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Blue Suede Shoes and District Storyville

Rock and Jazz back colorful dances for April rep program

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents two dances in a colorful mixed repertory program April 11-14, 2002 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The program features Dennis Nahat's **Blue Suede Shoes** set to the music of Elvis Presley and Donald McKayle's **District Storyville** set to early American jazz. Performances are on Thursday April 11 at 7:30 p.m., on Friday April 12 at 8 p. m., Saturday April 13 at 1:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and on Sunday April 14 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The program opens with the Company Premiere of Donald McKayle's **District Storyville**, set to the original music of Dorothea Freitag, the jazz of Sidney Bechet, Duke Ellington and Jelly Roll Morton, with a touch of traditional New Orleans funeral and parade music. It is a bold and bawdy picture of the legendary 1903 New Orleans bordello district at the turn of the century when the roots of jazz were forming and the horn was king. District Storyville begins with a funeral procession complete with pantomimed mournful brass band, funeral bier, and wailing, veiled women. The action then moves to a "sporting house" with jubilant dancing in a portrait of the nightclub scene and its denizens including gamblers, prostitutes, musicians and a shimmy queen. The real Storyville district of New Orleans was closed in 1917 by federal government mandate during WWI. The original buildings have been demolished and this renowned historic attraction has been lost forever, except in photos, tall tales, and this wonderful piece of colorful choreography. District Storyville was first presented by the Donald McKayle Dance Company at the Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. Kaufman Concert Hall, New York City, April 23, 1962.

Dennis Nahat's **Blue Suede Shoes** combines classical dance with classic rock in a one-act ballet danced to 36 master recordings of Elvis Presley songs. The \$1.2 million production features 280 lavish costumes and 16 sets by award-winning designer Bob Mackie. The story opens in 1950s "anytown" USA and mirrors the birth of rock 'n roll through several incidents in Elvis Presley's life. The story is built around three high school buddies who are nearing graduation. We follow them from school to the Hot Dog Drive-In to a farewell party before they are inducted into the army. Once stationed in Germany, the boys are separated. One loses his girlfriend while away; another boy learns that his mother has died; the third searches for friendship, but finds himself very much alone. Returning home from the service the boys discover that life has changed dramatically. They are reunited and set out to celebrate at a local nightclub. A

fight ensues over an old high school beauty and the boys end up in jail. Once released, all of the characters from their lives join them in the big finale as they go off to seek their fame and fortune...each wearing a pair of blue suede shoes. **Blue Suede Shoes** had its world premiere with Cleveland San Jose Ballet on May 29, 1996 at the State Theatre, Playhouse Square Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

District Storyville and **Blue Suede Shoes** will be presented for six performances only, April 11-14, 2002 at Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$20 to \$68 with discounts available for seniors, students, and groups. For tickets and information call the Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800 or visit the Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley website at www.balletsanjose.org. Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster at (408) 998-TIX or (415) 421-TIXS.

FACT SHEET

Blue Suede Shoes and District Storyville

April 11-14, 2002

Blue Suede Shoes

Choreographer -Dennis Nahat

Sets & Costumes -Bob Mackie

Composers -Various

Music -36 Elvis Presley master recordings

First Performed: Cleveland San Jose Ballet, May 29, 1996 at the State Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio

District Storyville

Choreographer -Donald McKayle

Composers -Original music by Dorothea Freitag, Sidney Bechet, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton

Music -Early 20th Century American jazz with New Orleans parade and funeral music

First Performed: Donald McKayle Dance Company, April 23, 1962 at the Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. Kaufman Concert Hall, New York City

SHORT BYTE: Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents two dances in a colorful mixed repertory program, April 11-14, 2001 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The program features Dennis Nahat's Blue Suede Shoes set to the music of Elvis Presley and Donald McKayle's District Storyville set to early American jazz.

Performance Dates & Times

Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, at 1:30 p.m. 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Location

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts
255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose, CA

Tickets

Single Tickets/\$20 to \$68

Ballet Box Office: (408) 288-2800

Tickets are also available through our website: www.balletsanjose.org

Or call TicketMaster: (408) 998-TIXS or (415) 421-TIXS

Senior and Student Discounts: \$5.00 off mid-price range seats

Additional press materials and photos are available.

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