



MO'OLELO
PERFORMING
ARTS COMPANY

For Immediate Release

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Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company Finds Success with *remains* in Minnesota

San Diego, CA (March 15, 2006) – Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company, an organization dedicated to presenting socially conscious theatre and innovative arts education programs, announced their inaugural show, *remains*, met with box office success earlier this month at Saint Mary's University in Minnesota. The private school outside of Minneapolis chose Mo`olelo's *remains* after scouring hundreds of scripts written by female playwrights about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Written by Mo`olelo's Artistic Director, Seema Sueko, and developed by the Company in 2003 and 2004, *remains* tells the story of an American Muslim girl who is found dead in Israel/Palestine. The play received the KPBS "McDonald Playwriting" Patte Award and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's "Artistic and Cultural Achievement" Award when Mo`olelo premiered it in San Diego.

The Saint Mary's show marks the second full production of *remains*, which, like the San Diego production, met with box office success, with 82% of their capacity sold. The show ran from March 2 - 6, 2006 at the Valencia Theatre in Winona, Minnesota and was directed by Judy Myers and featured juniors Elizabeth Wessa and Kathryn Edson.

Sueko was invited to the University to observe the show, participate in post-show discussions, and lecture to arts, theatre, and women's studies classes. In addition she gave a lecture titled "An American Muslim in Israel" for the International Committee.

"San Diego theatre was well represented this month in Minnesota. I had an opportunity to speak about our city's cultural environment and the important work being done by many of our local theatre companies," said Sueko. "And the SMU production of *remains* was outstanding. I learned a tremendous amount about my script from watching their show, and I plan on making some minor adjustments to the text for future productions."

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About Mo`olelo

Mo`olelo means *story* in Hawaiian. A recipient of the McDonald Playwriting and the Anti-Discrimination Awards, Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company is dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego theatre by telling powerful stories that are as diverse as the islands of Hawaii. 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. Mo`olelo is committed to providing a living wage for local artists and works closely with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers. To learn more, visit www.moolelo.net or call 619-342-7395.