

Ballet San Jose Announces 2004-05 Season

World Premiere Collaboration Highlights Varied Season

The season opens **November 18-21** with the Company Premiere of "**Pirates of Penzance**", a new adaptation of a ballet choreographed by Daryl Gray after the 1879 operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan. A new orchestration specially arranged by Henry Aronson will accompany the ballet, performed live by Symphony Silicon Valley. Four onstage singers, posing as members of the audience in box seats, interact with the dancers and perform segments of the songs throughout this swashbuckling full-length work. Artistic Director Nahat calls "**Pirates of Penzance**", "stylish, with loads of fantasy and heaps of fun."

Chinese New Year is celebrated on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 with the 'Year of the Rooster.' Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley and Chinese Performing Artists of America will welcome the New Year with the World Premiere collaboration of "**Middle Kingdom--Ancient China**", **February 10-13**, 2005. A special added performance on the evening of Sunday, February 13 will be included as part of the Chinese Performing Arts Festival. With choreography by Dennis Nahat and Yong Yao this exciting new work will be set to a commissioned score by Phil Young with music played on Western and traditional Chinese instruments. "**Middle Kingdom--Ancient China**" incorporates the mythology of China (the beginnings of the world, the Goddess of the Earth) with the story of some of the great discoveries and inventions of civilization (paper, printing, the compass, and gun powder.)

The season continues with a Spring Repertory Program, **March 31 - April 3** which features the Company Premiere of one of Michael Smuin's signature works, "**Shinju**". This 1975 ballet is based on a 1921 play by Chikamatsu, one of Japan's greatest dramatists. It is the legend of a pair of lovers who commit ritual suicide rather than endure earthly separation. Highly charged eroticism with partial nudity and rigorous austerity combine to create a compelling, unforgettable ballet. Paul Sieko Chihara's commissioned score is based on ancient Japanese court music and won a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Also on the repertory program are a pair of Dennis Nahat creations; "**Cannonade**", a rapid-fire classical ballet of pure energy danced to Johann Sebastian Bach's Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, and "**Quicksilver**", a youthful and joyous work set to Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 25.

The 2004-05 season concludes with **A GRAND FINALE OF REVIVALS, May 5-8**, which features the works of long-time friends Dennis Nahat and Flemming Flindt. Flindt's first masterpiece, "**The Lesson**", was inspired by Eugene Ionesco's play of the same name. This intense ballet was created in 1963 for Danish television and tells the tale of a professor who is so carried away by his work that he murders his pupil. The piece, set to a commissioned score by Georges Delerue, earned Flindt the Italia Prize. A Grand Pas de Deux from the classical repertoire (To Be Announced) and a pair of Nahat dances complete the program. "**Some Times**" is a romantic jazz work reminiscent of the 70s soft rock-jazz era. Set to a commissioned score by famed German composer Claus Ogerman, the piece evokes memories of relaxing days on the beach and summer romance. "**Moments**" is a stirring and enduring abstraction of dances in four movements set to Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Opus 49.

"**The Nutcracker**" (which is not part of the subscription series) returns for two weeks only at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, December 16-26. This popular family program has been a South Bay holiday tradition since 1985 and is consistently singled out by critics as a Bay Area treasure.

All above listed performances will be presented at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Season subscriptions are on sale now by calling the Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800, Mondays through Fridays from 10am to 5pm. Subscriptions range from \$80-\$240. Subscribers enjoy ticket exchange privileges, have priority purchasing rights for The Nutcracker, are provided with lost ticket insurance, and have many other benefits. Single tickets for each program range from \$22 to \$68 and go on sale approximately six weeks prior to performance. For additional information call the Ballet Box Office (408) 288-2800 or visit the Company's Web Site at www.balletsanjose.org.

End

The 2004-05 Season at a Glance

Season Opening Program, November 18-21, 2004

"Pirates of Penzance"

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Daryl Gray

Music and Lyrics: Gilbert and Sullivan

February 10-13, 2005

"Middle Kingdom--Ancient China"

(A World Premiere)

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat and Yong Yao

Music: Commissioned Score

Composer: Phil Young

Spring Repertory Program, March 31-April 3

"Shinju"

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Michael Smuin

Music: Shinju (Commissioned Score)

Composer: Paul Sieko Chihara

"Cannonade"

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Music: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor

Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach

"Quicksilver"

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Music: Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 25
Composer: Felix Mendelssohn

May Repertory Program, May 5-8, 2005
A GRAND FINALE OF REVIVALS

"Some Times"

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat
Music: Some Times (Commissioned Score)
Composer: Claus Ogerman

"The Lesson"

Choreographer: Flemming Flindt
Music: The Lesson (Commissioned Score)
Composer: Georges Delerue

A Grand Pas de Deux
Work and Choreographer: TBA

"Moments"

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat
Music: Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Opus 4
Composer: Felix Mendelssohn

December 16-26, 2004

Single tickets only; not part of the subscription series

The Nutcracker

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat
Music: The Nutcracker
Composer: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

All above listed performances will be presented at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Season subscriptions are on sale now by calling the Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800, Mondays through Fridays from 10am to 5pm. Subscriptions range from \$80-\$240. Subscribers enjoy ticket exchange privileges, have priority purchasing rights for The Nutcracker, are provided with lost ticket insurance, and have many other benefits. Single tickets for each program range from \$22 to \$68 and go on sale approximately six weeks prior to performance. For additional information call the Ballet Box Office (408) 288-2800 or visit the Company's Web Site at www.balletsanjose.org.

End