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Judith O’Dea Morr Honored with 2009 Chairman’s Cup

Annual Award Recognizes Distinguished Service to the Center

COSTA MESA, CA – The Orange County Performing Arts Center’s 2009 Chairman’s Cup was awarded to Center Executive Vice President Judith O’Dea Morr at the July 23 Annual Meeting of Members. Thomas V. McKernan, board chairman, selected Morr in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the Center and its many artistic achievements during her tenure. The Chairman’s Cup pays special tribute to individuals who have contributed extraordinary service to the Center, and the recipients are selected by the board chairman.

McKernan said, “It gives me tremendous pleasure to publicly express the Center’s deep gratitude to Judy. It is safe to say that the Center would not be the Center were it not for Judy Morr. Her incomparable dedication to the Center is legendary, as are her many great accomplishments. Her countless contributions go far beyond the call of duty, and I am honored to present this year’s Chairman’s Cup to Judy in recognition of her many years of great service to the Center.”

Judith O’Dea Morr came to the Orange County Performing Arts Center in 1985, one year prior to the grand opening. She has held a variety of positions over the years, including general manager, interim president and chief operating officer, vice president of programming and executive vice president, the position she currently holds. Throughout her distinguished tenure, she has been instrumental in establishing the Center as one of the nation’s most prestigious performing arts institutions and creating a major cultural destination in Orange County.

One of Morr’s most visible contributions has been overseeing all of the Center’s diverse programming. She has been influential in shaping the Center’s annual Broadway presentations into one of the most successful series in the country. Under Morr’s guidance, the Center has firmly established itself as one of the world’s leading presenters of dance. She has secured numerous world, American and West Coast premieres for the Center, including the world premieres of *Kings of the Dance* (2006) and *Diana Vishneva: Beauty in Motion* (2008), both of which were co-commissioned and produced by the Center. All of the world’s leading international companies have appeared at the Center, including such prestigious companies as the Bolshoi Ballet, the Kirov Ballet, London’s Royal Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, the National Ballet of China, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet and San Francisco Ballet, among many others.

Prior to joining the Center, Morr served as general manager of theaters at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Morr was responsible for the operation of four theaters and

oversaw an in-house producing team which regularly mounted new theatrical and opera productions for Kennedy Center, including a double bill of Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and *A Quiet Place*, as well as dozens of other theatrical ventures. Her extensive theater experience also includes senior positions at performing arts venues in New York and Boston.

Morr is a member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers, the International Society of Performing Arts Administrators and the Broadway League. She has served on the boards of St. Joseph Ballet and AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County.

Orange County Performing Arts Center

The Orange County Performing Arts Center presents a wide variety of the most significant national and international productions of music, dance and theater to the people of Southern California. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages and offering unsurpassed experiences, engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and an array of inspiring programs.

As Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization, the Center owns and operates the 3,000-seat Segerstrom Hall and intimate 250-seat Founders Hall, which opened in 1986, and the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, which opened in 2006 and also houses the 500-seat Samueli Theater, and the Lawrence and Kristina Dodge Education Center's studio performance space and Boeing Education Lab. These state-of-the-art facilities are united by a community arts plaza.

The Center's Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and community plaza, along with facilities of the adjacent Tony® Award-winning South Coast Repertory and a site designated as the new home of the Orange County Museum of Art, are located at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

The Orange County Performing Arts Center presents a broad range of programming each season for audiences of all ages from throughout Orange County, and beyond, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events.

It offers many education programs designed to inspire young people through the arts. These programs reach hundreds of thousands of students of all ages with vital arts-in-education programs, enhancing their studies and enriching their lives well into the future.

The Orange County Performing Arts Center is proud to serve as the artistic home to the region's major performing arts organizations: Pacific Symphony, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County and the Pacific Chorale.

For more information, visit OCPAC.org. The Center can also be found online at Blogger, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and Flickr.