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Editors Note- photos available

**SAN DIEGO DANCE THEATER SPRING SHOW FEATURES
MIX OF OLD AND NEW
*"Rhapsody in Blue" to feature noted guitarist Fred Benedetti***

Rhapsody in Blue & Other Dances

Saturday, May 15, 8 PM & Sunday, May 16, 6 PM, 2010

Don Powell Theater, San Diego State University

Jean Isaacs is never known for resting on her laurels. Rather, she is constantly moving forward. Still, after digging into her deep repertoire to prepare last year's 35th Anniversary Retrospective, Isaacs rediscovered some old gems that simply begged for restaging. Isaacs was inspired to once again pull from her many years as an innovative choreographer to create this year's Spring Show at SDSU.

In May, she will give new life to some of her favorite dances that were only seen once or twice. Highly acclaimed "Easter Oratorio" (2002) and "Hurt and More Hurt" (2002) return to the stage, as does her latest work "When Strangers Meet" which premiered in January at "Cabaret Dances," but begs for an expansive theater.

"Rhapsody in Blue and Other Dances" follows on the heels of a successful sold-out run of "Intimate Cabaret Dances" at Dance Place. Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater is excited to present a fully staged production at San Diego State University's Don Powell Theater.

"While our dancers and audiences enjoyed the intimacy of the small space at NTC, I am excited to show these works with full theatrical lighting and staging," explained Isaacs.

Critics applauded the world premiere of "When Stranger Meet" which featured music from Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble.

"Exuberant, combining colors, moves and musical elements of the cultures along the ancient Silk Road... a taste of romance, a spice of the exotic, and a soupçon of whimsy. That's choreographer Jean Isaacs' recipe for success, and it's what makes the dances she creates such a treat." - Pat Launer, San Diego News Network.

"Isaacs directs with her signature touch, blending romantic, comic and exotic dances and drawing excellent performances from her dancers." -Kris Eitland, San Diego.com

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www.sandiegodancetheater.org

Isaacs will also restage Adagio and Allegro from 2002's "Easter Oratorio" Bach's masterpiece. The beautiful, sustained adagio soars and ebbs with its deeply spiritual message. The allegro features a quirkily humorous movement vocabulary for the cast of eight.

"Hurt and More Hurt" (2002), created shortly after the sudden death of local dancer Ricardo Peralta to the blues songs of Mississippi John Hurt, was named one the Union Tribune's "10 Best Dances of 2002." Often known for light and humorous work, this piece emerged from an experience of grief and loss. This duet will be danced by Lauren Slater and Blythe Barton.

"Rhapsody in Blue," George Gershwin's signature work from 1924, combines elements of classical music with jazz-influenced effects. The extended piano solo is played by company musician-in-residence Steve Baker, whose galloping tempi in the composition might evoke a *rhapsody in brew* feeling instead. An equal partner in this adventure is renowned guitarist Fred Benedetti, who along with baker will create a new, original version of this much loved classic.

Featured dancers include **Blythe Barton, Annie Boyer, Matt Carney, Anthony Diaz, John Diaz, Liv Isaacs-Nollet, Summer Jones, Trystan Loucado, Minaqua McPherson and Lauren Slater.**

This concert celebrates the seventh season of a unique partnership with the SDSU Department of Theater and its Graduate Design Program under the direction of Professor Craig Wolf. Graduate students majoring in Lighting, Costume, and Scenic Design enjoy the opportunity to create in collaboration with a professional dance company. The dance concert is produced in partnership with the SDSU School of Music and Dance and the School of Theater, Television and Film.

Saturday: May 15th 8pm, (Post Performance Reception on Stage with the Company)

Sunday: May 16th 6pm

Tickets: \$45- VIP-includes post-performance reception (Saturday Night only)
\$25 - General Admission, \$20, Seniors/Military
\$15 - Students, \$10 - SDSU Students

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For tickets go to www.sandiegodancetheater.org or 619.225.1803

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