

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ellen Martin, Executive Director

Phone: Office (831) 373-4778 Cell (831) 233-2092

Email: ellen@firstnightmonterey.org website: www.firstnightmonterey.org

Carmel Dances into First Night Monterey and the New Year

The Monterey Bay region's 19th annual New Year's Eve celebration of the arts is pleased to announce renewed and enhanced participation from Carmel's performers and dancers.

The Carmel Academy for the Performing Arts' traveling troupe "Team CAPA" will once again perform at First Night Monterey where they will take the stage at the Ferrante Room in the Monterey Conference Center (First Night site #24) for three back-to-back performances starting at 3:15 on New Year's Eve. Known for their high energy and tight choreography, Team CAPA delights fans of hip-hop, jazz and modern dance with captivating movement set to various musical styles. Don't miss their performance.

New for 2011 is a premiere by the Carmel River School Dance Crew working with famed percussionist The Junkman. The Junkman is an internationally acclaimed and Grammy nominated artist who makes highly refined musical magic from instrumentals built entirely of reclaimed materials and found objects. The River School dancers will perform a locally choreographed rendition of The Junkman's new single *Litterbug*.

The Carmel River Dance Crew is made up of fifteen 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders from the school under the direction of Becca Ledbetter. "The kids met The Junkman today and were so excited. In this dance piece we are trying to pass along a strong message about the environment through the dance and music. It is a very inspiring undertaking."

The Dance Crew will perform on the lawn in front of Colton Hall (First Night site #1) in downtown Monterey at 3:15, 4:00 and 4:45pm on Saturday, December 31st.

About First Night Monterey

First Night Monterey is a public value 501c3 non-profit arts organization that conducts year-round community outreach and arts education workshops that culminate at the landmark New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Monterey's mission is to foster the public's appreciation of visual and performing arts and celebrate families and community through workshops and the New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Mission Statement: To reveal and celebrate diversity through the First Night Monterey celebration and the First Night ArtWorks! program, using art as a catalyst to unify the community through creativity, imagination and participation. Visit www.firstnightmonterey.org for more information or visit our Facebook page.

Advance purchase admission buttons are on sale through December 10th at discounted prices: Adults 16 and older \$20 and youth \$12. Children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.firstnightmonterey.org for tickets or these Monterey County stores: Safeway, Nob Hill in Salinas and Walgreens in Monterey. ###