

BALLET SAN JOSE

PRESS RELEASE

**Ballet San Jose presents THE TOREADOR,
November 20-23, 2008**

Ballet San Jose presents
THE TOREADOR
A ballet in Two Acts by August Bournonville.

November 20 – 23, 2008
San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

New and Readapted Choreography: Flemming Flindt
Music: Erling Bjerno (after Edvard Helsted)
Orchestra: Symphony Silicon Valley
Conductor: Dwight Oltman
Costumes and Scenery: Hans Christian Molbeck
Scenic Advisor: David Guthrie
Lighting: Kenneth Keith

Performances:
Thursday, November 20 at
8:00pm
Friday, November 21 at 8:00pm
Saturday, November 22 at
8:00pm
Sunday, November 23 at 1:30pm

Location:
San Jose Center for the Performing
Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in
downtown San Jose

Tickets:
\$25 to \$85

Box Office:
408.288.2800
Group Sales: 408.288.2820 x 204
Buy Online: www.balletsanjose.org



**"THE TOREADOR" A SPANISH STORY WITH DANISH ROOTS PRESENTED BY BALLET
SAN JOSE**

Ballet San Jose opens the 2008-09 Season November 20-23 with THE TOREADOR, a ballet in two acts by the legendary August Bournonville with new and re-adapted choreography by Flemming Flindt. Ballet San Jose is the only ballet company in the world which has this ballet in repertory and will present it with Symphony Silicon Valley playing the Erling Bjerno score (after Edvard Helsted). All the costumes and scenery were constructed by Denmark's Royal Opera House. Choreographer Flemming Flindt and Assistant Vivi Flindt will set the piece on the Ballet San Jose dancers.

The story revolves around Maria, the beautiful daughter of a Spanish innkeeper and her love for Alonzo, a brave and handsome toreador, whom she cannot bear to see in danger. Complications arise when Celeste, a touring French ballerina, diverts Alonzo's eye. Along the way a few subplots provide for diversions with Celeste's stage mother and two comic English tourists entering the action.

The legendary dancer and balletmaster August Bournonville was the resident genius of the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen from 1827 until two years before his death in 1879. During that time he created the the ballet technique that bears his name, a ballet school to teach that technique, and the choreographies of a number of ballets that exist to this day including a much-performed version of LA SYLPHIDE, NAPOLI (The Fisherman and his wife) and THE TOREADOR (which was originally performed at the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen on November 27, 1840). It enjoyed great success and was performed quite frequently through 1922. After a revival in 1929 it then disappeared from the active repertory.

Nearly 50 years later, Flemming Flindt, the youngest artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet since Bournonville, resurrected the piece and restaged it at Denmark's Royal Theatre on March 17, 1978. There was no record of the specific steps of the ballet, so Flindt worked from the Bournonville scenario, memories of past dancers and notations on the pantomime, concentrating on using the 'Bournonville' technique to assure that the style and phrasing was genuine to the original intent. The music by Edvard Helsted was transformed into a full-length ballet score by Danish composer, Erling Bjerno. THE TOREADOR was one of the last works Flindt created at RDB before leaving Denmark (and taking the ballet with him.) He held the rights to the choreography and to the complete physical production as well. When he became artistic director of Dallas Ballet, he remounted the piece for its American premiere at the Majestic Theater in Dallas in 1983, and again in 1986. When Dallas Ballet folded in 1988, (then) San Jose Cleveland Ballet bought the ballet with its beautifully made sets and costumes, and presented it in Cleveland and in San Jose in 1990. This will be only the second time the company has performed THE TOREADOR.

Flindt has become a regular contributor at Ballet San Jose. Other pieces of his work in the BSJ repertory include THE OVERCOAT, THE LESSON, PHAEDRA, MIRACULOUS MANDARIN, RED SHOES or LEGS OF FIRE, OUT OF AFRICA or LUCIFER'S DAUGHTER and LA VENTANA. France has honored Flindt with the distinguished decoration of Chevalier de l'Orde des Arts et des Lettres, and the governments of Denmark and Sweden have recognized him for his extraordinary contributions to the arts with a Knighthood of First Degree. Ballet San Jose plans to hold a special event for subscribers to the 2008-09 season where Flemming and Vivi Flindt and other 'Great Danes' of the Royal Danish Ballet will be presented to invitees prior to performances of THE TOREADOR. The subscriber-only event will include a reception and the opportunity to hear Flindt and others discuss August Bournonville and his work.

Subscriptions to the 2008-09 season are on sale now priced from \$85 to \$280 for a four-show season. Single tickets to THE TOREADOR will go on sale October 1st and will be priced at \$25 to \$85 with discounts available for seniors, students and groups. Additional information is available at www.balletsanjose.org or by calling the Ballet Box Office at 408.288.2800.

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