

**April 7 , 2003**  
**(408) 288-2820 ext. 210**

**Media Contact: Lee Kopp, Publicity**  
**[lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:lkopp@balletsanjose.org)**

*Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's COPPÉLIA*  
*A Ballet for the Ages -- ALL Ages!*

(San Jose, CA) Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents Dennis Nahat's delightful production of *Coppélia* February 5-8, 2004 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets for the crowd-pleasing extravaganza range from \$22 to \$68. This light-hearted ballet is perfect family fare with an easy-to-understand story, humorous special effects, and exuberant dancing.

*Coppélia (The Girl with the Enamel Eyes)* is a whimsical storybook ballet that the entire family will enjoy. The story, by E.T.A. Hoffmann (who also wrote *The Nutcracker*) is set in a small village in mountainous Central Europe during the 19th century. An eccentric toymaker, Dr. Coppélius, has created a beautiful doll, which he sets on his balcony to dry her freshly painted eyes. Everyone in town thinks she is a real person, and Dr. Coppélius indeed dreams that he can bring her to life and endow her with a soul. Franz, a young man in the town, becomes infatuated with the beautiful doll which makes his fiancée, Swanilda, extremely jealous. When the old toymaker leaves his house, Swanilda and her friends sneak in to confront the other "woman." There they discover the toymaker's mysterious workshop and set all his dolls in motion, creating pandemonium, and great fun for the audience. Dr. Coppélius returns and chases away all the girls, except Swanilda, who hides in an alcove with the doll, Coppélia. Franz has decided to try to meet the beautiful girl he saw sunning herself on the balcony, and he sneaks into the workshop, only to be captured by the toymaker, who tries to transfer Franz's "life force" to his beloved doll. Unknown to Dr. Coppélius, Swanilda has changed into the doll's clothing and pretends to come to life, only long enough to rescue Franz and show both men the truth about the doll "with the enamel eyes."

Dennis Nahat's choreography personalizes every character in *Coppélia*. Even the corps as "villagers" have distinct characters?the school children, the flower vendor, the baker, the tailor, and the priest. Designer David Guthrie has created a storybook look for the sets and costumes. The toyshop is a treasure house of mystery and fun where dolls and tools come to life. Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Orchestra under the direction of Dwight Cannon will perform Léo Delibes' enchanting score.

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's version of *Coppélia* has a libretto based upon a rethinking of themes from "Der Sandmann", a tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann. The story was also the inspiration for the "doll" act of the

Offenbach opera, "The Tales of Hoffmann." The ballet was first produced in 1870 at the Paris Opera to a commissioned score by Léo Delibes. With choreography by Arthur Saint-Léon, it is Delibes' most successful full-scale ballet and Saint-Léon's most famous. Dennis Nahat's version of *Coppélia*, like most contemporary settings of the ballet, is based quite loosely upon Saint-Léon's original intent. Nahat's *Coppélia*, was first performed by Cleveland Ballet on October 16, 1981 at the Hanna Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's *Coppélia* runs four performances only, from Thursday, February 5th through Sunday, February 8th at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$22 to \$68. For information contact the **Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800** or call Ticket Master: (408) 998-TIXS or (415) 421-TIXS. Tickets are also available online at [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org)

## FACT SHEET

### *COPPÉLIA*

A full-length ballet in three acts

**February 5-8 in downtown San Jose**

**Choreography:** Dennis Nahat

**Music:** Léo Delibes

**Scenario:** Ian Horvath and Dennis Nahat

(Based on the Ballet of 1870 by Arthur Saint-Léon)

**Costumes & Scenery:** David Guthrie

**Conductor:** Dwight Oltman

**First Performed:** Cleveland Ballet; October 16, 1981 at the Hanna Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio

**San Jose Premiere:** San Jose Cleveland Ballet, April 7th, 1989 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, San Jose, California

**Short Byte:** *Coppélia* is a lighthearted ballet that is perfect family fare for its easy-to-understand story, humorous special effects, and exuberant dancing. Derived from a tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it is the story of a mysterious old toy maker who creates a beautiful doll so life-like that an entire village is fooled into believing her to be real. Enter a young man who becomes captivated by "the girl with the enamel eyes", and his fiancée who is not ready to step aside for this new "girl" in town, and you have the beginnings of an hilarious adventure.

### **Performance Dates & Times**

Thursday, February 5th at 7:30pm

Friday, February 6th at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 7th at 8:00pm  
Sunday, February 8th at 1:30pm

**Location**

Presented at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts  
255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose

**Tickets**

Single Tickets/\$19 to \$68

**Ballet Box Office: (408) 288-2800**

**(Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)**

Ticket Master: (408) 998-TIXS (415) 421-TIXS

Web Tickets available through: [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org)

**Please note: Beautiful production photos are available.**

Press Contact: Lee Kopp (408) 288-2820 ext. 210

or by email at [lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:lkopp@balletsanjose.org) Cell: (408) 839-2379