

**April 9, 2001**  
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## **2001-2002 Season Announcement**

### ***Blockbuster Season Offers Something for Everyone***

(San Jose, CA) Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's 2001-2002 Season will feature the American Premiere of Flemming Flindt's *Legs of Fire--The Red Shoes*, the Company Premiere of Donald McKayle's *District Storyville*, and the return of Roland Petit's *Carmen*, and Dennis Nahat's *Blue Suede Shoes*. All programs will be performed at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. Subscriptions go on sale Monday, April 16 through the Ballet Box Office, (408) 288-2800.

"We are extremely excited about the programming for next season," said Executive Director Andrew Bales. "It is a wonderful mix of styles, old and new, comic and tragic, thought-provoking and pure fun. The season really offers something for everyone!"

The 2001-02 Season opens **October 18-21, 2001** with the American Premiere of a new work by Flemming Flindt, *Legs of Fire--The Red Shoes*. There have been many "behind the scenes" movies about the theatre, but very few films have peeked behind the curtain to glimpse the backstage world of ballet. The most famous of these is the cult film "The Red Shoes," from the Hans Christian Anderson story of the same name. Flindt's ballet tells a tale of obsession loosely based on the short and dramatic life of Danish ballerina Elna Lassen, one of the most talented dancers in 1920s Europe and a beloved principal of the Royal Danish Ballet until she took her own life at the age of twenty-nine. This opulent full-length work was created by Flindt for the Royal Danish Ballet and had its world premiere in February, 1998. It has never been seen outside of Denmark.

The Winter Repertory Program presents a perfect partnering of pieces for Valentine's weekend, **February 14-17, 2002**. Opening the program will be Dennis Nahat's lyrical *Rivulet* with choreography inspired by the movement of water and set to Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grosso No.1 for String Orchestra and Piano Obligato. Next up is *Apollo*, one of George Balanchine's seminal early works set to music by Igor Stravinsky. *Graduation Ball*, David Lichine's "high-life" one-act ballet set to selected works of Johann Strauss, concludes the program in Ballet Russe style. The piece features one of the great "travestie" roles in the character of The Headmistress, to be performed by Company Artistic Director Dennis Nahat.

The Spring Repertory Program (**April 11-14, 2002**) will feature the Company Premiere of *District Storyville* from American choreographer Donald McKayle. The 1962 work is set to the music of Sidney Bechet, Duke Ellington, and Jelly Roll Morton with a touch of traditional New Orleans funeral and parade music. The story takes place in 1917 when jazz ruled New Orleans and a young trumpet player named Louis Armstrong was just beginning to hear the music he would later turn into a national art form. Turning from the jazz of the early 1900s to the rock and roll of the '50s, '60s, and 70s, *Blue Suede Shoes* returns to San Jose. This \$1.2 million production, with sets and costumes by Hollywood legend Bob Mackie and choreography by Dennis Nahat, is set to 36 of Elvis Presley's original RCA master recordings. The story follows three high

school friends as they graduate, join the army, and return home to a surprising reunion.

The return of Roland Petit's sizzling *Carmen* highlights the final offering of the season, **May 2-5, 2002**. Set to Georges Bizet's fabulous opera score, *Carmen* thrilled audiences when it made its Company Premiere during the 1999-2000 season. The highly stylized ballet scandalized audience throughout the world with its sexually explicit portrayal of the fabled temptress of Seville. Bales said, "Carmen is one of our audience's most requested works and we are pleased to be able to mount it again." Also on the Spring Repertory Program will be George Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, an elegant and witty setting of seventeen songs from George Gershwin including: "Strike Up the Band," "Somebody Loves Me," "S Wonderful," "Embracable You," "Fascinatin' Rhythm," "The Man I Love," and "Lady Be Good."

All performances will be held at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Season subscriptions go on sale April 16th. Subscribers save up to \$74.00, enjoy ticket exchange privileges, have priority purchasing rights for *The Nutcracker*, are provided with lost ticket insurance, and have many other benefits. For tickets and additional information call the Ballet Box Office (408) 288-2800 or visit the company's web sit at: [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org). ENDFor photos or to schedule interviews with Artistic Director Dennis Nahat or Executive Director Andrew Bales, please contact publicist Lee Kopp (408) 288-2820 x 210. [Lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:Lkopp@balletsanjose.org).

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## BALLET SAN JOSE SILICON VALLEY 2001-2001 Season at a Glance

Season Opening Program, October 18-21, 2001

### **Legs of Fire–The Red Shoes–American Premiere**

Choreographer: Flemming Flindt

Composer: (To Be Announced)

Music: (To Be Announced)

*Winter Repertory Program, February 14-17, 2002*

### **Rivulet**

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Composer: Ernest Block

Music: Concerto Grosso No.1

### **Apollo**

Choreographer: George Balanchine

Composer: Igor Stravinsky

Music: Apollo

### **Graduation Ball**

Choreographer: David Lichine

Composer: Johann Strauss

Music: Selected works

*Spring Repertory Program, April 11-14, 2002*

**District Storyville—Company Premiere**

Choreographer: Donald McKayle

Composers: Various

Music: Compilation of traditional jazz with New Orleans funeral and parade music

**Blue Suede Shoes**

Choreographer: Dennis Nahat

Composers: Various

Music: 36 songs performed by Elvis Presely

*May Repertory Program, May 2-5, 2002*

**Who Cares?**

Choreographer: George Balanchine

Composer: George Gershwin

Music: 17 selected songs of Gershwin

**Carmen**

Choreographer: Roland Petit

Composer: Georges Bizet

Music: Carmen

***Repertory programs show dances listed in order of their performance  
(All programs subject to change)***