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Media Contact: Kaysie S Brown, Assistant Professor of Dance, 512-245-3448, ks34@txstate.edu

**University Students Use Dance to Teach 3rd Graders STEM Subjects** *Texas State University Dance students will provide a free performance for over 700 2nd graders.*

**San Marcos, TX:** On April 28th, over 700 second grade students attending San Marcos public schools will be bussed to Texas State University to experience the campus in conjunction with an interactive one-hour dance-theatre performance demonstrating basic curricular themes such as science, engineering, literature and mathematical concepts.

The performance is presented by a touring group of Texas State University students known as CI*M* TEYA!. The group has been touring locally as well as to nearby towns for approximately 4 ½ years. Last year they collaborated with Texas State University’s pre-professional dance company, Merge, and the School of Education to produce a Friday matinee for 300 San Marcos school children. The success of last year’s matinee resulted in a relationship with the Executive Director of Elementary at San Marcos CISD.

CI*M* TEYA! (2015/2016) performer, Hailey Hix stated, “It’s exciting to see kids get excited about learning new things through the dances being performed.” CI*M* TEYA! (2015/2016) performer, Kaelyn Miller agreed, “I loved seeing the works we created inspire and excite the children while we performed. It made me fall more in love with dance and helped reinforce the reasons why I dance.”

This year, with the help of funding from the City of San Marcos, CI*M* TEYA! has acquired a larger venue on-campus, and as a result is able to invite a much larger number of students. CI*M* TEYA! aims to make this April matinee an annual event in collaboration with the SMCISD, and in the future would also like to invite other schools in the San Marcos community such as the Texas Preparatory School, a charter school that is part of the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Texas.

Students, teachers and parents all enjoy the presentation. Dr. Jeff Helgeson said “As a parent and an educator, I believe it is critical that we teach kids to approach learning from a global and creative perspective. CI*M* TEYA! presents a unique chance to inspire San Marcos students to think in new ways by exposing them to a world-class fine arts project happening in their own back yard.”

Last year the performance portrayed works inspired by the scientific concept of erosion, the mathematical concept of symmetry and asymmetry, flocks of birds dancing in the sunlight, Shel Silverstein’s poem *Sick,* and Mexican Folk Tales retold by San Antonio based Xavier Garza’s book, *Creepy Creature and Other Cucuys*; as well as *#shakeitoff*, a piece about using art to heal when dealing with cyber-bullying.

This upcoming performance will include some of the above repertoire plus a re-working of a work inspired by the metaphor of life as a journey portrayed using flight attendant announcements along with some lines taken from Dr. Seuss’ *Oh The Places You’ll Go,* and finally a brand new work, *Have You Heard of Me?,* choreographed by guest artist, Misti Galvan in collaboration with the CI*M* TEYA! dancers based on female engineers!

Kaysie S Brown, Artistic Director of CI*M* TEYA! said, “*CIM* TEYA! works extremely hard all year but there is no preparation for the experience of performing live for children. It fills my and the dancers’ hearts with pride and joy as we scan the audience and see children dancing in their seats and contributing ideas, while learning about academic concepts such as science and math through the art of dance.”

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**About CI*M* TEYA!:** Creation in *Motion* Touring Ensemble for Young Audiences or CI*M* TEYA! (pronounced “SIM-TAY-UH”) is a touring ensemble made up of dance majors from Texas State University and led by Assistant Professor Kaysie S Brown. Together, they create dances that teach young audiences Science/ SEL, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math concepts (STREAM), while finding unique ways to utilize technology. They combine works to create an interactive, educational touring performance that visits elementary schools throughout central Texas and invites local 2nd graders to the Texas State University campus each Spring semester for an annual performance.

**Sponsors:** This Spring performance is co-sponsored by San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District, the Texas State University Division of Dance, and the City of San Marcos through Youth Master Plan funding as part of furthering Priority Action Area 6 to improve communications, coordination and community engagement in support of children and youth. More info about the San Marcos Youth Master Plan can be found here: <http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/index.aspx?page=936>

**Additional Information Links:**

Website & Video: <http://www.theatreanddance.txstate.edu/dance/Outreach/CIMTEYA0.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIMTEYA/?fref=ts>