

# BALLET SAN JOSE

DENNIS NAHAT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

INTERNATION STAR DANCER JOINS BALLET SAN JOSE AS PRINCIPAL DANCER  
**Meng Lu will dance the lead role of Franz in Company's Season-Opening production of Coppélia**

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(San Jose, CA) Ballet San Jose has announced the addition of international ballet star Meng Lu of China to its company roster for the 2009-2010 Season as a principal dancer. Meng will first be seen dancing the lead role of Franz in the company's season-opening production of *Coppélia*, October 3-11 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. (Specific dates and performances times of Meng Lu's appearances To Be Announced.)

Ballet San Jose Artistic Director Dennis Nahat invited Meng to join the company after seeing his performances while he was on tour to the United States with renowned Liaoning Ballet of China.

"Meng Lu visited Ballet San Jose in October of 2008," said Nahat. "He immediately captured the attention of the local community. His natural stage presence, his abilities as a dramatic actor and comedian, and his clear, exciting, classical and contemporary dance technique will allow him great strength in the repertory of Ballet San Jose.

I am proud to showcase this fine talent to our audiences. His versatility, grace and depth of expression will enthrall everyone. He has the elegance of Nureyev and the bravura of Baryshnikov."

"I came to perform in San Jose and while here I visited my friend Hao Bo who works for Ballet San Jose," said Meng Lu. "I saw what BSJ had to offer. It has so many great opportunities for me to grow as an artist, that I had to be a part of it."

Meng Lu's first appearance with BSJ will be performing the role of Franz in *Coppélia* with Alexandra Meijer as his Swanilda. He will be featured in *Pirates of Penzance* (November 19-22)



and will dance the roles of Prince Alexis and Tsar Nikolai in *The Nutcracker* (December 10-27.) In 2010 he is slated to perform the title role of Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* (February 27 – March 6).

Ballet San Jose's 2009-2010 season runs from October through May. The company produces a five-show season and a 3-week run of *The Nutcracker*. In addition to the main stage season, BSJ offers a four-show Children's Series of short ballets and offers year-round ballet classes for ages 4 through adult. Their studios are located in downtown San Jose. Season subscriptions and single tickets to all productions are on sale. The Ballet San Jose Box Office is located at 40 North First Street in San Jose and can be reached weekdays from 9am to 5pm at 408.288.2800. Single tickets may be purchased online at [www.balletsj.org](http://www.balletsj.org).

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#### ABOUT MENG LU

Meng Lu was born in China and began studying ballet when he was 11 years old. He joined Liaoning Ballet as a 1st Class Principal Dancer after graduating from Liaoning Ballet School in 2000.

Meng has won many awards within China and at International Ballet Competitions. He has danced principal roles in SWAN LAKE, DON QUIXOTE, GISELLE, NAPOLI, LE CORSAIRE and THE NUTCRACKER, among others.

Some of his awards and achievements include:

Gold prize of 2nd CCTV National Dance Competition.

The Best Man of 4th Chinese Dance.

Gold Prize of "Peach & Plum Cup" National Dance Competition in 2000,

Bronze Prize of 2nd Shanghai International Ballet Competition in 2001,

Special Prize of 20th Varna International Ballet Competition in 2002,

Excellent Actor Prize in the *Last Emperor* of 4H Lotus Prize 2004.

Gold Prize of Japanese Dance Festival 2005.

Named title of "China's Ten Most Outstanding Youths" in 2007

He attended 21st world stars Gala in France 2003 and Korea World Stars Gala 2006.

Member of the international company "Ballet Stars of the 21st Century."

#### ABOUT BALLETSAN JOSE

Ballet San Jose, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, enriches lives by providing world class dance performances. Ballet San Jose is internationally recognized for its extraordinary dancers, rich repertoire of ballets, and its artistic innovation and excellence.

In 2008 the company toured China, visiting eight cities in five weeks in the most extensive tour by any western ballet company in China's history.

