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## **Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley adds 15 New Dancers**

**Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley** has added fifteen new dancers for its 2001-02 season which opens October 18-21 with the American premiere of Flemming Flint's **RED SHOES or Legs of Fire**. Nine woman and six men will be added to the Company to bring the total number of dancers to forty-two.

**Ivan Bielik** of Topľany, Slovakia danced for two years with the Ballet Company of the Vienna State Opera before joining the Austrian Grazer Ballet in 1996. He is making his American debut with Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley. **Sandrine Cassini** was born in Nice, France. She is also making her American debut after dancing with the Paris Opera Ballet and the Monte Carlo Ballet. She most recently was a principal dancer with Zurich Ballet. **Julia Cherlow** was born in Santa Monica. Her professional experience includes Chautauqua Ballet Company, North Carolina Dance Theater and New York City Ballet. Ms. **Kai Davis** from Chicago has performed with the Ruth Page Foundation, Hubbard Street Dance, Joffrey Ballet, and most recently Boston Ballet.

**Michael Doerner** hails from Sierra Vista, Arizona but has spent most of his professional career dancing in Canada with Ballet Eddy Toussaint de Montréal, National Ballet of Canada, and Alberta Ballet. **Tiffany Glenn** of Washington D.C. was a fellowship student at Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Before joining BSJSV, she was a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem. Born in Van Nuys, California, **Peter Hershey** is making his professional debut with Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley. His training includes the School of American Ballet and The Julliard School. **Danielle Kimiatek** is a native of Boston, Massachusetts and trained at Boston Ballet. She is making her professional debut after having recently placed 2nd at the Youth America Grand Prix competition in New York City and being offered a full scholarship to the Kirov Academy summer program.

**Alexandra Koltun** was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and became a member of the Kirov Ballet after graduating from an eight-year program at the Vaganova Choreographic Institute in Leningrad. She has danced with New Jersey Ballet, Colorado Ballet and was a prima ballerina with Boston Ballet. Alexandra received the gold medal at Boston International Choreography competition.

**Yuichiro Kyoto** was born in Tokyo, Japan and trained at Kurabayashi Ballet Institute and Tachibana Ballet School. He is making his American debut. **Alex Lapshin** was born in Moscow, Russia and trained at the Bolshoi Ballet School.

He joined the Bolshoi in 1986 and was a soloist for four years. He was a principal dancer with Vienna State Opera Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and recently with Boston Ballet. **Alexsandra Meijer** was born and raised in Santa Ana, California and attended the Orange County High School of the Arts. She also studied and performed at Marin Dance Theatre and was awarded a scholarship by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. **Jekyins Pelaez** was born in Cali, Colombia and studied there with Incol Ballet. He has performed with Ballet De Cali, Ballet Arizona, Chautauqua Ballet, and Ohio Ballet. He has toured extensively throughout the United States and Latin America.

**Sayaka Tai** makes her American debut with her performance as Lady W in Flemming Flindt's **RED SHOES or Legs of Fire**. She was born in Kagawa, Japan, and studied at Tokyo Ballet Institute before joining Stedelijk Institutue voor Ballet in Antwerp Belgium. She won First Prize at the 1996 Austrian Ballet Competition in Vienna and was a principal dancer at Austrian Grazer Ballet. **Claire Weatherhead** was born in Eastbourne, England but claims Santa Barbara, California as her hometown. She trained at Houston Ballet Academy on full scholarship where she received the Peter Schaer Award in 1997. She began her professional career at Houston Ballet followed by the English National Ballet and Denmark's Peter Schaufuss Ballet.

The entire company of 42 dancers including the 15 new members will perform in the American premiere of Flemming Flindt's **RED SHOES or Legs of Fire**, October 18-21 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. (Five performances only.) Tickets are \$20 to \$68. (408) 288-2800.

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Photos of all dancers now available electronically by calling publicist Lee Kopp 408.288.2820 x 210. [lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:lkopp@balletsanjose.org). Images are PhotoShop, JPEG, 300dpi, 4X5 format.

