

## **ANOTHER Ballet San Jose Dancer to Wed**

Well, spring is in the air and something "catching" is going around. For the second time in two weeks, a dancer from ballet San Jose Silicon Valley has announced an impending wedding. Last week, principal dancer Michael Doerner announced plans to wed Arts Council Silicon Valley Development Associate Melanie Kopek this summer. Ballet San Jose dancer Dalia Rawson was a guest at Melanie's wedding shower. This week, the "pointe shoe" is on the other foot with Dalia showing off a beautiful engagement ring from her intended, Gareth Hughes of Australia.



Dalia Rawson & Gareth Hughes

Dalia, whose hometown is Saratoga, California, has been a company member of Ballet San Jose since making her debut in 1991. Among her other principal roles, Dalia is always a crowd favorite as "Maria" in Dennis Nahat's NUTCRACKER each season (a role partnered by Michael Doerner), and last year she won critical acclaim in the Martha Graham signature solo, FRONTIER. In next week's spring repertory program (March 31 - April 3 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts) Dalia will be one of the featured dancers in the Allegro in Nahat's CANNONADE and in the Presto in Nahat's QUICKSILVER.

Gareth was born in Canberra, Australia and earned his degree in Computer Sciences with honors from the Australian National University. He has lived in the United States for three years and is currently a senior software engineer for NVIDIA, where he writes drivers for graphics cards. He loves

San Jose (and Dalia) and has no plans to move back to Australia. The pair were introduced through mutual friend Beth Ann Namey (also a dancer at BSJSV) about one year ago and began dating last October.

Gareth surprised Dalia on Wednesday night, March 22nd with a one-carat diamond in a platinum setting from Tiffany's. "The most beautiful thing I've ever seen," says Dalia. "My hair was up in a towel...we were in my kitchen cooking dinner and he just sprung it on me. I was so excited that we drove 90 minutes each way to share the news with my Mom and Dad in Brentwood."

The couple has not set a date, but are talking about sometime next spring or summer, depending on the orchid season in Australia. Gareth's parents own an orchid farm there.

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