

BALLET SAN JOSE ANNOUNCES NEW ARTISTIC AND TRAINING PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

Ballet San Jose School to Incorporate ABT National Training Curriculum

Ballet San Jose (BSJ) announced today a partnership with American Ballet Theatre (ABT) that will serve as a catalyst for new and rapid growth for its professional company and the Ballet San Jose School. This unique partnership will provide BSJ with access to ABT's vast creative resources and advisory staff and will implement the ABT National Training Curriculum in the Ballet San Jose School, after which the school will become the only certified institution on the west coast to provide the complete ABT Curriculum.

Headquartered in New York City, American Ballet Theatre is recognized as one of the great dance companies in the world. In 2006, Congress declared ABT "America's National Ballet Company." Their repertory is, perhaps, unmatched in the history of ballet, including all the great full-length ballets of the nineteenth century and commissioned works by the great choreographic geniuses of the twentieth century through today.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for our professional company and students. ABT is the international standard-bearer for dance performance and ballet training," said Stephanie Ziesel, Executive Director of Ballet San Jose. "Having access to the breadth and depth of ABT's artistic resources, relationships, and knowledge base will have a transformative effect on our organization and our community."

"This partnership will help extend American Ballet Theatre's reach around the country by offering the dancers of Ballet San Jose access to world-class coaching and a network of ABT certified teachers," said ABT Executive Director Rachel Moore. "ABT's alliance with Ballet San Jose is in keeping with our mission of bringing excellence in dance and dance training to America."

With this new relationship in place, Ballet San Jose will now formally announce its 2012 season on January 3rd and begin selling subscriptions immediately. The three-program season will open March 2-4 with subsequent programming on April 13-15 and May 4-6, and will include several company premieres along with works from Ballet San Jose's current repertory.

The Ballet San Jose board of trustees is in discussions with Artistic Director Dennis Nahat to define a continuing relationship that attempts to preserve his outstanding legacy, ensure his works remain in the repertory, and honor the enormous artistic contributions he has made to the organization.

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S NATIONAL TRAINING CURRICULUM

American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum consists of a comprehensive set of age-appropriate, outcome-based guidelines, consistent with the best practices in the fields of sports psychology, child/adolescent development, nutrition and training. The teaching methods of ABT's National Training Curriculum incorporate elements of the French, Italian and Russian schools of training and are currently in place at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. The Curriculum is standard at all of ABT's pre-professional training programs, including the ABT Studio Company, Summer Intensives, UNCSA Affiliate School, outreach programs and NYU Masters program in ABT Ballet Pedagogy.

Under the artistic direction of ABT Artistic Director Kevin McKenzie, the curriculum was written and designed by Franco De Vita, Principal of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre and Raymond Lukens, Artistic Associate of the ABT/NYU Masters program, in collaboration with a national artistic advisory panel and a medical advisory board. The Curriculum is implemented through a series of teacher training intensives and a teacher certification program conducted throughout the United States. Since the program's inauguration in 2008, 622 teachers have been certified in ABT's National Training Curriculum.

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