

September 4 , 2001  
(408) 288-2820 ext. 210

Media Contact: Lee Kopp, Publicity  
[lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:lkopp@balletsanjose.org)

Michael Smuin's *THE TEMPEST* added to Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley's 2002-03 Season

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley has filled the final dates in its 2002-03 Season with Michael Smuin's stunning story ballet, *The Tempest*, based on the play by William Shakespeare. The production will occupy the previously unannounced April 3-6, 2003 slot in the schedule.

With Emmy-nominated choreography by Michael Smuin, *The Tempest* is set to a provocative score based first upon Henry Purcell, though it evolves into a more 20th century sensibility as the story develops. This music was compiled and enhanced by composer Paul Chihara. (Chihara also worked with Smuin on his Broadway triumph *Sophisticated Ladies*.) The piece is filled with grace, beauty, humor and spectacle. The costumes are by two-time Tony Award-winner Willa Kim (who also won an Emmy for "Outstanding Costume Design for a Television Special" when the ballet was presented on PBS's "Dance In America" in 1981.) *The Tempest* requires over 80 costumes which take their inspiration from the magic, monsters and myth of the original play. The scenery is by Tony Walton, who has created a giant ship in a full, rolling ocean that breaks apart and transforms into Prospero's cave, with the side of the ship turning into a mountain crag. Special effects and aerial entrances and exits complete a truly fantastic technical extravaganza.

Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley Artistic Director Dennis Nahat has a long history with Michael Smuin. The two have been close friends and colleagues since their years at American Ballet Theatre. At ABT they performed together in many of the great ballets by Jerome Robbins, Agnes de Mille, and Antony Tudor. Of *The Tempest*, Nahat says, "It is fresh and alive with humor, romance, drama and everything a full evening of dance, theatre and music should have. The storm and shipwreck alone are worth the price of admission. It has all the elements of a fairytale, elevated to great art."

Synopsis: As in the Shakespeare play, the ballet follows Prospero, a sorcerer and the rightful Duke of Milan who lives in exile on an enchanted island with his beautiful daughter, Miranda. Using his powers of magic, and with the help of a spirit servant named Ariel, Prospero creates a storm to drive a ship to his shores. On board are the very relatives who usurped his throne?

The addition of *The Tempest* completes BSJSV's previously announced season schedule which includes an evening of works by Dennis Nahat

(with the premiere of a new Nahat setting of *Prince Igor*—"*Polovtsian Dances*"), a Winter Repertory Program with Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo* and the Company premiere of Flemming Flindt's *Miraculous Mandarin*, and a program of works by the legendary Donald McKayle, including the Company premieres of *Death and Eros* and McKayle's masterwork, *District Storyville*.

All above listed performances will be presented at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose. Season subscriptions are on sale now. Subscribers enjoy ticket exchange privileges, have priority purchasing rights for *The Nutcracker*, are provided with lost ticket insurance, and have many other benefits. Single tickets for each program range from \$22 to \$68 and go on sale approximately 6-weeks prior to performance. For additional information call the Ballet Box Office (408) 288-2800 or visit the Company's website at [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org).

-END-

## BALLET SAN JOSE SILICON VALLEY 2002-03 Season at a Glance

Season Opening Program, October 17-20, 2002  
"The Choreography of Dennis Nahat"

- *Starlight*  
Choreographer: Dennis Nahat  
Music: Alexander Glazunov (Selections from "The Seasons" and "Raymonda")
- *In Studio D*  
Choreographer: Dennis Nahat  
Music: Peter Wright
- *Prince Igor*—"Polovtsian Dances" (*Premiere*)  
Choreographer: Dennis Nahat  
Music: Alexander Borodin ("Polovtsian Dances" from the 2nd Act of the opera *Prince Igor*)

*The Nutcracker*  
December 11-23, 2002  
Choreographer: Dennis Nahat  
Music: Tchaikovsky ("*The Nutcracker*")

Winter Repertory Program  
February 13-16, 2003

- *Summerscape*  
Choreographer: Dennis Nahat  
Music: Dimitri Shostakovich ("Concerto No. 2 in F Major for

- Piano and Orchestra, Opus 102")
- *Miraculous Mandarin* (A West Coast Premiere)  
Choreographer: Flemming Flindt  
Music: Béla Bartók
- *Rodeo*  
Choreographer: Agnes de Mille  
Music: Aaron Copland (commissioned score)

*The Tempest*

April 3-6, 2003 (A Company Premiere)

Full-length story ballet based on the play by William Shakespeare

Choreographer: Michael Smuin

Music: Paul Chihara after Henry Purcell

Scenery: Tony Walton

Costumes: Willa Kim

"A Tribute to Donald McKayle"

May 1-4, 2003

- *Death and Eros* (A Company Premiere)  
Choreographer: Donald McKayle  
Music: Jon Magnussen
- *House of Tears*  
Choreographer: Donald McKayle  
Music: Astor Piazzolla ("Concerto for Bandoneón")
- *District Storyville* (A Company Premiere)  
Choreographer: Donald McKayle  
Music: Dorothea Freitag, Sidney Bechet, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, others

(All programs subject to change)

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.