

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA  
**Ballet**

THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA BALLET  
PRESENTS

**LIVE**

# TIES

**LIVE  
MUSIC!**  
BY  
**DAVID AUSTIN**

**RAILROAD  
HISTORY!**



*Nancy Stark*

**MAY 14, 2022 \* 2:00 PM AND 7:00 PM**  
**ELMWOOD PARK AMPHITHEATER**



**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
PEDRO SZALAY**





O. WINSTON LINK MUSEUM

### **About the O. Winston Link Museum**

The O. Winston Museum is dedicated to preserving, collecting & interpreting the photographic, audio & video works of photographer Winston Link & his project to document the last days of steam along the Norfolk & Western Railway. Winston Link's full collection of railroad photography together with interactive displays of his camera equipment, darkroom & artifacts from some of his images can be found at the O. Winston Link Museum located in Roanoke, Virginia. The Link Museum is the repository of all negatives, equipment, sounds & images associated with Mr. Link's famous work documenting the last days of steam railroading & a vanishing way of life in America. The late 1950's were a time of great change in America & Mr. Link's photographs of the trains, places & people along the tracks of the Norfolk & Western Railway preserve this era with unmatched reality & humanity.

#### *Hours & Location:*

Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 4:30pm

Sunday—Monday: CLOSED

101 Shenandoah Avenue N.E.

Roanoke, Virginia 24016

540.982.5465

Find us online at: [www.linkmuseum.org](http://www.linkmuseum.org)

All images in this program & shown on stage are the copyright of O. Winston Link & are provided courtesy of the O. Winston Link Museum.



## **About the Virginia Museum of Transportation**

The Roanoke Transportation Museum, originally formed as a partnership of the Norfolk & Western Railway & the City of Roanoke, first opened its doors in 1963 in Wasena Park along the Roanoke River. Although all modes of transportation were represented, the Museum focused on telling the story of Roanoke's rich rail heritage.

In 1976, a private non-profit corporation was established to operate the Museum, & in 1983 the Museum was designated as the Official Transportation Museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Subsequently, the Museum was renamed the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

Disaster struck the Museum in 1985, when floodwaters surged through the Museum leaving behind \$1.4 million in damages. Norfolk Southern came to the rescue, generously donating the 1918 vintage N&W freight station to be used as the Museum's new home. The Museum is now housed in a 45,000 square foot building adjacent to active Norfolk Southern mainline tracks on 5.75 acres of land in downtown Roanoke.

The Museum's collection includes approximately 2,500 objects, including more than 50 pieces of rolling stock—locomotives & other rail cars—including the largest collection of diesel locomotives in the South. The Museum has expanded its collection to include automotive, aviation, transit, & other artifacts & frequently exhibits loaned objects.

Today, the Virginia Museum of Transportation welcomes guests from across the nation & around the world. The Museum exists to preserve Virginia's transportation history & to honor the workers whose talents created the transportation marvels in our collection. As a partner in the newly established "Virginia's Rail Heritage Region," it is our privilege to preserve their stories & accomplishments for future generations.

### *Hours & Location:*

Wednesday—Saturday: 10am—5pm

Sunday: 1pm-5pm

Monday—Tuesday: CLOSED

303 Norfolk Ave

Roanoke, Virginia 24016

Find us online at: [www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org)



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE**

It is so nice to see you all in this marvelous venue in our city, wait... I hear something, the trains are coming, listen to their whistles blow!!!!

It is an honor for me to bring back SVB's original work "TIES." This production is made possible by partnerships with Roanoke City, Virginia Museum of Transportation, The O. Winston Link Museum, Virginia Blue Ridge, Nancy Stark, and musicians Blue Mule, David Austin and The Atta Boys.

Please give a warm welcome to our graduating Seniors: Peighton Miller, Danielle Riley and Sophia Skelton as they grace the stage once more for their farewell performances before starting their new journeys.

I am so thankful for all of our company's volunteers who have made this season successful. We are "tied" together as a community. We would not be the company of Virginia's Blue Ridge without our dancers, their families, our volunteers and the community, including numerous arts organizations and sponsors. THANK YOU!

I'm excited for our bright future and growing support. Ties is not our last performance of the 2021-2022 season. We will be back next week performing in the Local Colors Festival and in Festival In The Park 2022 the week after.

If you are a dancer who would you like to train with us, check out our Summer Intensive, [svballet.org](http://svballet.org).

Blessing,  
Pedro

*Look for information on "The Magical Season" 2022-2023 at Berglund Performing Arts Theatre, Home of Southwest Virginia Ballet, The Nutcracker, Dance Español and Cinderella. Check our website for Season Tickets or more information for upcoming performances through our Virginia Blue Ridge.*

Keep your thoughts positive, because your thoughts become your words.  
Keep your words positive, because your words become your behaviors.  
Keep your behaviors positive, because your behaviors become your habits.  
Keep your habits positive, because your habits become your values.  
Keep your values positive, because your values become your destiny

- Mahatma Gandhi

# TIES

TIES is about people and their incredible connections to others and to the land that holds them. Many have uprooted or been uprooted, leaving a country, a region, or a family. They are pushed by themselves or by circumstances to reach for their goals and go beyond their comfort zones. As a result of World War II, my family emigrated from Hungary to Venezuela where I was born. I loved both my countries; however, when the time came to spread my wings, I went to New York City, then to Richmond, Virginia and finally here to Roanoke following my dreams.

So, when I started searching for a project for SVB in 2008, I was intrigued by the rail history of this region and its influence on immigration to Roanoke. As the idea developed, I decided to leave the chronological storytelling to the museums. Instead, I focused on the relationships of people – the dreamers, laborers, and witnesses who chose to stay or come to the Big Lick, the Magic City, the Star City, the Roanoke Valley. Costume changes will flit through history like the children, parents and grandparents of O. Winston Link's photographs. Relationships will develop and dissolve throughout the choreography like the spirits that rise, suffuse and integrate into the earth that is this valley. Their spirits grew out of great dreams, cold steely labor, disappointments and victories. Watch the images of the train with its trails of steam and imagine it to be the spirit of the tough gritty people who brought the clanging steel carts to our days and nights.

As with these people, it takes collaboration, and we are happy to have fostered that in this production. Thank you to O. Winston Link for the captured images of a past era and the museum that houses them here in Roanoke. We also thank the Virginia Museum of Transportation for sharing ideas and the history of our valley. Please visit and support these museums and artists as they have supported SVB. David Austin's original scores express the spirit of the past and contemporary eras. Combined with the talents of Bule Mule and the Atta Boys, we are transported seamlessly from one era to the next.

**So sit back relax and listen as the conductor calls the ever famous...  
"ALL ABOARD!!!"**



## **VISION**

Southwest Virginia Ballet strives to bring quality pre-professional dance through artistic, instructional, & performance excellence providing opportunities to our youth & community & achieving regional, national, & international recognition.

## **MISSION**

Our mission is to make the performing arts experience available to all ages from all walks of life through full-length productions of varied repertoire including classical ballet, contemporary, & new works. Southwest Virginia Ballet provides, free of charge, the highest quality of pre-professional training possible to young dancers & promotes cultural enrichment & awareness of the art of dance. SVB is committed to offering outreach opportunities for under-served & at-risk children & adults from across Southwest Virginia.

**This performance is made possible in part by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.**





presents

# **TIES**

**Choreography**

**Pedro Szalay**

**Music**

**Yo-Yo Ma, David Austin,**

**Blue Mule & Atta Boys**

**Ballet Mistress**

**Maria Jessee**

**Rehearsal Assistants**

**Danielle Riley & Alexis Potter**

**Technical Director**

**Jim D'Alelio**

**Production/Costumes**

**Phoebe Bosworth-Ebrahimi**

**Emily Jarrett**

**Lighting Design**

**Stage Sound**

**Stage Manager**

**Katie Munson**

**Program Cover**

**Nancy Stark**

**All rights reserved.**

**Photography and videotaping are strictly prohibited.**

**Photos may be purchased at [www.mcdildaphotography.com](http://www.mcdildaphotography.com)**

# TIES

## **REVELATION ... Surveying the empty land**

Colin Brown Amelia Ball, Lily Ebrahimi, Sophie Beth Hanks, Sydney Hassall, Ava Haynes, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Cora May, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Alexis Potter, Erin Schallon, Evalyn Williams

## **PROMISE ... Building Hope**

Jake Gomez, Preston Pauley, Connor Walker, Tyrique Bowles, Lachlan Robrecht, Colin Brown

## **INTERSECT ... Connecting feelings**

Danielle Riley, Sophia Skelton, Pedro Szalay and Kaila Brown, Forrest Buehler, Mirai Burton, Lauren Cox, Olivia Cox, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Dara Kerman, Ratie Jensen, Audrey Kelley, Nev Logan, Sarah Masinter, Maren Pauley, Erin Potter, Natalie Routt, Evelyn Soucie, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Elliott Wiegard

## **GATHER ... Cultivating and helping each other for progress**

Colin Brown and Amelia Ball, Tyrique Bowles, Lily Ebrahimi, Sophie Beth Hanks, Sydney Hassall, Ava Haynes, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Cora May, Peighton Miller, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Alexis Potter, Danielle Riley, Lachlan Robrecht, Erin Schallon, Sophia Skelton, Evalyn Williams

## **STALL ... Who we are**

Amelia Ball, Sophie Beth Hanks, Ava Haynes, Alexis Potter, Lily Ebrahimi, Cora May, Peighton Miller, Emily Nelson, Evalyn Williams

## **DIRECT LINE ... Good direction**

Peighton Miller and Kaila Brown, Forrest Buehler, Mirai Burton, Lauren Cox, Olivia Cox, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Dara Kerman, Ratie Jensen, Audrey Kelley, Nev Logan, Sarah Masinter, Maren Pauley, Erin Potter, Natalie Routt, Evelyn Soucie, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Elliott Wiegard

## **TURNSTILE ... Struggle**

Danielle Riley, Pedro Szalay, Sophia Skelton, Colin Brown, Ellie Moser, Margaret Kauffman, Erin Schallon, Sydney Hassall, Maggie Jarrett, Lily Ebrahimi

## **REALIZE ... Follow us**

Amelia Ball, Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, Lily Ebrahimi, Sophie Beth Hanks, Sydney Hassall, Ava Haynes, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Cora May, Peighton Miller, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Alexis Potter, Danielle Riley, Lachlan Robrecht, Erin Schallon, Sophia Skelton, Evalyn Williams and Jake Gomez, Preston Pauley, Connor Walker



## **HARMONY ... It's here**

Amelia Ball, Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, Zack Brown, Lily Ebrahimi, Sophie Beth Hanks, Sydney Hassall, Ava Haynes, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Cora May, Peighton Miller, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Alexis Potter, Danielle Riley, Lachlan Robrecht, Erin Schallon, Sophia Skelton, Evalyn Williams

## **URBANE ... We can build together**

Danielle Riley, Pedro Szalay, Sophia Skelton, Colin Brown and Ensemble

## **AGONY ... Obstruction in the progress**

Danielle Riley, Pedro Szalay, Sophia Skelton, Colin Brown, and Ensemble

## **ESSENCE ... We are connected**

Sophia Skelton

## **REFLECT ... The light at the end of the tunnel**

Kaila Brown, Forrest Buehler, Mirai Burton, Lauren Cox, Olivia Cox, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Dara Kerman, Ratie Jensen, Audrey Kelley, Nev Logan, Sarah Masinter, Maren Pauley, Erin Potter, Natalie Routt, Evelyn Soucie, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Elliott Wiegard

## **RUN ... Optimizing option**

Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, Jake Gomez, Preston Pauley, Lachlan Robrecht, Connor Walker

## **WASHBOARD ... Going down to the River**

Amelia Ball, Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, Lily Ebrahimi, Sophie Beth Hanks, Sydney Hassall, Ava Haynes, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Cora May, Peighton Miller, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Alexis Potter, Danielle Riley, Lachlan Robrecht, Erin Schallon, Sophia Skelton, Evalyn Williams

## **UNITED ... This is life**

Peighton Miller, Cora May, Alexis Potter, Ava Haynes, Sophie Beth Hanks, Amelia Ball, Evalyn Williams, Erin Schallon, and Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, Jake Gomez, Preston Pauley, Lachlan Robrecht, Connor Walker

## **CONNECTED ... We will be back**

Lachlan Robrecht, Ellie Moser

## **UTOPIA ... Hope for the future**

Ensemble



**PEDRO SZALAY** was born to Hungarian parents and is a native of La Guaira, Venezuela where he started dancing in local school by Ms. Machado. He received a scholarship at Ballet Nacional of Caracas, coached by Vladimir Isayev and many other national and international teachers. There he danced many of Nebrada's choreographed pieces. Later he traveled to New York City to be coached by Madame Darvash & performed with New York Dance Theatre directed by Frank Ohman. After New York, Szalay became a company dancer with Richmond Ballet from 1996 to 2006 where he was an inspiration for many choreographers & danced pieces from Balanchine, Burn, Canaporoli, Lang, Soleau, Stevenson, Orff, Wainrot, Winslett & many others. He was also a guest performer & choreographer with the Latin Ballet of Virginia. He has guest taught in South Carolina, Philadelphia, Virginia School of the Arts, Washington & Lee University & St. Paul's Ballet Company. Szalay served as a coach, choreographer for the School of Richmond Ballet & other Richmond dance

schools. He served as Artistic Advisor for Chesterfield Ballet School. Szalay coached the Wheel Chair Miss Richmond. He currently teaches at Star City School of Ballet. In the summer of 2016, he was invited to be a guest teacher in Murcia, Spain at Robles Ballet School. Szalay, for the past 14 years, enhanced the lives of many 4th graders through his instruction of the Minds In Motion program in Richmond, Charlottesville, Martinsville, Salem & Roanoke City Schools.

Beginning in 2012, Szalay developed a Spanish language, choreographed movement program called Dance Español for 4th graders in public schools. In 2013, he created a Ballet program for Middle Schools in Roanoke City Public Schools. January 2007, Szalay became Artistic Director of Southwest Virginia Ballet in the Roanoke Valley. He has since then strived for SVB to be recognized locally, regionally, nationally & internationally. In 2009, he was awarded the Perry F. Kendig Award for Outstanding Performing Artist & in 2010 named the best Local Celebrity for Charity Events by the Roanoker Magazine. In 2017, he received the Bransow Award in recognition of exceptional dedication & service to the Virginia Museum Community. Szalay is a Resident Artist for Carilion Clinic Healing Art Program. He is a board member of Thursday Morning Music Club as Dance Chairman of Footnotes & Roanoke City Public School Education Foundation, Inc..

Szalay's choreography credits include: The Long Christmas Ride Home, for Flournoy Playwright Festival, Ties: A Railroad Ballet, Cinderella, Coppelia, Romeo and Juliet, Miss Richmond Pageant (2002-2003), the Miss Virginia Pageant(2009-2012), Like Winter Waiting (2012- 2014), Sewing Seeds with Ann Waldrop, Dominos for Charlottesville Ballet, Holidays Pops, Peter & The Wolf, Carmina Burana with Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Excerpts of Act II of The Nutcracker, Firebird & Under the Tent with Roanoke Youth Symphony, Nick Cave, Norman Rockwell & many others for Taubman Museum of Art, La Traviata and South Pacific for Opera Roanoke. In 2017, he choreographed an original score in remembrance of the Virginia Tech tragedy. In 2019, he collaborated with Scott Williamson with a new project "Collective Euphonia" at Temple Emanuel, Roanoke, VA.



**MARIA JESSEE** joined Southwest Virginia Ballet's Company in 2007. A 2012 graduate of Roanoke Catholic School, Maria spent her summers training at Richmond Ballet and Orlando Ballet. She traveled to Prague, Czech Republic in the summer of 2011, where she performed with SVB in the New Prague Dance Festival. Under the direction of Artistic Director Pedro Szalay, Maria performed many roles for SVB, including Winter Fairy in Cinderella, Clara, Dew Drop and Snow Queen in The Nutcracker, and Firebird (2012) in The Firebird. She worked as the Head RA for Joffrey Ballet's West Los Angeles summer intensives. She has taken master classes from world renowned principal dancers, including Gillian Murphy & Julie Kent. In her second year of college, she came back to SVB as a Guest Artist in The Nutcracker, dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Maria received her BA in Dance Pedagogy from Butler University in Indianapolis, a top school for ballet instruction & performance in the US. After living & working in New York City for 2 years she returned to Roanoke, where she is currently living. She is a Master Aesthetician at Aesthetic Surgery of Virginia, a ballet teacher at Star City School of Ballet and Ballet Mistress for Southwest Virginia Ballet.



**ASHLEY CUNDIFF**, SVB's Company Pianist, holds a bachelor of Arts degree in music and French from Hollins University. She is an active solo pianist, accompanist, music instructor, & director of ensembles. Cundiff currently is Director of Music Ministries at Redwood United Methodist Church & an adjunct instructor of music at Ferrum College, in addition to working with SVB providing live Piano accompaniment for company rehearsals. Ashley lives in Rocky Mount with her husband, daughter and twins, and enjoys reading, writing and dabbling in home

economics in her spare time.





## “BLUE MULE”

Blue Mule is quite a unique band. Their music includes a number of styles, yet all framed in a bluegrass context. A listener can hear everything from Miles Davis, Merle Haggard, Bill Monroe, to Jethro Tull...all in the same set! Blue Mule also features innovative and creative original songs in their performance repertoire as well.

A Blue Mule performance is one of intensity, spontaneity, and the pursuit of “playing that lick just a little better than the night before”. Danceable, listenable, and hopefully, memorable long after it’s over, a set by Blue Mule is unlike any you’ve heard.

Tom Ohmsen – Mandolin

Tim Rhodes – Banjo

Jerry Wood – Fiddle

Contact or Booking for Blue Mule:

[www.bluemulemusic.com](http://www.bluemulemusic.com)

The Atta Boys and Blue Mule wish to thank **Seph Custer** for joining us for TIES. Seph is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. He records and teaches music; as well as performs at many music venues throughout the region. He lives in Callaway, Va. THANK YOU, SEPH!

Contact or Booking for Seph:

[www.sephcustermusic.com](http://www.sephcustermusic.com) / [sephcuster@gmail.com](mailto:sephcuster@gmail.com)

## “THE ATTA BOYS”



The Atta Boys have been bringing their style of bluegrass and traditional country music to audiences since 2007. The band features tight “brother-duet” style harmonies and solid instrumental solos. That combination has brought enjoyment to them and their listeners as well.

Greg Honeycutt is The Atta Boy’s bass player and lead guitarist. Greg plays with a number of bands in the area, including the Harwell-Grice Band and old-time band, New River Bound. Along with playing instruments

beautifully, Greg also repairs and builds them as well; he is quite the luthier. Greg is a sought-after studio musician and has recorded for a number of musical acts.

Keith Wood is a proficient pianist: but when he’s on stage with the Atta Boys, he plays the mandolin, harmonica, percussion instruments, and sings harmony. He always

has a good “Dad joke” he can share in moment’s notice as well. (Don’t encourage him! HA!) Keith is the accompanist for the choir and congregation at Trinity UMC in Buchanan.

David Austin completes the group as rhythm guitarist and lead singer. David has written a number of songs used in SVB performances, including two songs in the recent “Dance Español” performance in April. He fronts the “David Austin & Friends” Christmas band that performs seasonal favorites during the holidays.

The Atta Boys have always enjoyed their long association with the Southwest Virginia Ballet. They have performed together at several productions and venues with the company and look forward to many more!

Contact or booking for The Atta Boys:  
(540) 254-2696 / [davewave65@aol.com](mailto:davewave65@aol.com)

# SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA BALLET COMPANY 2021- 2022



Amelia Ball, Lillian Bordens, Kaila Brown, Colin Brown, Forrest Buehler, Mirai Burton, Lauren Cox, Olivia Cox, Lily Ebrahimi, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Addison Garrett, Sydney Hassall, Maggie Jarrett, Ratie Jensen, Margaret Kauffman, Audrey Kelley, Dara Kerman, Nev Logan, Sarah Masinter, Ginny Matthews, Peighton Miller, Ellie Moser, Emily Nelson, Maren Pauley, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Danielle Riley, Lachlan Robrecht, Natalie Routt, Erin Schallon, Sophia Skelton, Evelyn Soucie, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Elliott Wiegard, Evalyn Williams

**Not pictured:** Tyriquer Bowles, Sophie Beth Hanks, Ava Haynes, Cora May

## **Additional Male Dancers**

Zach Brown, Jake Gomez, Preston Pauley, Connor Walker

## **SVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Artistic Director	Pedro Szalay
Interim Executive Director	Megan Potter
President	Spencer Wiegard
Treasurer	Beth Kelley
Secretary	Lenore Willis
General Board	John Bouldin, Elda Stanco-Downey, Susan Jennings, Peter Jessee, Nancy Kelderhouse, Jessica Mather, Lauren Maxwell, Will Trinkle
Board Student Representative	Danielle Riley

## **SVB COMPANY COORDINATORS**

Production Coordinator	Phoebe Bosworth-Ebrahimi
Special Events Coordinator	Jacinda Williams
Costume Coordinator	Emily Jarrett
Hair Coordinator	Whitney Miller
Volunteer Coordinator	Melissa May
SVB Company Communications	Melissa May & Megan Potter
School Outreach Coordinator	Megan Potter
Marketing Coordinators	Jennifer Moses & Natalie Soucie
SVB Boutique	Angela Ball & Jennifer Brown
Website Designer	Carrie Cousins
2008 <i>TIES</i> Set Drawing	Marshall McMillan-Zapf, Hill Studios
2008 <i>TIES</i> Construction Coordinator	Jon Dorsey

## **A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO . . .**

Janice Walker, Heather Hanks, Rachel Schallon, Kiesha Preston Suzanne Nelson, Teresa Burton, Carrie Jensen, Mark Shephard, Lloyd Robrecht, Alan Hassall, Polly Pauley, Jennifer Cox, Courtney Wiegard, Frannie Gaeta, Michael Potter, Allison Masinter, Jenifer Moses, Lisa Fernandez, Kara Buehler, Jameson Miller Jill Hufnagel, Justin Buehler , and all our company parents who have spent many hours refurbishing & rebuilding the train cars, sewing & altering costumes, creating vintage hairstyles, applying makeup, & providing backstage assistance. Special thanks to Emily Jarrett & Lauren Budlong for their time & diligence in searching for *TIES* costumes & accessories at every thrift & second-hand store in Roanoke!

# SVB GRADUATING SENIORS



**PEIGHTON MILLER** has been dancing since the age of 4, when she was first introduced to her love for classical ballet at Linda Watkin's School of Dance. Currently, she dances at The Star City School of Ballet & has for the past seven years. Peighton has been a member of the Southwest Virginia Ballet since the age of 10. She began as a junior company member & has been a senior company member since 13. She has performed in productions of *Ties*, *Cinderella*, *Firebird* & *2 New Works*, *Hello Trolley*, *Under the Tent*, *Metamorphosis Movement Through Time*, *Romeo & Juliet*, & numerous roles throughout the yearly production of *The Nutcracker*. Peighton's favorite parts have been when she performed the role of Juliet in the ballroom scene from *Romeo &*

*Juliet* during *Metamorphosis Movement Through Time* & the role of Arabian in *The Nutcracker*. Her dream role of Clara was fulfilled as she performed this role during the 2021 year's production of *The Nutcracker!* Furthermore, she has participated in numerous summer intensives with The National Ballet of Canada, Radford University, The Richmond Ballet, & The Oklahoma City Ballet. During her sophomore year, Peighton was elected as the

Dancer Representative on Southwest Virginia Ballet's Board of Directors. In addition, she began as an assistant four years ago, & she currently is the instructor with dance classes of younger ballerinas. Peighton is thrilled to attend Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. Fall 2022. She is the recipient of the pre-med Wornom Scholarship & is looking to fulfill her dream of becoming a surgical dermatologist while continuing her love of dancing. Peighton wishes to show her gratitude & thankfulness to many individuals who have helped her develop & grow into a strong classical ballerina: Tess Post, MaryJo Crews, Carrie Jensen, Pedro Szalay, Katie Munson, Sara Cate Bingham, Maria Jessee, Abby Furry, & Elisabeth Burton. Most importantly, Peighton would not be where she is today without her parents' unlimited support, guidance, & love.







**DANIELLE RILEY** began dancing at the age of 4 at Southold Dance Theater in South Bend, Indiana under Artistic Director Erica Fischbach. During her time there, Dani participated in 5 productions of The Nutcracker as well as performances of Giselle and Sleeping Beauty. Dani received instruction in ballet and modern dance from Susan Margetts, JoAnn Barkes, and Shakurah Grumbacher during her time with Southold. She and her mom moved to Blacksburg, Virginia in June of 2015, and Dani began taking classes at the Dance Centre of Southwest Virginia (now Star City School of Ballet) in 2016. She participated in SVB's Nutcracker as an extra in 2016, and joined the company the following year in 2017. This is her fifth year with SVB and still currently dances with Star City School of Ballet during the week.

With SVB, Dani has performed in various productions such as Firebird, Coppelia, and Under the Tent. She was very excited to perform the roles of Snow Queen, Hummingbird, and Arabian in SVB's 2021 Nutcracker, as these were her dream roles. Dani is also thrilled to be performing Ties this spring as her final performance with SVB. She has participated in four summer intensives with SVB since 2018, and was also selected in August of 2021 to be the Dancer Representative on the SVB Board of Directors. Dani is a current senior at Blacksburg High School and will graduate in May of 2022. She will attend Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, to pursue her love of photography. Dani has received lots of support from many teachers and mentors throughout her dance journey, and she would especially like to thank Susan Margetts, Maria Jessee, Sara Cate Bingham, Carrie Jensen, Abigail Furry, and Tess Post for this. She is extremely grateful for the continuous love and support from Pedro Szalay throughout her time with SVB, and she could not be more thankful for the many opportunities she has been given. Finally, Dani would like to thank her mother, family, and friends for helping and supporting her through her dance journey in any way possible.



**SOPHIA SKELTON** has been dancing since she was 3 years old and discovered her love for classical ballet at a young age. She joined SVB's junior company as an eighth grader in 2017 and moved up to the senior company in 2018. She has performed in The Nutcracker since 2010, beginning as a little reindeer, and has since performed countless roles. She participated in productions of Under the Tent, Firebird and 2 New Works, Metamorphosis Movement Through Time, and Coppélia. Her favorite roles have been the Sugar Plum Fairy, one of Swanhilda's friends in Coppélia, and Dawn in Coppélia for an outreach performance. She participated in SVB's 5 week summer intensive for 5 years and was thrilled to participate in the 2021 summer intensive of her favorite professional company, American Ballet Theatre. Sophia was delighted to perform her dream role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in this past winter's production of The Nutcracker. She will graduate from Roanoke Catholic this spring and will attend

Fordham University in New York City in the fall. While pursuing her academics, she plans to continue dancing with the Fordham Jetés (a ballet club) and with the Alvin Ailey/Fordham partnership classes. She is excited to perform in this 2022 production of Ties, a unique story and ballet she has never before experienced. Sophia is incredibly grateful to Pedro Szalay, Maria Jessee, Tess Post, and Carrie Jensen for pushing her to be the best dancer and person she can be, and for helping her to cultivate her love of dance. She also feels thankful for the love and support of her family and friends who help her in more ways than they can imagine.



## HISTORY

Southwest Virginia Ballet (SVB) has been a part of the community for 25 years & serves over 10,000 children & adults annually. SVB began in 1990 by Founding Artistic Director Tess (Terri) Post. The Associate Director role was filled by Sandra Smeltzer. Ms. Post's vision was for Southwest Virginia to produce and support a regional ballet company that would provide pre-professional quality performances of varied repertoire including classical ballet, contemporary, and modern works.

The new company quickly became a part of the community experience and in its first year performed at Festival in the Park, with Opera Roanoke in *Die Fledermaus*, and had its premier Company performance at Virginia Western Community College. This was quickly followed up in 1991 by a production of *The Nutcracker* at Olin Hall, Roanoke College, with the first locally produced full-length production of *The Nutcracker* in many years. By 1993, SVB was performing *The Nutcracker* at the Roanoke Civic Center accompanied by the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and continued to perform at Festival in the Park, Affair in the Square, as guests with the Rockbridge Ballet, and with Opera Roanoke in *The Merry Widow* and *Rigoletto*. SVB also performed two full-length productions annually. In order to expand training and performance opportunities for company dancers, in 1993 SVB applied for admission to the Southeast Regional Dance Association (SERBA), a division of Regional Dance America. SVB hosted the annual SERBA Festival in 2003.

In 2006, Pedro Szalay joined SVB as instructor, co-artistic director, and choreographer. In 2007, Mr. Szalay became the full-time Artistic Director when Ms. Post relocated to New York. Under Szalay's direction, SVB company membership has doubled in size & has gained regional, national, & international acclaim. Under the artistic leadership of Mr. Szalay, the annual production of *The Nutcracker* routinely brings together as many as 180 SVB Company & community members, both children & adults. In 2009, Mr. Szalay created his first original full-length ballet, *TIES*, in collaboration with musician David Austin, the O. Winston Link Museum, & the Virginia Museum of Transportation to bring the history of the railroad in Southwest Virginia to life on stage. He has also created full-length productions of *Cinderella* & *Romeo & Juliet*. Additional productions include *Coppelia*, *The Firebird*, & *Reencuentro* (which included alumni), as well as original works by many innovative choreographers. In addition to full-length productions, SVB performs throughout the year at area festivals & events & has collaborated with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra & Opera Roanoke.



Photos and digital downloads  
[www.mcdildaphotography.com](http://www.mcdildaphotography.com)



540.588.3342

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Southwest Virginia Ballet (SVB) has served the community for 25 years & serves over 10,000 children & adults annually. SVB continues to serve as a training ground for regional dancers possibly seeking a career in dance or dance related fields. In its 25-year history, SVB's distinguishing characteristics continue to include professional instruction, free membership, free costumes, & regional participation, in that, many dance schools are represented in company membership.

SVB's programs *Minds and Motion* (6 years) and *Dance Español* (4 years), created and instructed by Mr. Szalay, have brought dance and inspiration to youth in our schools. These programs have had a large impact reaching over 200 Roanoke City 4<sup>th</sup> graders each year and over 340 Martinsville City School students of all ages in Henry County. Community outreach and collaborative endeavors have expanded to include performances at Dickens of a Christmas, Parks and Arts, Virginia Science Festival, O. Winston Link Museum, History Museum of Western Virginia, Science Museum of Western Virginia, and Taubman Museum of Art. Company dancers participate in readings at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in addition to local schools, and visit Carilion Clinic to perform and bring cheer to pediatric patients.

Southwest Virginia Ballet has awarded \$8,000 through the Vaszary Scholarship Fund since 2009. An endowment fund, established in 2011, now exceeds \$140,000. As part of the program, "Southwest Virginia Ballet Gives Back", SVB has provided free tickets to over 1600 clients of area human services organizations to attend *The Nutcracker* & spring productions.

## RECOGNITION

The company, now with 56 members, has received regional recognition & in July 2011 received international recognition at the New Prague Dance Festival winning first place in classical dance & first place in costuming. Two SVB dancers were also recognized for individual talent at the New Prague Dance Festival in 2011. In 2013, SVB received the Grishko Award at the New Prague Dance Festival, the equivalent of second place in the overall festival. At the New Prague Dance Festival 2015, SVB was awarded Second Place in Classical Dance, Second Place in Pedagogy of Dance (Pedro Szalay, Artistic Director), the Grishko Award, a Talent in Dance Award & a Special Participant Award, which is voted by peers. SVB was first voted Roanoke's Best Ballet Organization in 2003 & Roanoke's Best Performing Arts Group in 2012 by the readers of Roanoke's City Magazine. For the past several years, SVB has received the Best Arts Performance award several years running. SVB also received recognition as the City of Salem Best Performing Arts Group in 2008 & was the first organization to receive the Art Venture Award from the Taubman Museum of Art for extraordinary educational & collaborative programming in 2014. In 2015, SVB was awarded the prestigious Perry F. Kendig Arts & Cultural Organization Award.

In its 25 year history, SVB's distinguishing characteristics continue to include professional instruction, free membership, free costumes, & open participation with many of the regions dance schools represented in company membership. Many SVB Alumni continue to dance, choreograph, and teach around the world. Others are leaders in areas of arts, science, engineering, and business. This program for young dancers instills the discipline, teamwork, and dedication necessary to be successful in all aspects of life and fields of study and work.

# THANK YOU SPONSORS

## **GRAND WALTZ \$ 10, 000 AND UP**

Shields and Virginia Jarrett  
City of Roanoke  
National Endowments of the Arts  
Virginia Commission of the Arts

## **GRAND JETE \$ 5, 000**

Steve and Lori Strauss  
John and Evelyn Tielking  
Anonymous

## **PETITE JETE \$ 2, 500**

Berglund Center  
Buzz4Good  
Carrie Cousins  
Lamar Advertising  
Spencer and Joy Frantz  
Michael Cox—Norfolk Southern Good  
Government Foundation

## **ADAGIO \$ 1, 000**

Dr. J Randolph and Michelle Clements  
For Allison Foundation  
Willis and Ashley Logan  
McDilda Photography  
Network for Good  
Star City School of Ballet  
Will Trinkle in honor of the Trinkle-  
Granados Family  
Spencer and Courtney Wiegard

## **RELEVE \$ 500**

Integrated Textile Solutions, Inc  
Franco and Katy Coniglione  
The Huntley Foundation  
Kroger Rewards  
Amazon Smiles  
Wordsprint  
Jacinda Williams  
Steve and Angela Ball

## **PLIE \$ 250**

Zia Construction  
Elda Stanco Downey  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilhelm  
Jennifer Cook  
Karen Kalbfleisch  
Dan and Lydia Celin

## **FAMILY COMPANY SUPPORT \$ 125**

Anderson Music Therapy  
Anonymous  
Ashlin Barbe Acheson  
Hugh and Penny Wells  
Matt and Rachel Schallon  
Pedro Szalay

# INDIVIDUAL COMPANY SUPPORT

Anonymous

Sally Bain

John Barnwell

John Bouldin

Doris Campbell

Sam Cannon

Sarah Clinton

Michael and Grace Connor

Tim and Barbara Cribbs

Donna Early

Ali Ebrahimi and Phoebe Bosworth-  
Ebrahimi

Frannie Gaeta

Dana Ghioca-Robrecht

Pricilla Goulding

Kelly Hooper

Vladimir and Ruby Issaev

Susan Jennings

Carrie Jensen

Peter and Carol Jessee

Dan Keeley

The Kelderhouse Family

Ben Kramer

Martha Lalka

Kristen Lihos

Anna Martin

Jessica Mather

Melissa May

Lauren Maxwell

Jameson Miller

George and Janet Nester

Eugene and Terri Post

Megan and Michael Potter

Nancy Revercomb

Sandra Smeltzer

Helen Smythers

Robert Stewart

Robert and Bonnie Trestman

Charlene Vail

Lenore Willis



<b>Musical Selection</b>	<b>Artists</b>	<b>Composer</b>
“O. Winston Link”	Atta Boys/Blue Mule	(Austin)
“Harvest”	Atta Boys/Blue Mule	(Austin)
“Bootleggin’ Blues”	Atta Boys/Blue Mule	(Austin)
“The Blackest Crow”	Atta Boys/Blue Mule	(Traditional)
“Appalachia Waltz”	Edgar Meyer and Yo-Yo Ma	(O’Connor)
“The Green Groves of Erin/ The Flowers of Red Hill”	Mark O’Connor, Yo-Yo Ma & Edgar Meyer	(Traditional)
“Pickles”	Mark O’Connor and Yo-Yo Ma	(Meyer)
“Chief Sitting in the Rain”	Mark O’Connor, Edgar Meyer, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Traditional)
“Star of the County Down”	Mark O’Connor, Edgar Meyer, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Traditional)
“Fair Dancer Reel”	Edgar Meyer and Yo-Yo Ma	(O’Connor)
“Going to School”	Yo-Yo Ma and John Williams	(Williams)
“Soledad”	Yo-Yo Ma and Octavio Brunetti	(Piazzolla)
“Gabriel’s Oboe”	Ennio Morricone, Yo-Yo Ma, & Roma Sinfonietta	(Morricone)
“Limerock”	Edgar Meyer, Mark O’Connor, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Traditional)
“Duet for cello & bass”	Edgar Meyer, Mark O’Connor, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Meyer)
“Emily’s Reel”	Edgar Meyer, Mark O’Connor, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Meyer & O’Connor)
“Second Time Around “	Edgar Meyer, Mark O’Connor, & Yo-Yo Ma	(Meyer)

### **TIES Research**

Garver, T.H. (1995). *The Last Steam Railroad in America*. New York, NY: Abrams.

Garver, T.H. (2004). *O. Winston Link: The Man and The Museum*. Roanoke, VA: O. Winston Link Museum.

Harris, N. (2003). *Norfolk and Western Railway*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia.

Striplin, E.F.P. (1997). *The Norfolk & Western: A History*. Roanoke, VA: Norfolk & Western Historical Society.



**WE  
ARE  
ART**



THE ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION PROUDLY SUPPORTS SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA BALLET AND APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE TO ALL AGES, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION INCREASES THE COLLECTIVE IMPACT OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY BY ADVOCATING FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES AND INVESTMENT, DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CITY'S PUBLIC ART PLAN, ADVANCING THE CITY'S ARTS AND CULTURAL PLAN, AND GUIDING CITY INVESTMENTS IN ARTS AND CULTURE.



ROANOKEARTS.ORG



Watch our episode on Southwest Virginia Ballet  
as it first appeared on Blue Ridge PBS  
[buzz4good.com/episodes](http://buzz4good.com/episodes)

Follow us on our social media and website for info on  
new episodes featuring nonprofits in southwest Virginia ...  
and the marketing pros who help them attract  
more donors, volunteers and clients to their cause.



[www.buzz4good.com](http://www.buzz4good.com)



@buzz4good



BUZZ INSIDE THE HIVE  
Podcast on Spotify, Apple, Google



# TOP 10 WAYS TO BE A TRAILSETTER IN VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE

BE A #TRAILSETTER



@VISITVBR

## 2 Black Dog Salvage *A Shopping Spree*

Find all kinds of amazing treasures at the unique shops, boutiques, and antique stores in Virginia's Blue Ridge, including **Black Dog Salvage**, known for its hit show *Salvage Dawgs*, which airs on the DIY Network.

## 4 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY *America's Favorite Drive*

There's beauty around every twist and turn of the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, one of many scenic roadways in Virginia's Blue Ridge. With eight access points, the **Parkway** is an easy way to take in the breathtaking natural beauty of the area.



## 7 Mountain Biking *America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital*

Get ready for an epic adventure on two wheels. There are endless opportunities for mountain biking in Virginia's Blue Ridge, a designated **Silver-Level Ride Center** by the *International Mountain Bicycling Association*. It's what makes us **America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital!**

## 8 Location *You're Almost Here*

With an airport that offers direct service to eight international hubs, convenient road access via Interstate 81, daily Amtrak service, multiple U.S. Highways and the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, you won't have any trouble getting to Virginia's Blue Ridge.

PLAN YOUR METRO MOUNTAIN  
ADVENTURE AT [BeATrailsetter.com](http://BeATrailsetter.com)



## 1 ROANOKE STAR *A Breathtaking View*

Take in the stunning view from atop **Mill Mountain** as you stand beneath the **Roanoke Star**, the 100-foot tall neon structure that shines brightly over Virginia's Blue Ridge.

## 3 Appalachian Trail *Take a Hike*

Make your way along hundreds of miles of amazing hiking trails in the region. For some of the best hiking in the Roanoke Valley, check out the **Triple Crown**, which features *Dragon's Tooth*, *McAfee Knob* and *Tinker Cliffs* along the iconic **Appalachian Trail**.

## 5 Arts & Culture *A Vibrant Arts Scene*

Whether you're touring a local art gallery, checking out a museum, or attending a live performance, there are so many great ways to experience our rich arts & culture scene.

## 6 Restaurants *It's a Matter of Taste*

The chefs of Virginia's Blue Ridge are putting the region on the map as a food destination. Many local restaurants feature ingredients that are grown on local farms, putting new twists on Southern and international cuisine.

## 9 VBR Cheers Trail *Cheers to Happy Hour*

Virginia's Blue Ridge is home to an impressive collection of nearly 30 local craft beer, wine, and spirit producers! Come taste your way through the region using the **VBR Cheers Trail Passport** for incentives and prizes along the way.



## 10 History *A Rich Rail Heritage*

The region is still strongly tied to its roots as a railroad town that was founded in the late 1800s. Discover that rich railroad heritage at local attractions like the **Virginia Museum of Transportation** and **O. Winston Link Museum**.



2021 Grand Home Furnishings Best in Show Winner Joe Egge

# 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SIDEWALK ART SHOW

June 4 - 5, 2022 | 10 am - 5 pm Daily

Free Admission | 100+ Artists | Beer Garden

 **TAUBMAN**  
MUSEUM OF ART

**TaubmanMuseum.org**  
110 Salem Ave SE, Downtown Roanoke  
540.342.5760



# Star City School of Ballet



Ballet | Pilates | Jazz | Men's Class  
Pas de Deux | Modern | Character  
Yoga | Ballroom & Latin Dance | Tap | Hip Hop



www.starcityschoolofballet.com

(540) 206 2856



**A  
Cleaner  
World™**



**Bread  
Craft™**

**Music Therapy  
&  
Adapted  
Music Lessons**  
*For Toddlers through Older Adults*



**Growth doesn't have to feel overwhelming!**

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION  [aMusicTherapy.com](http://aMusicTherapy.com)



**LAMAR**



**Blue Hills  
Car Wash**

3675 Orange Avenue  
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

**Roanoke Valley's #1 Full Service Car Wash**

**Fire  
Equipment  
Company, Inc.**

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SALES & SERVICE

807 8th Street Salem, Virginia 24153



Kevin T. Tyson  
www.fireequipmentcompany.com  
Phone: 540-556-1291

**— M · I · K · E LLC —**

**MIKE EWEN**  
Small Business Technology Consultant

Managed networks are not limited to Fortune 500's. Monitoring and remote access are a small part of the tools I use to protect your business. Don't let common and preventable problems surprise you at the worst times. Get to know me before the crash. It's cheaper.

540-556-4294 | [tech@mikeinc.net](mailto:tech@mikeinc.net) | [www.mikeinc.net](http://www.mikeinc.net)

**Angels  
of Assisi**  
*Help is Here.*



**Community Pet Clinic  
and Adoption Center**  
[www.angelssofassisi.org](http://www.angelssofassisi.org) 540.344.8707



# LANCERLOT

S P O R T S C O M P L E X

**Ice Skating, Swimming,  
Weightlifting, Hockey,  
Aerobics, Figure Skating,  
Raquetball, Conferences,  
Parties & More!**



*Like & Follow Us On:*

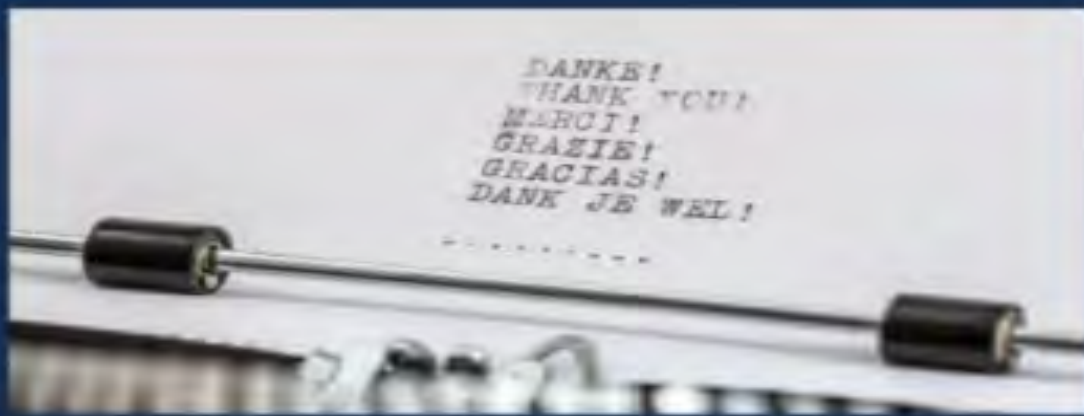


**LSC**

1110 Vinyard Road - Vinton  
540-981-0205

[LancerlotSportsComplex.Com](http://LancerlotSportsComplex.Com)





*Thank you, Southwest Virginia Ballet!*

For allowing me to help you continue to evolve  
your **brand**, **website**, and **share some BUZZ!**



*Carrie  
Cousins*

carriecousins.com



**Feeling creative?**  
*Or maybe you need inspiration?*

**JOIN US!**

Members of the Roanoke Chapter of the American Advertising Federation geek out on trends in marketing, rub elbows (virtually) with some of the best in the industry, and push for success in ever-changing business environment.

Join us for an upcoming event.  
[aafroanoke.org](http://aafroanoke.org)

**aaf** american  
advertising  
federation  
roanoke

# Wordsprint

design print mail

Nancy Stark  
3317 Dawn Circle  
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

watermedia  
[www.nancystarkart.com](http://www.nancystarkart.com)

## Carolina Connection

PERFORMANCE & DANCE WEAR LLC

**BLOCH**  
B-SAFE  
FACE MASKS



*CONGRATULATIONS  
to the entire  
SVB cast!*

MOVEMENT IS FREEDOM

*Your local source for  
quality dance wear  
for over 35 years.*

*\*Dancers are wearing Bloch  
B-Safe face masks.*

TOWERS SHOPPING CENTER  
662 BRANDON AVENUE SW  
ROANOKE, VA 24015  
540-266-7141

BRIARWOOD SHOPPING CENTER  
18478 FOREST ROAD  
FOREST, VA  
434-846-5099

Celebrating our  
**32<sup>nd</sup> SEASON!**

VIRGINIA'S  
BLUE RIDGE®

SOUTHWEST  
VIRGINIA

# of Ballet

THE MAGICAL SEASON 2022-2023

The  
Nutcracker  
AND  
Cinderella

Artistic Director Pedro Szalay

**BERGLUND CENTER**  
Home of Southwest Virginia Ballet

[WWW.SVBALLET.ORG](http://WWW.SVBALLET.ORG)

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

  
**ROANOKE**  
ARTS COMMISSION

VIRGINIA  
COMMISSION  
FOR THE  
**Arts**



**Carilion Children's Tanglewood Center**

**NOW OPEN!**

**4348 Electric Road, Roanoke, VA 24018**

**CARILION**   
**Children's**

[CarilionClinic.org/carilionchildrens](http://CarilionClinic.org/carilionchildrens)