

BALLET SAN JOSE

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

PRESS RELEASE

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Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley dancers do the Tango in *RENT*

Movie Director Chris Columbus is back in the Bay Area shooting his latest project, a film version of the Broadway hit musical, *RENT*. Choreographer for the film is Keith Young. When Young needed hot dancers for a Tango "dream sequence", he turned to a pair of ballet dancers from Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley... Karen Gabay and Raymond Rodriguez.

Karen and Raymond have a long relationship with the choreographer. The pair danced in the opening sequence of the Drew Carey Show some years ago which Young created, and Raymond did a pas de deux of Keith's in a tribute to Christopher Reeves recently. Keith is also planning a special pas de deux for Karen's 25th Anniversary Gala in Cleveland this summer with "Pointe of Departure", Karen and Ray's new dance venture in the Ohio city where both started their professional careers.

Dance rehearsals began nearly a week before Karen and Raymond could break away from their current project, the final performances of Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's 2004-05 season. But Young knew what they could do, so he met privately with them in San Jose over a recent weekend, brought them in for the final 2 days of rehearsal on Treasure Island last Wednesday and Thursday (April 20 and 21) and shot the sequence in an all nighter at a deserted train station in Oakland on Friday, April 22. Fourteen hours later, and the Tango was "in the can."



Says Gabay, "it was intense. We danced full out the whole night...over and over again. I was in a little Tango dress with bare arms and legs and 3" heels and it was freezing cold. So I guess it was better to just keep dancing. At least Ray was in a suit. But what fun. It is going to be a wonderful sequence. We love working with Keith."

RENT is scheduled for a holiday season release.

Currently on stage:

Karen is reprising the role of "The Pupil" in Flemming Flindt's dramatic ballet, *THE LESSON* in Ballet San Jose's "[A GRAND FINALE](#)", May 5-8 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. She last danced the role for Flemming in 1990. (Note: *THE LESSON* contains mature themes.) Raymond is Ballet San Jose's Régisseur and is working closely with Flemming as he sets the piece for the Company.

Also on that repertory program are Dennis Nahat's *SOME TIMES* and *MOMENTS* and the pas de deux, "Diana and Acteon" from *LA ESMERALDA*.

Tickets: (408) 288-2800 or go directly to the Ballets' [TicketMaster](#) site to purchase on-line.