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Silicon Valley Ballet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Silicon Valley Ballet Announces *The Giselle Project*:
The First Performances by an American Company of
Cuban Dance Legend Alicia Alonso's *Giselle***

*The Giselle Project Special Events Begin September 2015
Performances October 16-18, 2015
San Jose Center for the Performing Arts*

San Jose, CA, August 10, 2015: **Silicon Valley Ballet announces today that its new 2015/16 season begins with *The Giselle Project* – a multi-faceted initiative to include community outreach, special events and performances of *Giselle* – choreographed by Cuban choreographer and dance legend Alicia Alonso, October 16-18, San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. In an historic moment celebrating the opening of relations between the United States and Cuba, *The Giselle Project* is the first ever performance by an American company of Alonso's version of *Giselle*. *The Giselle Project* celebrates the rich Latino heritage of the internationally renowned Ballet Nacional de Cuba, and its founder, Alicia Alonso. Artistic Director José Manuel Carreño will perform the role of Hilarion in select performances. Guest artist Yoel Carreño (Principal Dancer with The Norwegian National Ballet and José Manuel Carreño's half-brother) will also perform in select performances in the role of Albrecht.**

Ms. Alonso's legendary production of *Giselle* will also be staged by Mr. Carreño, who has been handpicked by Ms. Alonso to lead this first re-staging of her most famous work.

“I am very excited to premiere Ms. Alonso’s *Giselle* in the US,” says Silicon Valley Ballet Artistic Director José Manuel Carreño. “We are living in an historic moment, with the opening of relations between the US and Cuba after more than 50 years of embargo. Silicon Valley Ballet’s *Giselle* will invite engagement across the economic and cultural spectrum, as it highlights the cultural richness of my home country, Cuba. In addition, the special events hosted by the ballet company will engage the local community of Silicon Valley and beyond, and bring people together to celebrate the US and Cuba.”

Community outreach and Special events celebrating Silicon Valley Ballet’s *Giselle* beginning September 2015, include: **Meet and greet** and **film screenings with José Manuel Carreño, Los Cubanos dinner** in San Jose, **salsa dancing**, and **Commonwealth Club conversation with Mr. Carreño**, details TBA

Giselle Performance Details:

Choreography: Alicia Alonso, after the original choreography by Jules Perrot and Jean Coralli

Production Supervised by José Manuel Carreño

Staging by Ana Maria Leyte and Javier Sánchez

Composer: Adolphe Adam

Music: Original ballet score, *Giselle*, World Premiere, June 28, 1841, Paris, France

Giselle Performance Information:

Center for the Performing Arts, 255 S. Almaden Blvd., San Jose

Friday, October 16, 2015 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 2015 1:30 p.m.* and 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, 2015 1:30 p.m.

***family friendly performance with discounted ticket prices in selected sections**

Subscriptions, Single Tickets and Additional Information

Subscription tickets for the 2015/2016 Season are priced \$75–\$440 for the four-program season; current subscribers may renew their subscriptions now through mid October to retain their seats. New subscriptions are also on sale at

www.balletsj.org. Subscribers receive an array of special options including priority seating, VIP rehearsal access, and other benefits. Regular tickets for individual repertory programs and *The Nutcracker* are priced \$25-\$110; Single tickets for the Repertory Season go on sale beginning September 8. Youth/Senior, family pricing, and other special promotions are available by checking www.balletsj.org.

About Silicon Valley Ballet

Silicon Valley Ballet reflects the bold inventiveness of its high-tech home base – presenting groundbreaking programs that explore the digital-physical blur while enriching the community with brilliant artistry. As its widely inclusive outreach programs draw in new audiences, SVB also honors its proud heritage as one of the two largest ballet companies in California, originally founded by Dennis Nahat as San Jose Cleveland Ballet in 1986. With 32 professional dancers who hail from five continents, SVB represents the diversity of Silicon Valley and presents 21 fully-staged annual performances of its mixed-repertory programs and full-length ballets in downtown San Jose venues. Under the direction of international dance icon, Cuban-born José Manuel Carreño, SVB is entrusted with presenting works sanctioned by the Balanchine Trust and Estate of Roland Petit as well as those by internationally respected contemporary choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor and Ohad Naharin. Through its strategic partnership with American Ballet Theatre (ABT), the Silicon Valley Ballet School trains more than 350 students per year. The School is one of the few ABT-certified institutions on the West Coast and offers access to ABT’s renowned National Training Curriculum for both ballet faculty and students alike. SVB’s educational programs also extend to classrooms in the San Jose Unified School District. Through its many outreach initiatives, SVB touches more than 40,000 local residents, students and audience members.

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