



MO'OLELO  
PERFORMING  
ARTS COMPANY

**For Immediate Release**

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**Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company Kicks off its 2005 Season**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2005-** San Diego, CA- Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, a theatre organization dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego's cultural environment, announced they will kick off their 2005 season with a staged reading of a new play titled *The Land Southward* at 7PM on February 16, 2005, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 4190 Front Street in Hillcrest. This is the first in a series of three play readings that Mo'olelo will showcase this spring.

Written by California-based playwright Darcy Hogan, *The Land Southward* tells the story of those affected by the fallout of above-ground nuclear testing conducted by the US government in the 1950's. Based on true stories, the play follows a Mormon bride, an aging downwind survivor and an LA writer through their journey from the 1940's to present day, bringing to light many disturbing and important events in our country's history.

The reading will be directed by Esther Emery, who recently directed *Hecuba* at 6th@Penn Theatre. The cast includes Jim Chovick, Robert Dahey, Jason Heil, Jennifer Eve Kraus, Andrea Maida, D'Ann Paton and Siobhan Sullivan. The production will be co-sponsored by the Peace and Democracy Action group of the First Unitarian Universalist Church.

"The Land Southward fits well into our mission because it allows us to showcase a new play and bring to light an important, but relatively unknown story," says Seema Sueko, Artistic Director for Mo'olelo. "We will continue to produce readings so we can invite the audience to participate in the artistic process and provide feedback, ensuring we're achieving our mission of telling stories that are unique and engaging."

Like other Mo'olelo performances, there will be a post-show discussion with the playwright, the director, and Shirley Vaine, a board member of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$10.

In the March, Mo'olelo will produce a reading of *The Squirrel Wife*, a new play by Seattle-based playwright Kimber Lee. In the late spring, the company will produce a reading of *The Adoption Project*, written by Mo'olelo's artistic team. Mo'olelo plans to run its next full scale production in the Fall when it will produce *A Piece of My Heart*, a moving story written by Shirley Lauro about the women who served in the Vietnam War. For the latest schedule and ticket information, visit [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net).

**About Mo'olelo**

Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, recipient of the McDonald Playwriting Award, is dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego theatre by telling interesting and lesser known stories about diverse cultures. Its mission is to create new works based on research within various communities; produce lesser-known works by master and contemporary playwrights, and educate youth in the areas of technical theatre and design. Mo'olelo is committed to providing a living wage for its artists and works closely with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers. To learn more about Mo'olelo, visit [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net).