



Ron Cunningham & Carinne Binda, Artistic Directors

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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The Sacramento Ballet Announces its 2008-2009 Season of Premieres

The Sacramento Ballet journeys into artistic director, Ron Cunningham's 21st season, with a year jam-packed with stellar offerings including 5 world premieres and 5 Sacramento premieres.

October 23-26, 2008 – *Alice in Wonderland*

Ron Cunningham reinvents his *Alice in Wonderland* with brand new choreography and stunning scenery and costumes to create an upside-down world of whimsical fantasy. Joining *Alice* is John Clifford's elegant *Mozart Divertimento*.

December 6-24, 2008 – *The Nutcracker*

Celebrating its 21st year, *Ron Cunningham's The Nutcracker* has created lasting memories with his cherished holiday classic. Almost 500 children join the professional dancers to create magic that steals your heart. All performances, including 2 special children's matinees are accompanied by the **Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra**. Three additional performances of *The Nutcracker* are presented at the William Saroyan Theater over Thanksgiving Weekend in Fresno, CA.

February 12-15, 2009 - *Noches Calientes*

Septime Webre's sizzling *Juanita y Alicia*, celebrates his Cuban family roots with a live band on stage playing music from the Buena Vista Social Club. Inspiring standing ovations at every performance, Ron Cunningham's sensual *Bolero* returns to stir your passions. *Frankie & Johnny*, by Tony® award winning choreographer Michael Smuin, sets the legendary lovers in Havana to the rhythms of mambo kings Tito Puente, Juan Luis Guerra, Perez Pardo, and the sexy voice of Celia Cruz.

March 26-29, 2009 – *Icons & Innovators*

Trey McIntyre's joyous *Second Before the Ground*, his 4th Sacramento premiere, is set to African-inspired music by the Kronos Quartet. Jared Nelson from the Washington Ballet, returns to his Sacramento Ballet roots as guest artist to reprise the principal role in George Balanchine's iconic *Prodigal Son*. Lila York's effervescent *Celts*, a tribute to her Irish heritage, closes the evening with traditional Irish music featuring The Chieftains

May 22-24, 2009 - MODERN MASTERS

The Sacramento Ballet salutes the “genius of California Choreographers” with the brightest and most imaginative bold voices from the West Coast. Alex Ketley, Amy Seiwert, Mark Forhinger, Molly Lynch, and Nolan T’Sani showcase their creative talent on the Main Stage of the Sacramento Theatre Company.

2008-2009 Sacramento Ballet *Special Event*

A Sacramento Opera, Philharmonic and Ballet Collaborative Performance:

Kicking off the start of the Sacramento theater season is a special collaboration presented by the Sacramento Opera, the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Sacramento Ballet. *Arias, Overtures, & Arabesques* will take place September 21, 2008. Artistic Director, Ron Cunningham, will create a new work performed by the artists of the Sacramento Ballet.

Please contact Mimi Kent at 916/552-5800 x108 or mkent@sacballet.org for more information about the Sacramento Ballet’s 2008-2009 Season.

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