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THE NUTCRACKER

Sparkles amid the Decorations of the Season

(San Jose, CA) Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents eighteen performances of its magnificent production of Dennis Nahat's *The Nutcracker* December 12 through 28 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts amid the sparkle of downtown holiday decorations. Tickets for the blockbuster extravaganza range from \$19 to \$68. For many Bay Area families, Nahat's version of the popular ballet is an anchor of their holiday tradition. Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley anticipates as many as 30,000 people will attend the production this December.

This triumphant tale of Maria and her beloved nutcracker will delight audiences young and old alike; and downtown San Jose's holiday decorations, and "Christmas In The Park" display provide the perfect backdrop for a fun-filled family outing. The theater itself is a wonderland of surprises, replete with lavish lobby decorations, a boutique of ballet and holiday treasures, choirs singing carols, the ?Pocket Lady? passing out free toys, and characters from the show posing for complimentary souvenir photos with the children and their families. Giant statues of the Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King (12 to 15 feet tall) stand proudly in front of the theatre to welcome ballet lovers.

The full company of 38 professional (union) dancers and dozens of advanced-level students from the company's school will perform to Tchaikovsky's impeccable musical score, originally written in 1892. Designer David Guthrie presents an eye-catching depiction of a fantasy world come alive on stage with 10 amazing sets and over 150 festive costumes. Every scene is a feast for the eyes. The 'Wondrous Snowstorm' at the end of Act I requires 60 pounds of flameproof punched white confetti, four fog machines, and a total of 400 pounds of dry ice per performance to create a stunning winter wonderland. The production is danced to an expanded score played live by the 45-member Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Orchestra.

"The Nutcracker is a gift for all who see it and all who dance it?, says choreographer and Company Artistic Director Dennis Nahat. " It blends the best in theatre with the artistry of ballet and the glorious music of Tchaikovsky. It encompasses the fantasy of dreams. That is what makes the holidays so special?the belief that dreams can come true. The holidays are an energized time of celebration that touch the child in the

heart of each and every one of us."

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's *The Nutcracker* runs from Friday, December 12th through Sunday, December 28th at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$19 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

FACT SHEET

THE NUTCRACKER

A full-length holiday ballet in two acts

December 12 through 28 in downtown San Jose

Choreography: Dennis Nahat

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costumes & Scenery: David Guthrie

Conductor: Dwight Oltman

First Performed: December 1979, Cleveland Public Music Hall

Short Byte: The perennial holiday favorite is back for an eighteen-performance run in downtown San Jose, December 12 through 28. An amazing journey begins when young Maria joins her family and friends at a holiday party and is given a nutcracker by her beloved godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer. Set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's immortal musical score, Nahat's sumptuous production is danced by 38 professional dancers and more than 60 young dancers and students in the advanced program at the Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley School. This full-length, two-act production has been hailed by critics as "the Bay Area's best Nutcracker."

Performance Dates & Times

Fri, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm

Sat, Dec. 13 at 1:30pm & 7:30pm

Sun, Dec. 14 at 4:00pm

Tues, Dec. 16 at 4:00pm

Thurs, Dec 18 at 7:30pm

Fri, Dec. 19 at 7:30pm

Sat, Dec. 20 at 1:30pm & 7:30pm

Sun, Dec. 21 at 1:30pm & 7:30pm

Mon, Dec. 22 at 1:30pm & 7:30pm

Tues, Dec. 23 at 4:00pm

Fri, Dec. 26 at 7:30pm

Sat, Dec. 27 at 1:30pm and 7:30pm

Closing performance: Sunday, Dec. 28 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

Please note: Beautiful production photos are available.

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