

CALIFORNIA BALLET COMPANY ANNOUNCES

*Romeo & Juliet*

AT THE BALBOA THEATRE  
March 12-13, 2016

There will be a press invitational at the Balboa Theatre on March 11, 2016.  
Please RSVP with Joe Shumate to attend: [jshumate@californiaballet.org](mailto:jshumate@californiaballet.org).

San Diego, CA - California Ballet Company (CBC) presents Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* at the Balboa Theatre March 12-13, 2016. With gorgeous choreography by Charles Bennett, this one hour dance adaptation will take you on an emotional roller coaster from the first note of Prokofiev's powerful score.

"This hour-long adaptation is dependent upon condensation of character and text," said choreographer Charles Bennett. "It has been my intention to retain the original structure while using dance as a means of expressing poetry."

This season's production of *Romeo & Juliet* will feature Guest Artist Jared Nelson and CBC Principal Trystan Merrick alternating in the role of Romeo. The role of Juliet will be shared by CBC Principal Ballerina Chie Kudo and Principal Dancer Ana da Costa. Guest Artist Justin Flores, last seen on the California Ballet stage as George Wilson in *The Great Gatsby*, will dance the role of Tybalt and CBC Soloist Jeremy Zapanta will appear in the role of Mercutio.

The program will also include a new work by Guest Choreographer Jared Nelson. Mr. Nelson restaged Septime Webre's choreography for *The Great Gatsby*. He also starred in the title role. This will be the first time his original work will be seen on the California Ballet stage.

**When:** March 12-13, 2016

**Where:** Balboa Theatre; 868 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

**Price:** \$40 - \$75 Children 12 & under receive a 20% discount. Must be 6 and older to attend.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.CaliforniaBallet.org](http://www.CaliforniaBallet.org) or (858) 560-6741

**About the Ballet**

California Ballet's production of *Romeo & Juliet* premiered in 1980 with critical and popular success. Choreographer Charles Bennett's condensed 1-hour interpretation turns the 4-act ballet into a more approachable format for both Shakespeare and ballet newcomers. The California Ballet version uses a streamlined rendition of the original Prokofiev score.

The ballet recounts Shakespeare's romantic tragedy about a pair of star-crossed lovers whose romance comes to a fatal conclusion because of an age old feud between their warring families.

For images of *Romeo & Juliet* or info on the current season, go to [www.californiaballet.org/press](http://www.californiaballet.org/press).

Dancer Bios on back



**Jared Nelson – *Romeo*** - began dancing professionally at the age of 14 with the Sacramento Music Circus and became an apprentice with the Sacramento Ballet that same year. Mr. Nelson performed as a principal dancer with the Washington Ballet in Washington DC where he originated the role of Jay Gatsby for the World Premiere of *The Great Gatsby* at the Kennedy Center. He reprised the role for the West Coast Premiere presented by California Ballet at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Mr. Nelson most recently appeared at the San Diego Civic Theatre in December as the Cavalier and the Snow King in California Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker*.

**Chie Kudo – *Juliet*** - received her training in Japan, under the direction of Shizuko Tachibana. In 1997 she joined the New National Theater in Tokyo, and performed under the direction of Asami Maki. Ms. Kudo joined California Ballet Company in 2006 as a Soloist, and was promoted to Principal in 2008. In 2011, following her dazzling performance as Odette at the end of CBC's 43rd season, Ms. Kudo was promoted to Ballerina.

**Ana da Costa – *Juliet*** - joined California Ballet as a principal in 2014 when she first appeared on the Civic Theatre stage in the title role of *Giselle*. She was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and received her ballet training from Centro de Dança Rio. She started her professional career at 16 with the Young Ballet of France in Paris, before joining the Theatro Municipal de Rio de Janeiro where she rose through the ranks to soloist.

**Trystan Merrick – *Romeo*** - joined California Ballet as a Principal in 2014. He has appeared with such companies as the Nevada Ballet, Malashock, Owen Cox Dance, and Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. He regularly appears with Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, and is an instructor at the California Ballet School.

**Justin Flores – *Tybalt*** - Mr. Flores is a graduate of the Houston Ballet Academy and holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma. He has danced with such companies as the Eugene Ballet, The Foundry, Liss Fain Dance Company, Deborah Slater Dance Theater, Peter Kyle Dance, Ballet X, and was most recently a soloist with The Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He has appeared on PBS' *Great Performances* and *Live From Lincoln Center*.

**Jeremy Zapanta – *Mercutio*** - Born in the Philippines, Mr. Zapanta moved to the United States at the age of 1. He began his dance training at the age of 13 at the Burbank School of Ballet, and continued his training at the University of California, Irvine where he worked with the great Donald McKayle. He joined California Ballet in 2013 as a member of the Corps de Ballet, and was promoted to Soloist in 2014.

For more information on *Romeo & Juliet* please visit [www.CaliforniaBallet.org](http://www.CaliforniaBallet.org)  
or email Joe Shumate at [jshumate@californiaballet.org](mailto:jshumate@californiaballet.org).

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