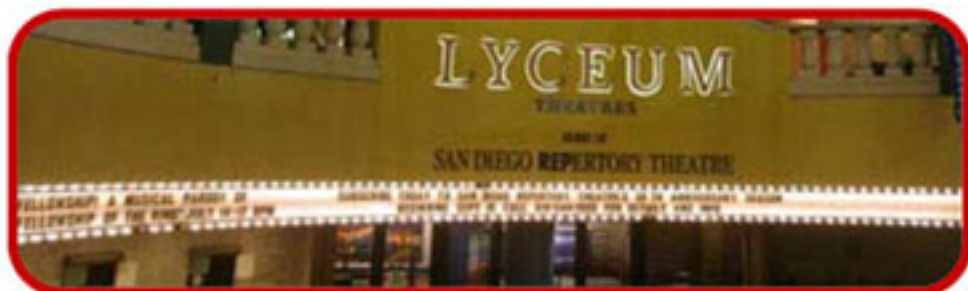


[Show REVIEW Commentary \(As seen 10/15/11\)](#)

[SD BALLET Company:](#)



[21<sup>st</sup> Season](#)

## **MIXED REPERTOIRE**

Classical ... elastic ... kinetic ... loud ...  
and beautifully danced!



**ALICE: Wonderland**



**Once** again ... *Robin Morgan* and *Javier Velasco* – with their **San Diego Ballet Company** have put their 'best foot' forward – or should we say – 'many feet' forward ... in a varied program of dance - they titled **MIXED REPERTOIRE**. As choreographed by *Javier Velasco* – the three selected works for the evening - encompassed the company's classical ballet roots, some contemporary dance ... and, some very entertaining hip-hop dance by *Angie Bunch's Culture Shock Dance Alumni Company* ... all to a well-cranked-up sound system and aggressive music choices!



**ZERO IN ON:**  
**MIXED REPETOIRE**  
*San Diego Ballet Company*  
**Where:** Lyceum Theatre  
**Performances:** 10/15-16  
**On Line:** [www.sdballetcompany.org](http://www.sdballetcompany.org)

Arielle Meads

With much appreciated 'wounded warriors' as house guests in the



audience, the opening piece – ***ALICE: Wonderland*** – was a far-stretched-look at the children's fable, and featured ***Arielle Meads*** (as ***ALICE***), a tall and impressive ***Lyndon Dou*** (as ***RABBIT***), a stunning pair of ballerinas ***Stephanie Maiorano*** and ***Tiffany Koepke*** (as ***ROSE*** and ***SNAPDRAGON***), the statuesque ***Rachel Sebastian*** (as the ***QUEEN*** of Hearts), and ***Evgeny Korsakov*** (as the ***WHITE KNIGHT***). The opening trio of male dancers – ***Robert Callan***, ***Matt Carney*** and ***Evgeny Koroskov*** (in *Kabuki* style all-black, carrying the 'butterflies' high overhead on sticks) were the effective 'glue' that set ***ALICE*** out on her journey.



Rachel Hagquist



Tiffany Koepke – Arielle Meads – Stephanie Maiorano



Lyndon Dou



Culture Shock Alumni Dancers



"ALICE: Wonderland"

Likewise, the **Culture Shock** dancers **Eddie Gutierrez**, **Samath Orm**, **Omeed Simantob**, **David Simmons** and **Nick Zavata** in their first of several kinetic dance segments - gave just the right shot of energy to the ALICE piece. However, the real beauty of the evening, came with **Velasco's** staging of the 12 female corps-de-ballet - *exquisite* - as the Sea of Tears. All set to various rock music selections, this **ALICE: WONDERLAND** - as a total work - however, comes off a bit disjointed - with perhaps more choreographic thought and rehearsal time needed to bring forth the cohesive harmony desired.



Following intermission - the sheer delight of the evening belonged to a pair of new premieres - the first - being the **SUITE ITALIENNE** - to the music of Igor Stravinsky, and beautifully danced by **Stephanie Maiorano**, was as close to perfection as one could ask for ... **Maiorano** is as lovely to look - as to watch dance.

Stephanie Maiorano



Max Tchernychev & Stephanie Maiorano



*"Suite Italienne"*

Her partner was **Max Tchernychev** – *grande* – as a premier-danseur is expected to be. **Velasco's** ten dancer corps-de-ballet – six ballerinas (*all in white tutus*) and especially the four ballerinas (*all in black tutus*) were captivating and smooth-as-silk ... the **SUITE ITALIENNE** soars!

*"Echale Salsita"*



The evening concluded with the third work – titled **ECHALE SALSITA** – a couples mambo to (*I suspect, Javier Velasco's favorite*) music by Ry Cooder and Manuel Galban – with four couples – **Stephanie**

**Maiorano & Maxim Tchernychev, Tiffany Koepke & Lyndon Dou, Elena Yagunova & Evgeny Korsakov, and Noriko Zaragoza & Robert Callan.** This ballroom-ballet style piece was truly smooth ... elastic ... with the ballerinas en-pointe, and their male partners offering the best ballroom dance coupling around. Once again, **Stephanie Maiorano** was a crowd favorite – and though each of the couples had their moments together to light-up the stage – for this viewer – couple number two – **Tiffany Koepke** and **Lyndon Dou** were my favorites! As stated at the top – this **MIXED REPETOIRE** was a delightful experience in **Javier Velasco's** world of dance for the **San Diego Ballet Company!**



Tiffany Koepke & Lyndon Dou



Elena Yagunova & Evgeny Korsakov



Stephanie & Maxim



"Echale Salsita"

Watch for the **SD Ballet's** own version of ***NUTCRACKER*** at the Birch North Park Theatre, on Sat-sun, Dec 3-4<sup>th</sup> – co-produced with the ***Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale*** – with additional singers from the ***SD Children's Choir***.



San Diego Ballet ... final 'bows'

For advance reservations – call ...  
**(619) 294-7011**, or go online at [www.sandiegoballet.org](http://www.sandiegoballet.org).

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