A POTPOURRI OF BALLET STYLES

Johanna Butterworth and other members of the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre rehearse a ballet work, "Entrance of the Shades" from "La Bayadere," recently in preparation for the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre's spring in Concert on April 6.

SC Ballet Theatre to stage spring concert

By TAMMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APRIL — Performances are underway by the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre for its upcoming annual In Concert. Held at the Cabrillo Crocker Theater, the program will offer a sampling of contemporary, neo-classical and classical ballet works.

"Every spring, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre offers the community a concert that runs the gamut of possible ballet styles — from favorite classical works based on original choreography to ballet with decidedly modern tweaks," said Sarah Willbourne, administrative manager.

This year, the company is adding the live music of the local Kuumbwa Jazz Honor Band, led by pianist Eddie Mundheshal and sax to to works based on Thornton Wilder’s "Our Town."

Artistic Director Robert Kel- ley is also bringing back guest choreographer Imaa Goldman, who is choreographing for the SCBT’s Senior Company for the second time.

In "Our Town," Kelley has staged his mentor’s poignant tale on Thornton Wilder’s clas- sic play of the same name. The music, Philip Glass, used no words — only dance — to tell the story of Fruh and George and the rest of the small community they play. The Cab- on. Jerry invited to tell the story without embellishment, let the dance and accompanying music by American composer Aaron Copland tell the story.

"Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre is one of only a few companies that have the rights to re-stage this work, so this is a special treat for our audiences," Willbourne said.

Goldman is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at Florida State University in Tallahassee. She has danced professionally as a principal dancer with Oakland Ballet and Sacramento Ballet, Alamo King’s LINESS Ballet, and most recently with Trey McIntyre Project.

"Working with young danc- ers provides a unique challenge in fostering their growth, both technically and artistically, while at the same time fulfilling my creative vision," Goldman said.

The Kuumbwa Jazz Hon- or Band has chosen music with a Latin swing — some- thing different and upbeat for the dancers and the audience.

"This collaboration will be a fun and educational experi- ence for these young artists," said Willbourne.

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Wilbourne said, "And a chance for the audience to enjoy their talents and existence."

This year’s classical ballet offering is the "Entrance of the Shades" from Marius Petipa’s "La Bayadere" (The Temple Dancer). The excerpt is the most celebrated and bringing passage of "La Bayadere" — Petipa’s grand vision, which stage to a grand pas clas- sique, free of any dramatic action. The dance creates the illusion of descending spirits, who are the shades of other ballerinas.

The mission of Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre, founded in 1975, is to inspire and create opportunities for young art- ists through the advancement of the art of ballet, Willbourne said.

In concert will be staged at the Cabrillo Crocker The- ater at Cabrillo College, 6000 Soquel Drive, April 5, at 1 and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased online through the Cabrillo Box Office, www.cabrillo- boxoffice.com or by calling 831-459-6104 — Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. For information, call SCBT at 477-1099. Tickets are $12 to $24 and are on sale now.

Nahshon Marden refines a solo dance work that will be a part of the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre’s spring concert.