

# BALLET SAN JOSE

Dennis Nahat, Artistic/Executive Director

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BLUE SUEDE SHOES

Rock 'n' Roll Ballet is Back in San Jose, March 16-22, 2007

Get ready to "Shake, Rattle and Roll."

Ballet San Jose has announced the final remaining program slot in its 2006-07 "Season of Favorites." Dennis Nahat's BLUE SUEDE SHOES, set to the music of Elvis Presley, will run March 16-22, 2007 at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. This slot in the season was previously listed as "To Be Announced". Subscriptions to the entire four-show season are now on sale. Single tickets to BLUE SUEDE SHOES will go on sale later this summer after subscriber's initial orders are filled.



CAPTION: (left-to-right) Peter Hershey, Raymond Rodriguez and Ramon Thielen are three all-American boys from the 2002 production setting off to discover adventure in Ballet San Jose's popular production BLUE SUEDE SHOES.

Photo by Robert Shomler

BLUE SUEDE SHOES combines classical dance with classic rock in a one-act ballet danced to 36 master recordings of Elvis Presley's greatest hits. The \$1.2 million production features choreography by Dennis Nahat and 280 lavish costumes and 16 sets by award-winning designer Bob Mackie. Since its creation in 1996, the popular ballet has brought the company nearly \$7 million dollars in ticket sales--more than any other Ballet San Jose production except THE NUTCRACKER.

BLUE SUEDE SHOES had its world premiere on May 24, 1996 at the State Theatre, Playhouse Square Center, in Cleveland, Ohio. The West Coast premiere was on April 24, 1997 at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in San Jose, California. It was last performed in April of 2002 in San Jose. It has been seen by millions of viewers on PBS stations across the country and is still one of the Company's most requested pieces. Explains Dennis Nahat, "Everywhere we go, and every time I speak at an event...someone comes up and asks me when we will do BLUE SUEDE SHOES again. It is our most requested ballet. People just love it. It resonates with all ages, all types of people. This is one ballet that transcends socio-economic boundaries. It's the story, it's the music, and it's the look of the piece. It makes you laugh and cry and hope. You always leave the theatre humming the tunes and feeling good about life."

The story opens in 1950s "Anytown" USA and mirrors birth of rock 'n' roll through several incidents in Elvis Presley's life. The story is built around three high school buddies who are nearing graduation. We follow them from school to the Hot Dog Drive-In to a farewell party before they are inducted into the army. Once stationed in Germany, the boys are separated.

One loses his girlfriend while away; another boy learns that his mother has died; the third searches for friendship, but finds himself very much alone. Returning home from the service, the boys discover that life has changed dramatically. They are reunited and set out to celebrate at a local nightclub. A fight ensues over an old high school beauty and the boys end up in a sizzling "Jail House Rock". Once released, all of the past characters from their lives join them in the big finale as they go off to seek their fame, fortune and the American Dream...each wearing a pair of blue suede shoes.

BLUE SUEDE SHOES plays March 16-22 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. It is part of a four-program season that includes a new production of GISELLE (November 16-19, 2006), a Valentine's Weekend repertory program featuring Dennis Nahat's ONTOGENY with the Company Premiere of Lew Christianson's IL DISTRATTO (February 15-18, 2007), and the return of MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA, the popular East-Meets-West, full-length work from Nahat and Yong Yao of Chinese Performing Artists of America (April 26-29). Season Subscriptions are available now from the Ballet Box Office, (408) 288-2800 or by downloading an order form from the web site at [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org).

Prices range from \$90 to \$260 per subscription with discounts for students and seniors in some orchestra and balcony sections. Single tickets for BLUE SUEDE SHOES will be released for sale later this summer. Prices will range from \$25 to \$78 with discounts for students, seniors and groups.

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Note: Digital images from the production are available to Editors in the Press Room on the Ballet [website here](#).

## **FACT SHEET**

### **BLUE SUEDE SHOES**

March 16-22, 2007

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Sets & Costumes: Bob Mackie

Composers: Various

Music: 36 Elvis Presley master recordings

First Performed: May 29, 1996 at the State Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio

SHORT BYTE: Ballet San Jose presents Dennis Nahat's BLUE SUEDE SHOES set to the music of Elvis Presley March 16-22, 2007 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The popular 90-minute ballet features the sets and costumes of Bob Mackie and 36 re-mastered recordings of some of Elvis Presley's biggest hits.

#### Location

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose, CA

#### Tickets

Single Tickets/\$25 to \$78

(Single tickets are not yet available; subscriptions only at this time)

Ballet Box Office: (408) 288-2800

Tickets are also available through our website: [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org)

Group, Senior and Student Discounts Available

Additional press materials and photos are available.

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