



SALT CREEK BALLET
Dedicated to Excellence in Dance.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salt Creek Ballet

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Salt Creek Ballet Artistic Director Sergey Kozadayev Choreographs and Dances in a New Movie by Legendary Russian Actor/Writer/Director Venyamin Smekhov

Salt Creek Ballet Artistic Director Sergey Kozadayev recently spent one week filming a new movie with Russian pop star Alika Smekhova, daughter of famed Russian actor/writer/director Venyamin Smekhov. The movie, now under the working title *Exhausted by Tango*, is scheduled to be released in Russia this fall as part of a major, Russia-wide, celebration of the lifetime achievements of Venyamin Smekhov.

Mr. Kozadayev, a Darien resident, choreographed a series of dances and duets for Alika Smekhova, one of Russia's preeminent singers and a rising movie star. He also assumed the role of Ms. Smekhova's dance partner as the Argentinean Tango Man. Filming occurred on location in Moscow, on the coast of the Baltic Sea, and on a train travelling from Moscow to St. Petersburg in late June.

Mr. Kozadayev was invited to participate in the movie by director Venyamin Smekhov. Mr. Smekhov's film credits include 16 movies and at least one screenplay, many of which are known predominately in Russia, with some, such as *Smoke and Shorty* and *The Wizard of the City of Emeralds*, enjoying wide international notoriety and critical acclaim.

Mr. Kozadayev first met Mr. Smekhov in Denver in 1994 while Mr. Smekhov was involved in a series of summer actors' workshops and Mr. Kozadayev was Ballet Master for Colorado Ballet. The two men worked together in Prague in the Opera production of Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* and, more recently, the pair collaborated in Mr. Smekhov's production of *The Naked King* for Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago.

High Resolution Photos Available upon Request

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Sergey Kozadayev & Arika Smekhova in Exhausted by Tango

About Sergey Kozadayev

Sergey Kozadayev and his wife, Zhanna Dubrovskaya, were born in St. Petersburg, Russia and trained at the Vaganova Ballet Academy. The pair joined Salt Creek Ballet as Artistic Directors in 1998. Mr. Kozadayev danced with the St. Petersburg State Ballet as a principal dancer for 22 years. He received the Merit of Honor of the Russian Republic, signifying his reputation for the highest level of dance training and performance and he was featured in a biographical documentary for Russian TV. He graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Choreography and Dance and he also holds a degree from the University of Culture and Art in St. Petersburg. He has choreographed and danced in over 15 countries and was the first Russian choreographer invited to participate in the American Dance Festival in North Carolina in 1990. In 1991, he became Ballet Master, choreographer and teacher for the Colorado Ballet, where he staged all the major classical ballets and set his own choreography for the company. In 2006, Mr. Kozadayev was asked to set his own choreography entitled *Divertissements*, a ballet for select dancers from each of the member companies in Regional Dance America to perform in Jackson, Mississippi during the USA International Ballet Competition.

About Salt Creek Ballet

Currently celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Salt Creek Ballet has produced performances for more than 200,000 people in Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties since its founding and has earned a national reputation for excellence in dance. Salt Creek Ballet will be performing *The Nutcracker* at Hinsdale Central

Auditorium, November 27th & 28th; Paramount Theatre, December 4th; and Governors State University, December 11th, 2010. The company will present *Don Quixote* April 8th & 9th, 2011 at the McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage. The company's 25th Anniversary Gala Benefit will be Friday, October 1st, 2010 at Butterfield Country Club, Oak Brook. Call (630)769-1199 or visit www.saltcreekballet.org for more information.

Founded by Patricia Sigurdson, Salt Creek Ballet is an Illinois non-profit corporation, dedicated to its mission to (1) present professional-quality dance performances to diverse area audiences, (2) provide high-level performing opportunities for area dancers and (3) encourage appreciation and awareness of dance in the community at large. The company's first production of *The Nutcracker* was sold out and it has been performed every year since to full houses. A spring program was added to the company's regular performance schedule in 1987. Artistic Directors since 1998, Sergey Kozadayev and Zhanna Dubrovskaya have enriched Salt Creek Ballet's repertoire with evening-length productions of *La Sylphide*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle*, and with excerpts from *La Bayadere*, *Le Corsaire* and *Paquita*. Salt Creek Ballet now alternates these great classics with mixed repertory bills featuring new ballet, jazz and contemporary works by local choreographers and family favorites, such as *Alice in Wonderland*. Salt Creek Ballet programs are sponsored, in part, by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, The Grover Hermann Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Navistar, Inc., Harris Bank, Hinsdale Center for the Arts, Bridgepoint Technologies, RSB Property Development, BNSF Foundation and Target.

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