



## **CSU/CI Hosts Artist José Torres Tama Sept. 16, 18**

Camarillo, Calif., Sept. 12, 2008 - The Performing Arts Program and the Multicultural and Women's & Gender Student Center at California State University Channel Islands will host critically acclaimed New Orleans performance artist José Torres Tama for a four-day residency on the University's campus as a kick off for Hispanic Heritage month beginning on Sept. 15.

Torres Tama has toured nationally/internationally for a dozen years, and is the recent recipient of "Fund for the Arts" Ford Foundation Fellowship awarded by the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC). A Louisiana Theater Fellow and an award recipient from the National Endowment for the Arts, he creates performances that thrive on a fusion of spoken word, rituals of fire, conceptual movement, tableau installation, and exaggerated personae--creating spectacles that are visually dynamic and politically charged.

His solos have been presented in Mexico, Canada, Eastern Europe, and extensively across the USA at venues such as Performance Space 122 & Theater for the New City in New York, The National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, DiverseWorks in Houston, and the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans. In the academy, institutions such as Cornell, Duke, Louisiana State, Dillard, Kalamazoo College, Rutgers, and the University of Michigan have presented his provocative solos and academic lectures on performance art as a tool for social change.

Torres Tama's post-Katrina commentaries have aired on NPR's "Latino USA" and on WWNO, the local public radio station in New Orleans. His most recent commentary for "Latino USA" aired on August 29, 2008.

A lecture, "Performance Art as a Tool for Social Change" is a dynamic multidisciplinary lecture scheduled at 4 p.m. on Sept. 16, in Malibu Hall 140, open to the public and free of charge. The performance, "The Cone of Uncertainty: New Orleans After Katrina" is Torres Tama's solo multimedia performance scheduled at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18, in Malibu Hall 140, free of charge for CSU/CI students; \$5 for CSU/CI faculty and staff; and \$10 for the general public.

Limited parking is available on campus and is \$6 for a daily permit. Free parking is available at the Camarillo Metrolink Station/Lewis Road parking lot in Camarillo with shuttle service to and from the campus. Riders should board the CSU/CI VISTA Bus and the fare is \$1 each way. Buses arrive and depart from the Camarillo Metrolink Station every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. For exact times, check the schedule at [www.goventura.org](http://www.goventura.org).

For more information about Torres Tama's performances contact Dr. Catherine Scott Burriss, Assistant Professor of Performing Arts, at 805-437-3126 or [catherine.burriss@csuci.edu](mailto:catherine.burriss@csuci.edu).

For media inquiries about Torres Tama's performances contact Nancy Covarrubias Gill, Director of Communication & Marketing at CSU/CI, 805-437-8456 or [nancy.c.gill@csuci.edu](mailto:nancy.c.gill@csuci.edu).

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*CSU/CI Mission Statement*

*Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.*