

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents A World Premiere Dance Extravaganza

MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA

A Full-Length Ballet in Three Acts

Choreography: Dennis Nahat and Yong Yao

Performed in collaboration with Chinese Performing Artists of America

Music: Phil Young

Costumes and Scenery: Ching Shyu

February 10-13, 2005

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

255 Almaden Boulevard in San Jose, CA

Tickets: \$22-\$68

Box Office: (408) 288-2800 or TicketMaster

or buy online at www.balletsanjose.org

SHORT BYTE: Celebrate Chinese New Year with this ground-breaking World Premiere ballet, MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA. Experience the creation of the universe and the birth of civilization as we trace 4,000 years of Chinese history and mythology. See the Goddess of Earth descend from the heavens with a giant dragon. Be witness to some of the world's great inventions...paper, printing, the compass and gunpowder. And watch the Zodiac come to life. This stunning production has brilliant sets and costumes created in China and a commissioned score performed in a fusion of Western and traditional Chinese music. The "must see" ballet event of the season. ([Sponsored by SummerHill Homes, Communities of Distinction](#))

MORE INFORMATION

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley in artistic collaboration with Chinese Performing Artist of America will present the world premiere of a new ballet entitled MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA, February 10-13, 2005 at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. [Sponsored by SummerHill Homes](#), thirty-five dancers from the combined companies plus 7 martial artists (42 performers total) will perform the choreography of BSJSV Artistic Director Dennis Nahat and CPAA Artistic Director Yong Yao set to a commissioned score by Phil Young, performed in a fusion of Western and traditional Chinese music. The magnificent sets and costumes were built in China from designs by Ching Shyu.

The performance schedule (Feb. 10-13) comes at the perfect time on the calendar with the celebration of Chinese New Year and its many Bay Area festivities set for the month of February. The Chinese Lunar New Year dates from 2600 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the

zodiac. Because of cyclical lunar dating, the first day of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. This year, it falls on February 9, 2005 - Lunar Year 4703...the year of the Rooster.

MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA opens on Thursday, February 10th at 8pm and runs Friday, February 11th and Saturday February 12th at 8pm with a Sunday matinee on February 13th at 1:30. A one-hour performance of the ballet will be presented at a Children's Matinee on Saturday, February 12th at 1:30. It is designed especially for young audiences ages 4 to 10 years old and their families. The production closes with a Sunday evening performance (curtain time 7:30pm) on February 13th which is part of the Chinese Performing Artists of America's special offerings for The Chinese Performing Arts Festival, 2005. All proceeds from that evening's performance benefit CPAA.

For tickets to MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA call the Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800, contact TicketMaster or visit online at www.balletsanjose.org.

MORE INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

"MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA"
Notes from Dennis Nahat
Artistic/Executive Director of BSJSV

I accepted this project with the Chinese Performing Artists of America (CPAA) as one of our Company's most ambitious collaborations. In addition to utilizing the full company of BSJSV, we will incorporate all the Chinese dancers from CPAA and their martial artists, along with a commissioned score by Phil Young in a fusion of Western and traditional Chinese motifs. Adding to the challenge of blending these unique elements of music and dance are the production elements of designing and constructing sets and costumes that have been assembled in China with authentic Beijing materials and expertise.

My work with Ann Woo, Executive Director of CPAA, over the past two years has inspired me to more closely examine this fascinating and ancient culture that has had such a tremendous impact on our world--both past and present. Through this collaboration, I have traveled to China to meet with some of the top artists at work in Asia today. I have had the tremendous opportunity to select materials for the construction of the ballet's costumes and scenery and to work with our Beijing counterparts at the Beijing Academy of Dance and Beijing Scenic Studios. We have also had

opportunities to establish personal relationships with Chinese universities, acrobatic companies, Dragon Dancers, martial artists and dance makers all over China and to widen our friendship with the Hong Kong Ballet.

With this full-length world premiere we break new ground and will reach out to the Bay Area's large and active Asian community. It is our hope to expand our audience in a way never seen before. "MIDDLE KINGDOM-- ANCIENT

CHINA" will connect our two cultures; bridging the gap between east and west, past and present, and it will serve to remind us how folklore, combined with history and technology, has changed the entire world. This theme adds a new dimension to my work that has excited and inspired me.

The privilege of presenting this large collaborative effort here in our city of San Jose and to offer it as a tour package to China and the rest of the world is certainly worth the challenge of taking on this great challenge.

Dennis Nahat--
Artistic/Executive Director
Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For biographies on Yong Yao and Phil Young, please visit
http://www.chineseperformingarts.org/artists_directors1.html

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