

Winter, 2002
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BLUE SUEDE SHOES AND IN CONCERT

Rock and Classical music back 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 Nahat's rarely performed In Concert set to the music of Giuseppe Verdi and Charles Gounod. 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. (Please note the added Saturday matinee at 1:30 p.m.)

The program opens with Dennis Nahat's In Concert, set to I Vêpres Siciliennes, Il Trovatore, and La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi and musical selections from Faust by Charles Gounod. The ballet was created as a Valentine to dancers. It was also conceived as an educational piece to demonstrate different styles in classical ballet—that of Russian, French, Italian and American. The 24-minute classical (tutu) ballet in seven movements is danced by two men and three women and includes an entrée, two pas de deux, a solo for a ballerina, a duet for men, a trio for women, and a company finale. It has no storyline, but is constructed as a showcase for the dancers. First performed by Cleveland Ballet on February 18, 1977 at the Hanna Theater in Cleveland, Ohio, In Concert has been seen in San Jose only once—in 1986 as part of a special welcoming program for the Company's charter subscribers. Last summer the piece was revived at USDAN Center for the Performing Arts in New York.

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. It has been seen by millions of viewers on PBS stations across the country and is still one of the Company's most requested pieces.

In Concert 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 In Concert ***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

In Concert

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Costumes: Raymond Zander

Composers and Music: I Vêpres Siciliennes, Il Trovatore, and La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

and musical selections from Faust by Charles Gounod.

First Performed: Cleveland Ballet, February 18, 1977 at the Hanna Theater, Cleveland, Ohio

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 Dennis Nahat's In Concert set to the music of Giuseppe Verdi and Charles Gounod.

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.

Note special added Saturday matinee.

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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