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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cabrillo College Presents 5th Annual Evening of World Theatre with
South Indian Dance Company Abhinaya
Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 PM, Cabrillo Crocker Theater**

Aptos, CA—Cabrillo College Theatre Arts presents the Fifth Annual Evening of World Theatre with the Abhinaya Dance Company, featuring acclaimed dancer and artistic director Mythili Kumar, on February 25 at the Cabrillo Crocker Theater at 8:00 PM.

Discover the rhythm and beauty of South Indian classical dance forms with the Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose. Founded by its artistic director Mythili Kumar in 1980, the company presents innovative and professional performances of Indian dance forms, primarily Bharatanatyam.

The evening's performance will feature Kumar, whom *The Times of India*, Mumbai dance critic praised, saying, "For a long time now, one had not witnessed a Bharatanatyam recital with a touch of rarity and class, marked by style and substance as the performance by Mythili Kumar... A grand evening with a great dancer."

Endowed with abundant grace and a commanding stage presence, Mythili Kumar performed extensively in India before moving to the U.S in 1978. Trained in three different Indian classical dance forms – Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi, Mythili gained recognition for her versatility when she performed all three styles in a single performance. In 1980, she began teaching Bharatanatyam in the Bay Area at the request of a few friends, naming it the Abhinaya School of Dance. Touring the USA and Canada with musicians from India, to great acclaim, provided the inspiration for Kumar to inculcate this passion in her students as well. The school gained a reputation for excellence from its first student performance as well as its first original production of *Shiva-the Cosmic Dancer* in 1986. With the award of the company's first grant, and the successful audition of its first batch of students for the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, the path was laid for Mythili to continue with her innovative and creative work.

Presenting performances of the highest caliber that have won praise from the community, the school garnered continuous support from various funding agencies, eventually leading to the transformation of the school to a non-profit organization in 1990, known as the Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose. The company has toured throughout India and many parts of the U.S. Kumar has been honored by World Arts West with the Malonga Casquelord Lifetime Achievement Award and a "Sustained Achievement Award" by the Bay Area Isadora Duncan Award committee. Mythili has received choreography grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and her creativity has led her to choreograph several original productions as well as solo pieces over the years that have constantly won acclaim.

What: Abhinaya Dance Company

When: Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 PM

Where: Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Parking: Parking is free at the complex on weekends

Price: \$18 General, \$15 Seniors/Students, \$13 w/SAC card

Tickets: www.cabrillovapa.com or 831-479-6154

About Cabrillo College

Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career, and personal development goals.