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Roland Petit's CARMEN returns for 5 performances

Presented with Balanchine/Gershwin's *Who Cares?*

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley presents the return of Roland Petit's sizzling production of **Carmen** May 2-5, 2002 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. The electrifying one-act ballet set to Georges Bizet's opera score will be presented for five performances only. This special Spring Program will also feature George Balanchine's brilliant classical ballet **Who Cares?** set to sixteen songs by George and Ira Gershwin.

Carmen is a vivid and passionate story of lust and treachery based on the fabled temptress of Seville. The story follows the downward spiral of Prosper Merimée's novel and Georges Bizet's opera. It is a highly stylized ballet that has captured and scandalized audiences throughout the world since French Dance Master Roland Petit first presented the 45-minute tale of seduction and betrayal at Prince's Theatre in London in 1949. The central love duet for Carmen and Don José is said to be among the most sexually explicit couplings ever put on the ballet stage. The production garnered rave reviews at its San Jose premiere for the 1999-2000 season.

Synopsis: The strong, sensuous Carmen lures local official Don José into her world of mystery, excitement, and crime only to dismiss him when a handsome Toreador arrives in town. Engulfed with passion and anger, Don José seeks revenge for her roaming eyes, setting the stage for a dramatic and violent climax.

Who Cares? was first performed by New York City Ballet on February 5, 1970 at the New York State Theatre. Set to sixteen songs by George and Ira Gershwin, the ballet pays homage to the wit and elegance of the music; music that has maintained its classic freshness and unique New York feel. Arlene Croce, editor of *Ballet Review* called **Who Cares?** "...a brilliant high wire act...to be danced for the moment, in the now of things. What it's really about is the inherent joy of being a man or a woman with a healthy body and the ability to dance, dance, dance. It is pure, unmitigated, uncut joy, an open, palpating, vulnerable heart on the sleeve."

The Songs: *Strike Up the Band, Sweet and Low Down, Somebody Loves Me, Bidin' My Time, 'S Wonderful, That Certain Feeling, Do Do Do, Lady Be Good, The Man I Love, I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise, Embraceable You, Fascinatin'*

Rhythm, Who Cares?, My One and Only, Liza, and I Got Rhythm.

Carmen and **Who Cares?** plays May 2 through 5, 2002. Thursday and Sunday evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on May 2 and 5. Curtain times will be at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3 and Saturday May 4. There will be one matinee performance only on Sunday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m. All performances are at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$20 to \$68 with discounts available for students, seniors, and groups. For tickets and additional information contact the **Ballet Box Office at (408) 288-2800** or Ticketmaster at (408) 998-TIXS or (415) 421-TIXS. Tickets are also available through the ballet website: www.balletsanjose.org.

FACT SHEET

CARMEN and WHO CARES?

May 2-5, 2002

Carmen

Choreography -Roland Petit

Music -Georges Bizet

Orchestration -David Garforth

Costumes & Scenery -Antoni Clavé

Conductor -Dwight Oltman

First Performed February 21, 1949, London at the Prince's Theatre by Les Ballets de Paris

Company Premiere February 24, 2000, at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts by San Jose Cleveland Ballet

Who Cares?

Choreography -George Balanchine

Music -George Gershwin

Adaptation & Orchestration -Hershy Kay

Costumes & Scenery -David Guthrie

Conductor -Dwight Oltman

First Performed February 5, 1970, New York State Theatre by New York City Ballet

Company Premiere November 2, 1994 at the State Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio by Cleveland San Jose Ballet

Performance Dates & Times

Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 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

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 are available.

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