



For Immediate Release: Feb 12, 2007

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

PRESS RELEASE: SONNETS

THE SAN DIEGO BALLET COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETURN OF !

February 12, 2007...San Diego, CA...The San Diego Ballet Company presents it's critically acclaimed **SONNETS**, love poems of William Shakespeare, choreographed Javier Velasco. **SONNETS** will open on Saturday, March 31st at the Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD, La Jolla.

"romantic... assured... expressive... seductive. Velasco mixes things up with the skill of a master chef... making it taste divine." – San Diego Union - Tribune

SONNETS

Love Poetry by William Shakespeare

March 31, 2007

Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD, La Jolla

Come and share this rapturous evening devoted to love and lovers. Shakespeare's immortal verse comes to life through an exploration of the human spirit and the vast and varied meanings of the word "love." Lush and romantic, Sensual and sublime, this stunning work will invoke the heady perfume of the first red rose, hushed voices at twilight and evenings filled with crescent moons, the wine of desire and promises of forever...

Directed & Choreographed by Javier Velasco

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William Shakespeare's sonnets, taken together, are frequently described as a sequence.

Many of Shakespeare's themes are conventional sonnet topics, such as love and beauty. But Shakespeare treats these themes in his own, distinctive fashion. Critics have called attention to Shakespeare's complex and paradoxical representation of love in the sonnets. The ambiguous eroticism of the sonnets has elicited varying responses.

Because these lyrics are passionate and emotionally vivid, over the centuries many readers have been convinced that they must have an autobiographical basis. There is, however, no evidence that this is so.

We do not know to what degree Shakespeare's personal experiences are reflected in his sonnets; nor do we know with any measure of certainty whether the persons depicted in these poems are based on specific individuals or are solely the product of Shakespeare's observation, imagination, and understanding of the human heart.

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 currently serves as artistic director of the San Diego Ballet having created over 50 original pieces for the company since its inception. 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.

"We have done many pieces set to poetry and the spoken word here at SDB," says Velasco. "They often end up being our best received pieces. The dancers can't just automatically fall into the trap of simply following music. They also have to allow themselves to be open to the stimulus of hearing the spoken word. Too often, dancers are seen by the public as passive artists. When text is also involved somehow the audience "gets" that the dancer is relating to the words by choice. Perhaps, it is because it is easier for them to see if a dancer is responding to / or causing a certain word to be spoken. In any case, it humanizes our dancers to the audience."

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The international cast of **SONNETS** includes: Chelsy Meiss (Australia), Askar Alimbetov (Kazakstan), Pali Udvarhelyi (Hungary), Gabriela Ley, Damaris Villalobos (Mexico), Noriko Marozue, Hiroko Hori, Atsuko Minhoura (Japan), Christine Owen (New Zealand), Kirsten Thorne (South Africa), Shannon Hunter, Kristy Cirrillo, Rachel Sebastian, Chris Blurton, Heather Falten, Melissa Ryan, Abby Avery, Ari Sorrentino (USA) and more.

Lighting design will continue to be handled by Phillipe Bergman (formerly of Roland Petit's Ballet Marsailles)

SONNETS will open on March 31st at 2:30 and 8:00pm. Ticket prices range from \$15.00 - \$30.00 (student, senior and group discounts are available). For tickets, call 619/294-7211.

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 Dance Place San Diego 2650 Truxtun Road, at the NTC Promenade in Point Loma. For further information, call (619) 294-7378. E-mail: sandiegoballet@aol.com. Or visit our website at www.sandiegoballet.org

For more information or for press comps, please contact Javier Velasco at 619/294-7378 or at sandiegoballet@aol.com

THE SAN DIEGO BALLET
SONNETS
FACT SHEET

WHAT: ***SONNETS***
By William Shakespeare

WHEN: March 31
Performances: - Sat at 8:00 pm
- Matinee: Sat at 2:30pm

WHERE: Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD, San Diego

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

Members of the San Diego Ballet:
Chelsy Meiss, Askar Alimbetov,
Rachel Sebastian, Chris Blurton,
Heather Falten, Heather Genter
Melissa Ryan, Noriko Marozue,
Pali Udvarhelyi, Gabriela Ley,
Christine Owen, Kristy Cirillo,
Shannon Hunter, Laura Baumann,
Ari Sorrentino, Brianna Stewart,
Megan Evertz, Abby Avery,
Kirsten Thorne, Atsuko Mihoura,
Damaris Villalobos, Leila Gardner.

Guest Performers:
Steve Gunderson, Gail Mackler,
Andrea Feier, Uma Suresh,