaboration goes back to 2002 when the two artists began discussing ways to work together. Over the years, Tilson Thomas has attended several of Goode's performances and became intrigued by the choreographer's fusion of text, song, multi-media and high-velocity movement. Together, they selected one of Tilson Thomas' theater songs, "Stay Together," a "mordant homage to a bygone era of pop," according to the composer. Though the song is the central musical element of the dance, it is a touchstone for other musical and theatrical developments, expanded and reshaped for the purposes of Goode's narrative. In this deconstruction process, the artists will experiment with ways of creating epiphanies of movement and sound, forging intersections where language, music and dance can comfortably exist together.

"Our efforts, thus far, have resulted in new music and movement sections that are inspired by a tiny gesture in the original composition or a fragment of the original lyrics," commented Goode. "Of course, for me, just the title alone offers endless possibilities of how we stay together in a

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society that dogmatically emphasizes the new." As it seems to be unfolding, *Stay Together* regards an older artist and how he approaches his work, his personal relationships, and what it takes to stay together not with a desired effect, but with an appetite for dialogue.

Deeply There, Goode's powerful and critically praised 1998 response to the AIDS epidemic, will serve as the ideal companion piece for an evening that represents the best of 20 years of provocative and enlightening dance theater. Goode's kinetic narrative explores the havoc of the AIDS crisis and how San Francisco's Castro District has reshaped itself into a more humane and diverse community, examining the many unlikely alliances and alternate family structures born out of necessity with the urban AIDS culture.

Deeply There won a 1999 New York Dance and Performance Award, the "Bessie." Dance critic Jennifer Dunning of *The New York Times* likened the effect of the work to the ache at the heart of James Agee's novel, *A Death in the Family*, further praising Goode's piece as "fresh, touching and wickedly funny."

Founded in 1986, the Joe Goode Performance Group incorporated as a non-profit organization with the mission of providing a support structure for the artistic work of Joe Goode. Over the past 20 years, the multi-award winning company has performed annually in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has toured extensively throughout the United States. Abroad, Joe Goode's artistry has been acclaimed at dance venues and festivals in Europe, South America, Canada, Africa and the Middle East including the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theater. In addition to a dynamic stage repertory, which includes the recently premiered commissioned play, *The Body Familiar*, at San Francisco's Magic Theatre, Joe Goode has been hailed for inventive installations at museums and galleries across the U.S. Goode's current activities include creating a new work for the Pittsburgh-based Dance Alloy, and working with the San Francisco Opera Center on their forthcoming production of Conrad Susa's *Transformations*.

Joe Goode Performance Group's performances at Wesleyan are made possible in part by the National Dance Project.

About Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts (<http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa>) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance as well as film studies events and classes. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

Stay Together and *Deeply There* are taking place as part of the CFA's Breaking Ground Dance Series. For more information or a spring brochure of all CFA events, call 860-685-3355 or visit the University Box Office, located on the first floor of the Davenport Campus Center (222 Church Street). 24/7 Online ticketing is now available at www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

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