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Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Announces 2003-04 Season
Martha Graham Works and Flemming Flindt Premiere Highlight Offerings

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Artistic Director, Dennis Nahat, today announced a new season filled with new works. The 2003-04 season features the premiere of a new ballet by Flemming Flindt, four Company premieres, a new children's series, and includes two of Martha Graham's most famed works..

One of the highlights of the season will be the Company debuts of two of the twentieth century's seminal works, Martha Graham's "Appalachian Spring" and her famous solo work, "Frontier". The pieces will be staged by San Jose-born Japanese-American dancer Yuriko. Yuriko is one of the principal heirs to the Martha Graham legacy. She danced with Graham for over 25 years and, after Graham's death, was the régisseur and Associate Artistic Director for the Martha Graham Company from 1991 to '93. Graham was one of Nahat's teachers during his training at Juilliard and at American Ballet Theatre, and Yuriko is a long time friend and colleague.

"When I met with Yuriko to discuss these pieces, she told me that she wanted the opportunity to set the repertoire in a manner consistent with Graham's intentions," said Nahat. "Furthermore, Yuriko wants to use this opportunity to stage these works as an "Arigato" (a "thank you") to the San Jose community for giving her birth and nurture and to the world of dance for a lifetime of joy. It is my joy to work with such a great woman and such great dances."

The subscription season will open October 16-19, 2003 with the Company debut of "Appalachian Spring", and the reprise of Michael Smuin's "Stravinsky Piano Pieces", "a work that has not been seen in our repertoire for 9 years." Concluding the season opening program will be "US", a cavalcade of American popular dance that was the first piece created for the Company some 27 years ago. "US" features popular dance numbers spanning the decades, and each revival of it has seen some new work added to reflect the recent dance fashions.

The subscription season continues in February with the family favorite "Coppélia", the story of a magical toy maker and his desire to bring his favorite doll to life. Based on a tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the three-act comic tour de force runs February 5-8 and features the choreography of Dennis Nahat, music by Léo

Délibes, and fanciful costumes and scenery by David Guthrie.

The Premiere of Flemming Flindt's "Out of Africa" will take the stage March 25-28, 2004. Explains Nahat, "In 1992 Flemming created a piece called "Lucifer's Daughter" as a 25th Wedding Anniversary gift for the Queen of Denmark. That piece was originally created as a modern ballet, but Flindt will re-choreograph it on pointe for our Company. It is danced to a compiled score by Carl Nielsen and African recorded music and features a full chorus on stage. We are very excited to add this new piece to our repertoire."

The final program of the subscription season (May 6-9, 2004) features the Company debuts of Lew Christensen's last work, "Vivaldi Concerto Grosso" (1981), Martha Graham's "Frontier" and Peter Martin's "Hallelujah Junction"..

Dennis Nahat's joyous, "Go Daddy-O!" will conclude the program Go Daddy-O! is often referred to as having 'the most familiar swing music you've never heard,' as it is set to a commissioned score by Bill Duncan, taking us back to the sounds of the 30s and early 40s.

"The Nutcracker" returns for a three-week run at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, December 12-28. This popular family program has been a South Bay holiday tradition since 1985. It is one of the Company's most treasured presentations each and every season.

But the excitement does not end there. Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley will create a new young family series that will include Tales of Hans Christen Andersen choreographed by School Director Lise la Cour and featuring young dancers from the Ballet SCHOOL along with Company members. (More about this series will be announced later.)

Nahat feels the season continues the Company's commitment to presenting excellent dancers in great roles. "We are excited by the way next season is shaping up," said Nahat. "There are many challenges to be met, but the repertoire is marvelous, the new family series is something we've wanted to do for a long time. I believe this new season will help us develop new audiences and put our Company on more secure footing."

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2003-04 Season at a Glance

Season Opening Program, October 16-19, 2003
Stravinsky Piano Pieces

Choreographer: Michael Smuin

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Appalachian Spring

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Martha Graham

Music: Aaron Copland

US

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat and Ian Horvath

Music: Irving Berlin/Tommy Dorsey/Jelly Roll Morton (arranged by Dick Hyman and Jon Charles)/ Herbie Hancock/Edgar Winter

December 12-28, 2003

The Nutcracker

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Music: Peter Tchaikovsky ("The Nutcracker")

December 29, 2003 - January 3, 2004

Presented Program

Ballet Folklorico de Mexico Holiday Program

February 5-8, 2004

Coppélia

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Music: Léo Délibes

Spring Story Ballet Program, March 25-28, 2004

Out of Africa

(Premiere)

Choreographer: Flemming Flint

Music: Carl Nielsen

May Repertory Program, May 6-9, 2004

"Vivaldi Concerto Grosso"

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Lew Christensen

Music: Antonio Vivaldi

"Frontier"

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Martha Graham

Music: Louis Horst

"Go Daddy O!"

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Music and Orchestration: Bill Duncan

"Hallelujah Junction"

(A Company Premiere)

Choreographer: Peter Martins

Music; John Adams

(All programs subject to change)

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. Subscriptions range from \$80-\$240 with a new Children's Subscription Program consisting of specially priced and performed ballets for children 3 years and older. 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 6-weeks prior to performance. For additional information call the Ballet Box Office (408) 288-2800 or visit the Company's website at www.balletsanjose.org.

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