



dance marathon at ucla

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

DANCE MARATHON MC'S WORLD AIDS DAY THIS FRIDAY, DEC 1st
"KISS AND TELL"

WHAT: This Friday, December 1, 2006, Dance Marathon at UCLA will be **MC'ing and co-hosting** the events in Bruin Plaza on **World AIDS Day** at 11:30. Additionally, Dance Marathon will be leading a student procession from the Court of Sciences. World AIDS Day is the culmination of an entire week of programming that will include free testing and public events. **Eunice Mangwane, Dawn Everitt, and Jake Glaser** (a representative from Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation- a Dance Marathon Beneficiary) will speak on the behalf of Dance Marathon at UCLA. The procession of hundreds of students, the speeches, and rapid, anonymous HIV testing units hosted by Dance Marathon will all aim at raising awareness for AIDS and promoting more open communication about AIDS. The World AIDS Day will also be the **last day of dancer early registration** for the Dance Marathon on February 17-18.

WHEN: **Friday, December 1st**, starting at 11:30 am.

WHERE: The event will begin with a student procession into Bruin Plaza from three corners of campus. All following events will take place in Bruin Plaza.

THE THEME: The theme this year is "**Kiss and Tell**," a slogan that acknowledges- and affirms- healthy sexuality even as it encourages communication between partners and underscores the importance of knowing, and revealing, one's HIV status. Throughout the day there will be free, rapid, anonymous HIV testing and counseling services on campus. Organizations will provide information on prevention methods and ways to get involved with HIV/AIDS activism on campus, in the community, and worldwide.

SPONSORS: The following groups organized the World AIDS Day events
UCLA AIDS Institute
Department of World Arts and Cultures
Art|Global Health Institute
The Fowler Museum
UCLA Film and Television Archive
Dance Marathon*
Student Welfare Commission*
UCLA AIDS Ambassadors*
USAC General Representative's Office*
Students for International Change*
(* - student groups)

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About Dance Marathon at UCLA (DM):

Dance Marathon at UCLA is the largest student-organized philanthropic event on the West Coast. It is an entirely student-initiated, student-run 26-hour dance-a-thon that unites college students, activists and community members in the fight against pediatric AIDS.

In response to the devastating global AIDS pandemic, students at UCLA have rallied together to organize a 26-hour annual dance-a-thon to raise money for the cause. Participants acknowledge the battle of children suffering from AIDS by fighting their own personal battle: staying on their feet for the entire duration of the event. With thousands of participants every year, live music, and appearances by celebrities and activists alike, Dance Marathon has been able to raise over \$650,000 to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation – the largest pediatric AIDS foundation in the United States. Starting this year, Dance Marathon will also benefit Camp Kindle and Camp Heartland, two free summer camp programs for HIV-affected children. In 2006 alone, Dance Marathon united over 2,000 supporters and grossed over a quarter of a million dollars in financial contributions. Moreover, since its inception in 2002, Dance Marathon has sought to empower the UCLA campus community in the fight against pediatric AIDS, raising not only money, but also awareness about the importance of HIV education and testing, and helping young people to make a difference in halting the spread of this critical, preventable disease.