

Dennis Nahat Announces

THEATRE **V**ENTURES **I**NTERNATIONAL

BALLET SCHOOL and PRODUCTIONS

at

Chinese Performing Arts of America (CPAA)

March 12, 2012

- 11:00 Dennis Nahat, Artistic Director - Introduction and Welcome
- TVI at CPAA - History and why TVI Ballet School
 - Mission of Theatre Ventures International
 - Curriculum of the School in Collaboration with CPAA
 - When the School Opens
 - Summer Steps
- 11:15 Lise la Cour, TVI School Director
- Classes and Technique discription
 - Schedule of classes
 - Discription of Summer Steps
 - Future classes to be added
- 11:30 Ann Woo, Executive Director, CPAA
- CPAA history
 - History of Collaboration with Dennis Nahat and Lise la Cour
 - CPAA facility
 - Newly created TVI Ballet School studios
- 11:45 Questions
- 12:00 Welcome reception and refreshments
- 12:30 Finish

Dennis Nahat to open new Ballet School, Lise la Cour named School Director - new opportunities for area dancers

San Jose, CA - - Dennis Nahat, internationally acclaimed dancer and a leader of classical dance in the Bay Area for more than 25 years, announces today that he is opening a new ballet school, with classes beginning April 3.

The Ballet School is the first initiative of Nahat's ambitious new Theatre Ventures International, and it will offer classes to dancers of all ages and skill levels. The school will be housed in state-of-the-art facilities at San Jose's Chinese Performing Arts of America Arts Center, signaling Nahat's intent to continue collaborations with its Executive Director, **Ann Woo** and Chinese cultural traditions.

Nahat is an icon of dance in the Bay Area, where he has resided since bringing his Cleveland Ballet, the former Cleveland, Ohio-based company, to the South Bay where it was renamed San Jose Cleveland Ballet in 1986. That company evolved into Ballet San Jose, which Nahat served as artistic/executive director and principal choreographer until early this year.

Nahat also announces that **Lise la Cour**, an internationally recognized choreographer and master teacher of dance, has been named director of the new school. "We are thrilled to be able to serve the many families and dancers who can expect to depend on us for their dance training. Lise la Cour is one of the permanent ballet teachers in the world and she will guide each student to their full potential," Nahat said.

Longtime supporters of Nahat expressed enthusiasm for his new venture and embraced his continuing international collaborations. Patrons of the arts, **Mr. and Mrs. Donald** and **Mary Rozenberg** said, "Knowing Dennis since his studies at the Juilliard School of Music, and here, through his work in San Jose, there's lots more to come with this new venture, and we are delighted that he will begin his newest creative venture by establishing a new school for everyone."

Helen Horvath, founding Administrator of the School of Cleveland Ballet (SCB) and former Cleveland Ballet Company Manager along with **Deborah M. Horvath** Assistant Administrator for SCB said, "We are in awe of your spirit! In celebrating the opening of your new school, Theatre Ventures International, many of your openings come to mind; the most memorable is The School of Cleveland Ballet founded in 1972, then in 1976 the Cleveland Ballet was born. Cleveland never had it so good... then the Company and School in San Jose in 1986. Now you begin the birth of a new unknown, soon to become renowned like all of your other successes; schools, companies and your signature ballets. We watched, supported and applauded you from behind the scenes as well as right by your side. We look forward to your new venture and like before, we will be anxiously waiting to see your creative light. We remain your colleagues, your friends, your family."

Andrew Mogrelia - Conductor said, "Some of the greatest artists in the world derive their skills not just from their craft but from other skills. The integration of music and dance is critical and the great dancers of the world are often the most musical. Meeting Dennis Nahat working with him on ballets like Balanchine's "Who Cares" and Petit's "Carmen" was a complete joy. He is an artist who understands more than just being a dancer and has had such an illustrious career in the dance world. San Jose is so fortunate to have his vision and his new project - Theatre Ventures International. I wish him and everyone associated success."

American Prima Ballerina Assoluta, **Cynthia Gregory** commented, "Dennis Nahat has been one of the great masters in the ballet world for the last forty years. His innovative choreography, in both original works and in the classics, is remarkable! Audiences in Cleveland and in San Jose were so fortunate to have the ballet companies he created to enjoy in their communities. Now I wish him all the best with his new Theatre Ventures International. His vision and dedication can only result in more benefits for the arts in San Jose and the world."

Karen Loewenstern, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Ballet San Jose noted, "Dennis Nahat has contributed significantly to the cultural landscape of the South Bay and given us an enormous gift by introducing and creating world-class dance and ballet in San Jose for over 25 years. We are very pleased that his new venture will give him even more opportunity to develop new talent and creative collaborations. With the talent and depth of experience that Dennis possesses, we can be sure there's a lot more to come. She added, "We're delighted he's beginning his newest creative venture by establishing a top-notch dance school here in San Jose."

For details on class schedules, for more information and to enroll, call:

(408) 747-7331, or visit www.TheatreVenturesIntl.org