



**For Immediate Release: Sept 18, 2006**

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS  
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

**PRESS RELEASE: ALICE:**  
**WONDERLAND/RHAPSODY**

**THE SAN DIEGO BALLET COMPANY ANNOUNCES**  
**THE FIRST PRODUCTION OF THEIR 2006-2007**  
**SEASON**

September 18, 2006...San Diego, CA...The San Diego Ballet Company presents the first production of its 17th anniversary year with timeless fantasy, **Alice:Wonderland**, written by Lewis Carroll and directed & choreographed by Javier Velasco (Mambomania, Eternally Bad), in collaboration with Young Audiences of San Diego and Culture Shock Dance Troupe. **Alice:Wonderland** will open on Tuesday, October 18 and continue through Saturday, October 21 at the Lyceum Theatre, Horton Plaza, Downtown San Diego.

The Cheshire Cat, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts and a bouquet of Lewis Carroll's fantastic creations come to life in a fusion of classical and contemporary dance. This whimsical, wondrous tale of a child's imagination will draw adults and children alike into its magical realm. The San Diego–Union Tribune says: "**Aimed at children but fun for adults, too, Alice: Wonderland is that rare beast, an all-ages family entertainment. Smartly conceived, inventively choreographed, and sharply danced, this is an "Alice" with attitude.**"

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On Friday & Saturday, October 20 & 21, 2006, **Alice:Wonderland** will be performed with the world premiere of **RHAPSODY**, Javier Velasco's vibrant, explosive response to Rachmaninoff's romantic Variations on a Theme by Paganini.

**Javier Velasco** has been hailed by the San Diego Union-Tribune as "San Diego's answer to Jerome Robbins" and was listed among people to watch in the art and theater scene by San Diego Magazine. He has supplied dances for productions at the La Jolla Playhouse, Old Globe and has a long-standing relationship with the San Diego Repertory Theatre, where he has directed and choreographed productions of A Christmas Carol, Cabaret and Suds, and many others. He has enjoyed many long creative relationships, having worked with: Luis Valdez on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Zoot Suit, Bandido, and Corridos; composer Steve Gunderson on the premieres of Dixie Highway, Back to Bacharach and David, and the dance/theatre piece, The Brontes: Secret Pleasures, Secret Tears; and Doug Jacobs, founding artistic director of the San Diego Rep. He currently serves as artistic director of the San Diego Ballet having created over 50 original pieces for the company since its inception, including 10 pieces in collaboration with SDB's resident composer, David Burge to commissioned scores. His ballet set to the poems of Kenneth Fearing, Love: 20 Cents the First Quarter-Mile, was given the award for Best Choreography by the San Diego Dance Alliance, the third time he has been honored by the organization. Collaboration is a large part of Velasco's vision for the company, whether with the San Diego Symphony, Culture Shock Dance Troupe, the Cincinnati Percussion Ensemble or the San Diego Museum of Art, where his site specific pieces are compliment traveling exhibitions. Mr. Velasco serves on the Board of Advocates for the San Diego Performing Arts League and is a consultant for the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Chula Vista.

Founded in 1963, **Young Audiences of San Diego** is the local chapter of the nation's leading arts education organization. Young Audiences (YA) has been awarded the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for the arts community for "working with educational systems, the arts community and the private and public sectors to make the arts an essential part of all children's education."

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The cast of **Alice:Wonderland** includes: Kristy Cirrillo, Rachel Sebastian, Askar Alimbetov, Chris Blurton, Heather Falten, Melissa Ryan, Pali Udvarhelyi, Gabriela Ley, Kirsten Thorne, Christine Owen, Shannon Hunter, members of the San Diego Ballet and Culture Shock San Diego Dance Troup.

**Alice:Wonderland** has been designed by students at the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Chula Vista, as part of an ongoing Partners-in-the-Arts between the school and SDB Under the direction of SCPA instructor Michelle Spielman, students have designed the construct set pieces and props used in the production. Lighting design will continue to be handled. by Phillippe Bergman (formerly of Roland Petit's Ballet Marsailles)

**Alice:Wonderland** will open on Tuesday, October 18 and perform through Saturday, October 21, 2006. Student Performances for Alice in Wonderland will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30am and 11:00am. All tickets \$5. For tickets call Young Audiences at 619/282-7599.

General Audience performances for Alice in Wonderland/Rhapsody will occur on Friday October 20 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, October 21st at 2:30pm. Ticket prices range from \$15.00 - \$30.00 (student, senior and group discounts are available). For tickets, call the Lyceum Theatre Box Office at 619/544-1000.

For more information or for press comps, please contact Javier Velasco at 619/294-7387.

*San Diego Ballet is a 17-year-old organization dedicated to bringing the finest quality dance productions to San Diego. Our studios are located at 5304-B Metro St., in the heart of Linda Vista. For further information, call (619) 294-7378. E-mail: sandiegoballet@aol.com. Or visit our website at [www.sandiegoballet.ORG](http://www.sandiegoballet.ORG)*

**THE SAN DIEGO BALLET**  
***ALICE:WONDERLAND/RHAPSODY***  
**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** ***ALICE:WONDERLAND/RHAPSODY***  
By Lewis Carroll

**WHEN:** October 18 – 21  
Performances: -Tue/Wed/Fri at 9:30am\*  
-Tue/Wed/Fri at 11:00am\*  
-Fri at 8pm  
-Matinee: Sat at 2:30pm

\*ALICE only

**WHERE:** Lyceum Theatre, Horton Plaza, San Diego

**WHO:** Director: Javier Velasco  
Lighting Design: Phillipe Bergman  
Costume Design: Marcia Averett  
Stage Manager: Ahita Ardalan Bergman

|       |                  |                  |
|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Cast: | Alice:           | Kristy Cirrillo  |
|       | White Rabbit:    | Askar Alimbetov  |
|       | Queen of Hearts: | Elizabeth Apgar  |
|       | White Knight:    | Chris Blurton    |
|       | Cheshire Cat:    | Noriko Maruzoe   |
|       | Duchess:         | Shannon Hunter   |
|       | Rose:            | Chelsy Meiss     |
|       | Tiger Lily       | Gabriela Ley     |
|       | Snap Dragon      | Rachel Sebastian |

Ensemble: members of the San Diego Ballet  
and Culture Shock San Diego Dance Troupe.