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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2006

**FUNNYWOMAN PAULA POUNDSTONE MAKES HER CAL PERFORMANCES DEBUT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, September 1, 2006 — With her incisive wit and impeccable improvisational ability, stand-up comedian **Paula Poundstone** makes a pit stop at Cal Performances as part of her national tour **Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. Appearing on stage with a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Poundstone – who randomly picks audience members and integrates their stories into her routines – “has never been funnier” said *The Boston Globe*. Her previous performances mix everything from arguing over a parking space at the museum of tolerance to her near-death experience with cinnamon. In addition to touring the country, Poundstone can be heard regularly on NPR’s weekly news quiz show, *Wait Wait...Don’t Tell Me*. (The radio program returns to Cal Performances February 8th & 9th, 2007, as part of Cal Performances *Strictly Speaking* series.)

Poundstone grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts and began performing at open-mic nights in 1979. She was among a handful of comics who rose to prominence during the comedy craze of the 1980s, and with her genuine talent, she was still standing when the fad subsided. Crediting her success to her kindergarten teacher, Paula said “[Mrs. Bump] found something positive to say and expressed an adult interest instead of squelching my sense of humor.”

In 1992 Poundstone was the first woman to win a Cable ACE Award for Best Stand-Up Comedy Special for her HBO special *Cats, Cops, and Stuff*. In 1996, she created her second HBO stand-up special, *Paula Poundstone Goes to Harvard*, the only time the university has allowed its name to be used in the title of a television show. Poundstone was the first woman to headline at the White House Correspondents Dinner and provided memorable live coverage of the 1992 political conventions and presidential inauguration for *The Tonight Show*. Her quick wit and spontaneity made her a perfect fit as backstage commentator for the 1993 Emmy Awards the following year. In the fall of 2004, Poundstone hosted the WIN Awards (Women’s Image

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Network), honoring Jack Nicholson, director Catherine Hardwicke and several other luminaries for their outstanding work to further the image of women in all forms of entertainment.

Additional credits include numerous appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman*, *The Tonight Show* and *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*. Poundstone served as a celebrity regular on the syndicated game show *To Tell The Truth* in 2000-2001. She voiced the character of Judge Stone on the acclaimed ABC-TV Saturday morning animated series *Science Court* for three years and she also guest starred on the CBS series *Cybill*. Poundstone has also appeared on PBS favorites *Sesame Street* and *Storytime* and won a local Emmy Award for her field pieces on the renowned series *Life & Times* for PBS station KCET. This past May, she taped her new one hour special for the BRAVO network titled *Look What the Cat Dragged In* which will air this fall.

An accomplished writer, Poundstone's new book *There is Nothing In This Book That I Meant To Say*, (Random House) is due for release November 2006. With the forward written by actress Mary Tyler Moore, this book is part memoir, part monologue, with a pinch of self-deprecation and a dash of startling honesty. This book features biographies of legendary historical figures from which Poundstone can't help digressing to tell her own. Mining gold from the lives of Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller, Charles Dickens, Joan of Arc, Sitting Bull and Ludwig van Beethoven, the eccentric and inimitable mind of Poundstone dissects, observes and comments on the successes and failures of her own life with comedic timing.

Poundstone produced the award-winning children's audio book project titled *Completely Yours*, and gave voice to a character alongside Mary Tyler Moore, Bea Arthur, Kathy Najimy, Ed Asner and Lily Tomlin. Released in 1997, the project featured a story about adoption entitled *A Mother for Choco* and is available through the Children's Book of the Month Club.

A single parent with three children, nine cats, a cat-eating dog, a bearded dragon lizard, an elderly bunny and one determined ant left from her ant farm, Poundstone spends the majority of her life in Santa Monica. Wielding a damp cloth, correcting long division, listening to Nancy Drew read aloud and explaining that life isn't always fair, she says things couldn't be better.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Paula Poundstone** on **Sunday, October 15** at **7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00**, **\$36.00** and **\$46.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2006/07 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 15 at **7:00 p.m.**

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Strictly Speaking
Paula Poundstone

Program: Comedian Paula Poundstone brings her incisive wit and off-kilter world view to Zellerbach Hall.

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