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POINTE OF DEPARTURE MAKES THEIR CALIFORNIA DEBUT

San Jose, Calif.-June 29, 2009 Pointe of Departure, the eclectic Northeastern Ohio ballet company, under the direction of Ballet San Jose's Karen Gabay and Raymond Rodriguez, makes their California debut at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 8:00 pm.

The ballet troupe will debut in California after touring to Northeastern Ohio in July with a diverse program of west coast premieres of Gabay's choreography. The ballets include *Gare du Midi* which was originally choreographed on Cleveland Ballet in 1993 and was one of the original ballets chosen by a panel of judges for the premiere season of *Ballet Builders* in New York City. Music by Leonard Bernstein, the ballet takes a humorous look at the various characters one is sure to meet in a European train station.

A special treat for audiences of all ages will be the delightful *Munecas*, performed by Karen Gabay and Ramon Moreno. Cuban choreographer, Alberto Mendez, showcases the dancers as dolls in a *pas de deux* that is sure to bring a smile to your face.

Gabay's *Hooray for Hollywood!* is a fun-filled tribute to the glorious music of Hollywood and the fusion between classical ballet and Broadway. Recognizable tunes from some of the most popular soundtracks will give the audience a chance to test their memory by playing "*Hollywood Squares*." Following the ballet, multiple choice movie trivia questions on a ballot will be handed out, and by marking the *squares* with all the correct answers, the winner will receive a pair of movie tickets to an AMC theater and an autographed picture of Artistic Directors, Gabay and Rodriguez.

The roster of dancers also include Amy Marie Briones, Maximo Califano, Damir Emric, Peter Hershey, Junna Ige, Erena Ishii, Maria Jacobs-Yu, Alexandra Meijer, Seth Parker, Robert Raney, Maykel Solas, Jing Zhang, and artistic directors, Gabay and Rodriguez. For additional information, www.pointeofdeparture.com or to order tickets visit www.mvcpa.com or call 650.903.6000.