



Rebecca Kelly Ballet

**PRESS ALERT: OCTOBER 2004**  
**NOTICE OF BALLET COMMISSION**  
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**REBECCA KELLY BALLET, NYC**

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**November: REBECCA KELLY and THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S premiere the ballet "Carmen: Jose's Dream" to Rodion Shchedrin's *Carmen Suite*. Eight performances will be held at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, on 199 Chambers Street, in New York City, on Thurs, Fri, Nov. 18, 19, and Mon, Tues. Nov 22, 23, 2004, at 10:30am and 12 noon.**

20th century Russian composer Rodion Shchedrin was inspired by the story and melodies of Bizet's *Carmen* to create *Carmen Suite* as a performance vehicle for his wife, the famous Russian ballerina Maya Plissetskaya. In Shchedrin's modern retelling, Bizet's melodies are quoted, extended, and interwoven into a musical score rich with percussion and strong rhythmic elements. While *Carmen*, a wild and free gypsy woman, is attracted to José, her attentions quickly turn to the brave

and handsome Escamillo, a bullfighter of some celebrity. José's love for *Carmen* is true and unyielding. These different interpretations of love are the central conflict of the original opera, and when José realizes that *Carmen*'s love for him will never mirror his own, he kills her. He waits in shock to be arrested as the curtain falls.

And this is where choreographer Rebecca Kelly begins. *"Using only five dancers, I had to create a new story and a new point of view, not so much departing from the early, much performed story by Prosper Mérimée, but distilling that story to its very essence. This required a re-ordering of the suite of music, and the decision to tell the story from Don Jose's perspective. My present moment is many years later after the events he recalls. He has no reason to remember anyone other than the woman he had loved, the rival, and the woman he killed."*

In Kelly's *Carmen: José's Dream*, from the moment Jose was arrested for the murder of *Carmen*, he has lived his life locked away in a cell, completely alone, accompanied only by his memories and the prison medical staff. Through his memories, both distorted and sharpened by time and by his own anguish, he revisits the short intense moment of his youth, when through a single act, life changed forever.

The five dancers in Kelly's *Carmen* are **Therese Wendler** as *Carmen*; **Aliaksandr Anatska** is the youthful Don Jose, **Alexander Forsythe** plays the imprisoned Don Jose; **Emily SoRelle** plays the dual roles of Micaela and Fortune, and **Andrei Kisselev** plays Escamillo and the figure of Death. Costumes are by designers **Michelle Ferranti** and **Barbara Head**.

"**Carmen: Jose's Dream**" is Kelly's second commission from the St. Luke's Orchestra. In 2003 the Orchestra charged Rebecca Kelly to take the familiar story Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*, and add the music of Poulenc's *L'Eocadia* to create an entirely new story arc. Kelly rendered the classic Faustian tale of the great struggle between good and evil, with a succinct cast of four, and set it in the contemporary world.

For further information on Rebecca Kelly Ballet, call 212-431-8489, or visit [RebeccaKellyBallet.com](http://RebeccaKellyBallet.com). Rebecca Kelly Ballet, 579 Broadway, 4B, New York, NY 10012. For information on Orchestra of St. Luke's, visit [OrchestraofStLukes.org](http://OrchestraofStLukes.org).

