

NEWS RELEASE

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SOCSA's Ray Woods Wins "Outstanding Arts Educator" Award from Arts Orange County

Dana Point, CA – September 27, 2007 – Dana Hills High School's South Orange County School of the Arts (SOCSA) is proud to announce that one of its most influential teachers has been recognized by the Arts Orange County organization as the "Outstanding Arts Educator" of the year.

SOCSA's Artistic Director Raymond P. Woods was honored by Arts Orange County at a gala dinner held at the Balboa Bay Club on September 26, 2007, where the "Outstanding Arts Educator" award was presented.

"Thank you all very much! This is a real thrill for all of us to be a part of this." said Ray Woods as he accepted his award in front of over 400 of Orange County's influential arts supporters. "We want to thank Arts Orange County for recognizing SOCSA and all of you for helping us celebrate tonight. I certainly want to thank all of the volunteers and professionals that we work with, the parents and to my patient and courageous wife."

Mr. Woods has taught at Dana Hills High School since 1981, serving as SOCSA's Artistic Director since 2002. Before coming to Dana Hills he taught vocal and instrumental music in the Pomona Unified School District, in Pomona, California. Mr. Woods received his Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Whittier College and Master of Arts degree from Occidental College and has done extensive doctoral studies at the University of Southern California. He has been involved in church work since 1968, currently serving as Director of Music at the United Methodist Church of Garden Grove, CA. He is also the Musical Director for the South Coast Singers, a community chorale based in South Orange County and is an accomplished pianist, organist, and harpsichordist.

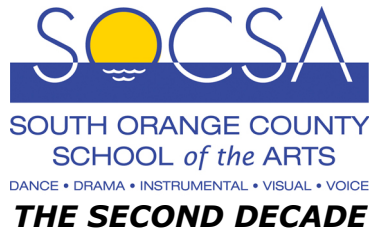
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SOCSA: South Orange County School of the Arts Academy and Foundation

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SOCSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal ID No. 33-0810174



In 2004, Mr. Woods was named “Educator of the Year” by the Dana Point Chamber Commerce with additional commendations from the Capistrano Unified School District; County of Orange; the California State Assembly and the United States Senate. As Artistic Director for SOCSA, Mr. Woods coordinates the educational efforts and planning of eight faculty members, as well as professional teachers and coaches, and makes a difference in the lives of more than 400 students pursuing their passion for Theater, Voice, Dance, Instrumental Music and Visual Arts. With his support and guidance, these students, whose performance experience and aptitude far exceeds that of the typical high school student, have won numerous awards and accolades.

SOCSA provides an in-depth educational opportunity to aspiring young artists affording them the chance to explore and develop their artistic talents. The program prepares the students for placement in top universities and pursuit of future careers in the professional arts industry of their choice.

Arts Orange County (Arts OC) was established in 1995 as the nonprofit, countywide arts council of Orange County, California. It serves as a resource and advocate for the arts community; as a catalyst for leadership on arts issues; and as a sponsor of programs and services which enhance public awareness of arts activities and promote the development of the arts and arts education in Orange County.

In September 2005, Arts OC and the Imagination Celebration of Orange County merged and now operate as Arts Orange County. The Imagination Celebration was originally envisioned by and is held in agreement with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In Orange County, the Imagination Celebration enters its 21st year and has played a major role to spark imagination and creativity in an entire generation of Orange County children.

The Arts Orange County Award is a well deserved honor that comes in time to start off SOCSA’s second decade. Congratulations to Mr. Woods from the entire SOCSA community.

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*Download a high-resolution photo of Mr. Raymond P. Woods at:
www.SOCSArts.org/staff/photo-ray-woods-hi-res.jpg*

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