

# BALLET SAN JOSE

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

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(San Jose, CA: September 7, 2005)

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley dancers Alexandra Koltun and Alex Lapshin have decided to retire from the professional ballet stage. Two days into rehearsals for the new ballet season, Ms. Koltun aggravated an old back injury. Koltun was at home with Lapshin and their 18-month old son when she became aware of the problem. Both Koltun and Lapshin have been plagued with back injuries in recent years and had decided, as a family, that if one of them could no longer perform at peak level, that they would both retire and move on to other opportunities.



Alex Lapshin and Alexandra Koltun shown in a scene from Ballet San Jose's THE NUTCRACKER. Photo by John Gerbetz

The couple had just recently purchased a home in Palo Alto and had been remodeling it during the summer months. They now plan on completing that work, putting the house on the market and moving to Florida before starting a business together, possibly in real estate.

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"It's a fact of life that dancers, like the athletes they are, suffer injuries and must eventually retire", said Artistic Director Dennis Nahat. "We wish Alexandra and Alex well. We have been so lucky to have them here these last few years."

The world premiere of Dennis Nahat's new setting of THE FIREBIRD along with the remounting of Flemming Flindt's PHAEDRA will be presented in Ballet San Jose's season-opening dance program, October 6-9 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Subscriptions to the 2005-06 season are currently available. Single tickets to the opening program will go on sale September 13th. For tickets and additional information call (408) 288-2800.

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