

BALLET SAN JOSE

DENNIS NAHAT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBURARY 18, 2009

Subject: FIVE WORLD PREMIERE BALLETS at Ballet San Jose, February 26 through March 1, 2009

NEXT UP AT BALLET SAN JOSE

What: **HIDDEN TALENTS—A Program Of World Premieres**

Who: Choreography by our Company dancers
When: February 26 through March 1, 2009
Where: San Jose Center for the Performing Arts
255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose
Single Tickets: \$25 to \$85
Box Office: 408.288.2800 or online at www.balletsanjose.org

NEW WORKS...A Celebration of Innovation
For the first time in nearly ten years, Ballet San Jose presents a program of five World Premiere ballets showcasing the choreographic talents of our Company dancers. **Preston Dugger, Karen Gabay, Tiffany Glenn, Alexandra Meijer** and **Dalia Rawson** have drawn inspiration from the music of **György Ligeti, John Legend, Astor Piazzolla, Björk, Agustin Bardi**, and Bay Area recording artists, **Loop!Station** to create a spectacular celebration of artistic innovation.

Performance Schedule:

Thursday, February 26 at 8PM
Friday, February 27 at 8PM
Saturday, February 28 at 8PM
Sunday, March 1 (matinee) at 1:30pm

Preston Dugger

LANGUISHING FOR LOVE

Contemporary ballet for 2 dancers; a solo for a male dancer and a pas de deux.
"Languishing for Love is a contemporary piece I created to convey a love story. Maykel Solas and Yui Yonezawa are the two star dancers in the piece.
The music is from the artist Björk. The piece is a story about the trials and tribulations some relationships go through in order to move forward and live in today's society."

Our male dancer is going through some tough times. His solo reflects that. When our female dancer appears, she lets him know that she has been there, done that, and offers her support.

This is not a 'story' ballet but rather a 'relationship' piece.

Music: Björk

107 Steps (solo) Maykel Solas (2:34)

I've Seen it All (pas de deux) Maykel Solas and Yui Yonezawa (5:13)

Karen Gabay

2-2 TANGO

This is an expansion of a small piece that Ms. Gabay worked on a few years ago for "Pointe of Departure" in Cleveland. It is a "theater piece" with a compilation of different musical artists and choreography that is tango based but incorporates classical ballet steps. Originally created with only 7 dancers, the piece will be expanded to 20 dancers and a full stage. Running time: 33 minutes

Music: Compilation of tangos by various composers.

1. *La Cumparsita* :Rodriguez-Maroni-Contursi
(recording: Jose Basso and his orchestra)
2. *Mi Buenos Aires Querido*: Gardel- La Pera
(recording: Carlos Garcia and his Orchestra)
3. *Oblivion*: Astor Piazzolla
(recording: Hommage a Piazzolla)
4. *La Yumba*: Pugliese
(Osvaldo Puliese and His Orchestra)
5. *Cambalache*: Disepolo
(Julio Sosa featuring Leopoldo Federico and his traditional orchestra)
6. *Buenos Aires hora Cero*: Astor Piazzolla
(recording: Hommage a Piazzolla)
7. *C. T.V. Tango*: Agustin Bardi
(recording: Buenos Aires tango 2)
8. *La Trampera-milanga*: Anibal Trolio
(recording: Buenos Aires Tango 2)
9. *Duende y Misterio*: Carlos Corrales & Neotango
(recording Buenos Aires Tango 2)
10. *Fuga Y Misterio*: Astor Piazzolla

(recording: The 12 cellists of the BPO-Juline Banse

Tiffany Glenn LEGENDS

Inspired by the music of R&B singer and songwriter John Legend. This is a contemporary ballet with three sections and is danced by 5 women and 7 men. The Principal Dancers are Amy Marie Briones, Ramon Moreno, Seth Parker, and Hao Bo. The other dancers are Erena Ishii with Michael Wagley, Mirai Noda with Akira Takahashi, Cynthia Sheppard with Peter Hershey, and Mallory Welsh with Shuai Chen.

"My style is 'Glenn Movement' which is a mixture of ballet, modern, jazz and natural African-American dance."

15 minutes.

Music: Three songs by John Legend, R&B songwriter/singer: Show Me, Where Did My Baby Go?, and Coming Home.

("The music moves me emotionally.")

Alexsandra Meijer The Way We Fall

Contemporary ballet on pointe for four couples.

Travis Walker/ Junna Ige

Willie Anderson/ Harriet McMeekin

Jeremy Kovitch/ Sarah Stein

Robert Raney/ Keira Schwartz

The theme is relationships. 20 minutes.

Music: Three songs: Theory of Noise, The Last Time I Saw You, and a new piece, All You Want, which is being created just for the ballet.

Composer: Loop!Station...A Bay Area group consisting of vocalist, Robin Coomer and cellist, Sam Bass with multiple layered 'loops' creating provocative orchestral compositions. A mix of classical and new age. They will be performing live on stage alongside the dancers. The show will coincide with the release of their latest/4th album. (The new piece will be included on the album.)

Dalia Rawson

Fèm

("brightly colored metal" in Hungarian)

"This is an abstract, contemporary ballet, choreographed using the classical vocabulary with women on pointe. It is inspired by the dancers themselves and the complex Ligeti music. The music will be performed live by pianist Michael McGraw, onstage with the dancers."

9 dancers: Shannon Bynum, Daniel Gwatkin, Peter Hershey, Maria Jacobs-Yu, Kaleena Opdyke, Seth Parker, Michael Wagley, Mallory Welsh and Jing Zhang.

16:49 minutes

Music: Four of György Ligeti's Etudes which were written between 1985 and 2001 and two Capriccios written in 1947.

1. Fèm, Etude No. 8 (All)
2. Cordes a Vide, Etude No. 2 (pas de deux Welsh + Hershey)
3. Capriccio No. 1 (solo for Maria Jacobs)
4. Arc-en-ciel, Etude No. 5 (pas de deux for Opdyke + Gwatkin)
5. Pour Irina, Etude No. 16 (solo for Zhang)
6. Capriccio No. 2 (All)

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CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

A Washington, D.C. native, **Preston W. Dugger III** began his training at The Washington School of Ballet. He attended Suitland High School's Visual and Performing Arts program. During his tenure, Preston also received training at the Houston Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem's residency program.

Upon completion of High School, Preston was offered a contract at Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Arthur Mitchell where he danced in featured roles such as Agon, The Four Temperaments and Fancy Free. Most recently, Preston has worked with Ballet Met and the Oakland Ballet.

Mr. Dugger joined Ballet San Jose for the 2005-2006 season, after the demise of the Oakland Ballet.

Dennis Nahat said of Preston: "His debut with Ballet San Jose will be in the starring role of Benvolio in Romeo and Juliet. Preston comes from a wealth of experiences with Dance Theater of Harlem and most

recently he performed with Oakland Ballet."

Karen Gabay was born in San Diego, California and began her ballet training at the age of eight at the California Ballet School, and later studied at the School of American Ballet in New York City. A principal dancer with Ballet San Jose, Miss Gabay's diverse repertoire includes Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, the title role in Giselle, Swanhilda in Coppélia, the pupil in Flemming Flindt's The Lesson, the title role in Roland Petit's Carmen, the principal female in George Balanchine's Theme and Variations, Tarantella and Serenade, the Cowgirl in Agnes DeMille's Rodeo and has had many ballets choreographed for her by Ballet San Jose Artistic Director, Dennis Nahat.

Miss Gabay has been a guest artist with the North Carolina Dance Theater, Ballet Tucson, Ballet Nuevo Mundo, The Eglevsky Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Los Angeles Classical Ballet and has toured with Cynthia Gregory's Dance Galaxy throughout South America. In 2008, she performed at the International Ballet Competition Reunion Gala in Jackson, Mississippi and has danced at various galas and festivals that include the Vail International Dance Festival, the Career Transitions for Dancers Gala in New York City, and the Spoleto and Edinburgh Festivals with ballet icon, Rudolph Nureyev. Miss Gabay was invited to dance in the Hungarian Festival of Freedom Tribute with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, and assisted Fleming Flindt in rehearsing The Lesson, for the Kings of the Dance with Ángel Corella, Johann Kobborg, and Nikolay Tsiskaridze, and Ethan Stiefel.

Miss Gabay is rehearsal assistant for Ballet San Jose, staging and rehearsing the repertoire of the company. During the company's hiatus, Miss Gabay is co-artistic director/resident choreographer for Pointe of Departure, a not-for-profit ballet company that she and fellow artist, Raymond Rodriguez created to continue ballet performances during the summer season. Miss Gabay also enjoys teaching, and is regularly invited around the country to instruct at various ballet schools.

As a choreographer, she is excited to be premiering a new work for the company in 2009, and has produced ballets for the International Ballet Competition Reunion Gala, Pointe of Departure, Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Dancing Wheels, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Chautauqua Dance Company, Minnesota Ballet, Key Concerts for the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Cleveland Composer's Guild.

Her film and television work includes the feature film RENT, The Drew Carey Show, and the Queen of Denmark's silver anniversary gala for Scandinavian television.

Tiffany Glenn, from Washington, D.C., received her training at Jones-Haywood School of Ballet. in Washington, D.C., Rosella Hightower Centre de Dance in Cannes, France, Alvin Ailey American Dance in New York City, and with Alonzo King in San Francisco.

Before joining Ballet San Jose in 2001, she danced with Dance Theatre of Harlem Dancing Through Barriers Ensemble and performed such ballets as Creole Giselle, Four Temperaments, South Africa Suite and Serenade.

With Ballet San Jose, Miss Glenn enjoyed working with Donald McKayle in his production of Death And Eros, and added Mistress of Ceremonies in Graduation Ball, Who Cares?, Les Sylphides, a stunning debut performance in Out of Africa and Dennis Nahat's Middle Kingdom--Ancient China to her repertoire. She has also taught ballet classes at Ballet San Jose School and has assisted in rehearsals of the Company. Tiffany is an aspiring choreographer and a proud breast cancer survivor.

Alexsandra Meijer joined Ballet San Jose in 2001. Her repertoire as a principal dancer in Dennis Nahat's ballets include Tsarina Tatiana and Maria Tannenbaum in The Nutcracker, the role of Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, the title role of the Firebird in The Firebird, Long Tall Sally in Blue Suede Shoes, The Silk Empress in Middle Kingdom — Ancient China, and the featured female dancer in Ontogeny, Grand Pas de Dix, and Mendelssohn Symphony.

Principal roles under other choreographers include Juno in Michael Smuin's The Tempest, Karen Blixen (The Woman) in the world premiere production of Flemming Flindt's Out of Africa, Sanguinic in George Balanchine's The Four Temperaments, the featured female dancer Lew Christensen's Vivaldi Concerto Grosso, and the role of The Lover in Smuin's Shinju.

Meijer has also had the rare privilege to perform the role of Odette/Odile from Swan Lake with the highly esteemed Principal dancer Ronald Savkovic of Staatsoper Unter den Linden of Berlin, Germany.

She continues to perform principal guest artist roles at various festivals as well as with a variety of different companies. She has also performed extensively throughout China including the prestigious Shanghai Grand Theater during the Company's 2008 "China Goodwill Tour".

Meijer was born and raised in Southern California. She received her training at Marin Dance Theatre, the Orange County High School of the Arts, and completed her Cecchetti training under the direction of Marnell Himes-Ushijima. She was awarded the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts scholarship and won the Disneyland Creativity Challenge Award.

Dalia Rawson is proud to have been a member of Ballet San Jose (formerly Cleveland Ballet) from 1991 to 2005. A native of Saratoga, California, Dalia has enjoyed a wide variety of roles with the company. Miss Rawson particularly enjoys dancing Maria and Tsarina in Dennis Nahat's The Nutcracker with Michael Doerner, Swanhilda in Coppélia, the Pigtail Girl in Graduation Ball, the Cowgirl in Martha Graham's Rodeo, and the Pianist in Flemming Flindt's The Lesson.

Miss Rawson has appeared on television in The Drew Carey Show, and in the PBS production of Dennis Nahat's Blue Suede Shoes.

Prior to joining Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley, she studied with Gloria Vauges Mohr at the International Ballet School in Campbell and trained at both San Francisco Ballet School and The Joffrey Ballet School. In 1991 she received a first level award from the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts.

Ms. Rawson is now Rehearsal Assistant for the Company and an instructor in the ballet school, teaching character and ballet in the Professional Division, adult classes, as well as choreographing for all levels of the Professional Division.

CHOREOGRAPHER PHOTOS:

Headshots of our choreographers may be found in the "Press Room" of our website or email publicist Lee Kopp at lkopp@balletsanjose.org for high-resolution images. Other photos will be posted as the rehearsals progress.

To download high resolution images from our website...

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