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01/22/2002 - Great Women, Great Writers, Great Stories, and a Great Storyteller

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02-12

For Immediate Release:

GREAT WOMEN, GREAT WRITERS, GREAT STORIES – AND A GREAT STORYTELLER

CHARLESTON -- Patricia Hruby Powell -- storyteller, dancer, mime, actress and award-winning author -- will perform "An Evening with Jane Austen, Emily Bronte and Emily Dickinson" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

The event, free and open to the public, will take place in Eastern's Coleman Auditorium (room 1255).

Austen, Bronte and Dickinson, whose lives and writing Hruby Powell will celebrate, were women who dared to break the male monopoly on literary greatness in the 19th century. Hruby Powell herself breaks with tradition by bringing movement to storytelling just as she once brought speech to her dancing.

Her career as a solo modern dancer has taken her throughout the United States, Latin America and Europe over the past three decades. As her art matured, she felt the need to break through the music into speech, to bring words to her performances, to tell stories.

During her EIU performance, Hruby Powell first will become Jane Austen, writing her novel, "Emma," at the end of the winter of 1814; "Austen" also reads from her newly published "Pride and Prejudice."

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AUSTEN, BRONTE AND DICKINSON

Emily Bronte will be portrayed after the publication of "Wuthering Heights," sharing memories of her sisters, Charlotte and Anne, on the day following the funeral of their brother, Branwell.

Finally, via Hruby Powell, Emily Dickinson will be portrayed as the recluse, writing her pithy, enchanting poetry in Amherst, the heart and soul of old New England.

Co-sponsors of the evening's performance are the EIU Department of English, the Women's Advocacy Council and Sigma Tau Delta, an English student honorary. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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