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Photo of Dalia Rawson by Scott Belding

Dalia Rawson Appointed Ballet San Jose School's New Principal

Ballet San Jose is pleased to announce that Ballet San Jose School's Ballet Mistress, Dalia Rawson, a former principal dancer with the Company and a faculty member at the School for the past 12 years, has been promoted to the position of School Principal. Rawson succeeds Lise la Cour, who has been released from her role as School Director. Ballet San Jose School is San Jose's only professionally affiliated ballet school, and has recently announced a partnership with the world renowned American Ballet Theatre.

A native of Saratoga, California, Dalia Rawson has spent her career with Ballet San Jose, moving from celebrated professional dancer to choreographer and leader in dance education. Upon graduating from San Francisco Ballet School, Ms. Rawson joined Cleveland San Jose Ballet as a trainee in 1991, and joined the faculty of Ballet San Jose School in 2000. Rawson's personal coaching and aid with college applications has helped recent BSJS graduates gain acceptance to the undergraduate program at Princeton University, as well as

placements at Loyola Marymount and the Boston Conservatory. She has coached students for the Youth America Grand Prix and the Silicon Valley International Arts Competition, including the 2012 bronze medalist.

"Dalia is known in the Bay Area dance community for her warmth on stage, a quality that has translated to a love of teaching dance to students of all ages," says Ballet San Jose Principal Ballet Master Raymond Rodriguez. "It is highly desirable to find a leader with her unique combination of experience as a ballet student, professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer. I look forward to working with Dalia as we usher in this new era at Ballet San Jose School and to creating new opportunities for the students through our exciting partnership with American Ballet Theatre."

Ballet San Jose Executive Director Stephanie Ziesel notes, "Dalia has over two decades of institutional knowledge of Ballet San Jose, and is a veteran member of the ballet school faculty. She is intimately familiar with our school and students, and has raised the artistic quality of the school with her choreography and passionate teaching. The strong working relationships Dalia has developed with our artistic leadership and faculty will insure a seamless transition as she works with Artistic Consultant Wes Chapman and Principal Ballet Master Raymond Rodriguez to lead Ballet San Jose School through the next phase of its evolution."

"I am inspired and excited to take on this leadership role at such a pivotal moment in the school's history," says Rawson. "The faculty and I look forward to receiving certification in the ABT National Training Curriculum, and I know that through implementation of the National Training Guidelines, the dedication and expertise of our faculty, the commitment of BSJ's artistic leadership to provide a growing number of professional opportunities for our students and graduates, and the talent of our student body, we will be able to take the next step and become a school where a large portion of our graduates go on to professional careers in ballet, including at our own wonderful company, Ballet San Jose."

Ballet San Jose School Establishes New Student Trainee Program

With Rawson's appointment, the Ballet is immediately establishing a Student Trainee Program; this traineeship will provide the opportunity for young dancers to gain experience working with Ballet San Jose's professional company while continuing training with Ballet San Jose School. The program is intended as a stepping-stone to a professional ballet career, bridging the gap between dancing as a student in the classroom and dancing as a professional dancer in a company. Rawson says, "I thank the leadership of Ballet San Jose for adopting this program, as it highlights the institution's confidence in our student body and commitment to nurturing the talent in our community and the careers of our graduates."

BSJS Spring Performance at California Theater

The School's spring performance will be held at the California Theater on the weekend of May 26, 2012. The show will feature students from the School's open and professional divisions. Complete details will be announced in the coming weeks at www.balletsj.org.