

BALLET SAN JOSE

S I L I C O N V A L L E Y

PRESS RELEASE

Financial Executives International Silicon Valley BALLET Event

On "Good Friday", April 14, 2006, over 60 members of the local chapter of Financial Executives International gathered to watch the final in-studio rehearsal of Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's SPRING REPERTORY program held in the skeleton of the new dance studio being created on the top floor of the Ballet building at 40 North First Street in downtown San Jose. FEI is a national networking group for CFOs and comptrollers.



Studio Rehearsal

Over 60 members of the local chapter of Financial Executives International gathered to watch the final in-studio rehearsal of Ballet San Jose's SPRING REPERTORY program held in the skeleton of the new dance studio being created on the top floor of the Ballet building at 40 North First Street.

Photo by Robert Shomler

The top floor of the old Knights of Columbus building has been home to Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley for many years, but until recently it was only used as storage space, having never been completed when the building was built as the Great Depression descended upon the Valley. When the Company was in need of a large space with very tall ceilings in which to rehearse the recent production of ROMEO AND JULIET, the crates of costumes and bolts of materials made way for a new dance floor and room to build sets.

Once R&J was completed, Ballet San Jose Artistic/Executive Director Dennis Nahat started looking for more ways to use the space. CFO/COO Donald Gansheimer, himself a member of FEI, suggested holding a "final in-studio rehearsal party" for invited guests to give them a feel for what a professional ballet company does in preparing a program. Nahat loved the idea, and an invitation to the local FEI chapter was issued.

The afternoon was a complete success. The informal atmosphere of the studio which its huge windows overlooking downtown was a perfect rainy afternoon setting to watch the "performance." Guest Artist Oscar Hawkins performed a solo dance that he also choreographed to "Strange Fruit", the 1939 Billie Holiday song. And the entire Company performed Nahat's 40-minute SLAVONIC AND HUNGARIAN DANCES set to the music of Antonin Dvorák and Johannes Brahms.

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Members of FEI networked following the performance, and enjoyed wine and wonderful food prepared by Eulipia Restaurant.

Photo by Robert Shomler

After the performance, the dancers joined the audience for food, drink and conversation that lasted more than an hour. The entire afternoon was so much fun that plans are underway to do the same for EVERY program next season, inviting various groups to see the final in-studio rehearsals of GISELLE, MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA, IL DISTRATTO, and other programs.

This is just one of several new "Outreach" and "In-reach" programs that Ballet San Jose has planned for the 2006-07 season.

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