

SOUTHWEST
VIRGINIA
Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PEDRO SZALAY

presents

Cinderella



APRIL 1, 2023

2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

PERFORMING LIVE AT THE
BERGLUND PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

WWW.SVBALLET.ORG



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, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Roanoke Arts Commission.

In Remembrance



The Southwest Virginia Ballet family wishes to dedicate the 2022 - 2023 season to our beloved Sherry Penney, for her passion, dedication and years of unfailing support. We thank you Mrs. Penney for keeping our dancers and community members beautifully clothed for so many years! We will always be sure to dazzle in your amazing creations as we tell the stories they were designed to tell.

Rest easy, your crew will take it from here and we will always remember, more than any other lesson you taught, that "breathing is optional" and "never bleed on your costumes"!



Peace and love

The members of Southwest Virginia Ballet



A Letter From the Artistic Director

We are so thankful for you're being present at our Cinderella performance; you are our inspiration for continuously giving the gift of dance.

This season is truly Magical. I would like to share briefly why, and that is through our collaborations with Roanoke City Public Schools, Carilion, Roanoke Symphony, Taubman Museum of Art, Angels of Assisi, Buzz 4 Good, Junior League of Roanoke, Botetourt Music Academy, YOTA (Year of the Artist), Piedmont Arts - Martinsville/Henry County, and Charlottesville Ballet. We cannot do this without continuous support from our community, and that is you!

As always and ever, I am thankful for the dancers and parents, their commitment to the art and organization, and support of my vision. Also for our active Board, always showing up for us in challenging times as we've held hands, worked together. A big thank-you to Megan Potter: stepping in, stepping up, encouraging me as we keep moving forward. As well for, Grace Frank-Rempel, our own former dancer, she shows up to help polish the edges to create sparkle in every way. Grace, you are an excellent role model for our coming generations.

Southwest Virginia Ballet is present and strong in its 32nd year. It is truly a gem in our Virginia Blue Ridge, not only our city members, but reaching deep into the region. I'm looking forward to sharing our upcoming shining Season 33. Check our website, and our social media for announcements about how we'll travel the 2023-24 season into the world of dance.

I would like to share an inspiring quote:

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style".

Maya Angelou

Looking forward to see you again, and please keep supporting the arts, the life in our blood.

Peace,
Pedro

Southwest Virginia Ballet

presents

Cinderella

Music	Sergei Prokofiev
Choreography	Pedro Szalay
Rehearsal Assistants	Alexis Potter Grace Frank-Rempel
Lighting Design	Stacie Johnson-Leske
Stage Manager	Elizabeth Francis
Technical Director	Jim d'Alelio
Technical Assistant	Andres Marton
Set and Costume Design	Jorge Gallardo
Portrait of Cinderella's Mother	Mark Shepheard

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Synopsis

Once upon a time, there was a sweet and dreamy girl named Cinderella who was mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters, bullied into servitude in her father's own home.

Act I

Scene I In the Kitchen of Cinderella's Father

The stepsisters are embroidering until they break into quarrels and fussing as they usually do. Their mother comes in and breaks up their behavior. Cinderella works around them cleaning and cooking. The sister's mother sends them to their room to rest and orders Cinderella to keep working. Cinderella finally has a moment of peace and reminisces about her own mother, dancing for her memory. Cinderella's father enters and together they remember great times with her. The stepsisters and their mother enter and scold them. An old beggar woman appears and the stepmother tries to drive the beggar away, but Cinderella shows kindness, giving her bread. Next, the secretary of the Prince comes with a letter. Cinderella reads it and announces the ball planned at the palace. Immediately the stepmother and sisters start preparations for the ball. Cinderella is left alone and sad. The beggar woman re-appears and is revealed as Cinderella's fairy godmother.

Scene II The Garden Scene

The fairy godmother takes Cinderella to her "seasons" fairy friends and they dance for her. The fairy godmother, fairies and elves announce to Cinderella that the magical spells on her will last only till midnight. If she does not return to the house by that time, her clothes will return to their original state. Three mice bring a pumpkin to fairy godmother. With her sparkling wand, she turns it into a glittering carriage with attendants to transport Cinderella to the ball.

Act II

In the Ballroom of the Palace

The ball has begun, and courtiers move about in a formal dance. Cinderella's father, stepmother and stepsisters arrive. A fanfare announces the arrival of the Prince. When he arrives, he does not pay attention to the stepsisters, who desperately try to attract him. Mysterious music is heard and Cinderella appears. The Prince is charmed. Cinderella's stepfamily does not recognize her; however, her father notices a gesture that reminds him of Cinderella's mother. The Prince asks Cinderella to dance. After the dance, pages enter with many oranges, which are precious fruit in the land. The Prince offers them to all guests. The stepmother and stepsisters reveal their vulgar natures as they dance around the ballroom with their oranges. The Prince and Cinderella are left alone as the guests disperse. They testify their love for one another. The Courtiers return for a big waltz.

Cinderella is caught up in the moment and forgets her fairy godmother's warning. The clock strikes twelve and the elves return to remind her. Cinderella desperately rushes from the Palace, leaving one of her crystal slippers behind. The Prince rushes after Cinderella, picks up the lost slipper, and hopes to find the girl he loves.

Act III

Scene I In the Kitchen of the Cinderella's Father

Cinderella is still dreaming and she hides the other crystal slipper in her apron. The stepsisters enter and proceed to tell her what happened at the Ball. The secretary of the Prince arrives announcing the Prince is here looking for the girl who lost a slipper. The stepsisters are desperate to fit each large foot into the slipper, but their hopes are dashed. Cinderella, who has remained unnoticed by the fireplace, drops the second slipper on the floor. The Prince recognizes the slipper and realizes that Cinderella is the one who charmed him at the Ball. The Stepmother and stepsisters are unwilling to believe this, but are finally convinced. Cinderella's father rejoices. The fairy godmother and friends take the Prince and Cinderella to the enchanted garden.

Scene II The Garden Scene

The Fairy Godmother dances in magical mysticism and invites all her fairy friends to see Cinderella transformed into the princess. Cinderella dances to show her love for the prince. Cinderella and the Prince, surrounded by the fairy godmother, fairies and courtiers, are blessed with happiness and everlasting love.

Set and Costume Design by Jorge Gallardo:

In his native country of Chile, Mr. Gallardo studied three years of Architecture and 1986 his Masters in Fine Arts at University of Chile in Santiago. Mr. Gallardo began his career as a set and costume designer in France in 1987 with Paris Opera star Patrick Dupond at the Ballet National de Nancy, where he lived for seven years. His work has filmed on national television for "Dance in America". His talent has a vast range from the most classical works to contemporary works as the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. His design are part of the repertoire of companies such as the Munich State Opera Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre and Royal Swedish Ballet. Gallardo currently resides in Miami where is continues his career as an international freelance artist. Costumes he has designed for Ballet Florida include Cinderella and The Nutcracker.

Cinderella Cast

Cinderella	Amelia Ball
Double Cinderella	Dara Kerman
The Prince	Colin Brown
The Matriarch of the House	Mark Shephard
Stepsisters	Justine Thomas, Evalyn Williams
The Patriarch of the House	Kyle Vorst
Fairy Godmother	Cora May
Old Beggar Woman	Grace Frank-Rempel
Ballet Master	Jake Gomez
The Violinist	Preston Pauley
The Tailor	James Moledor
Assistant of the Seamstress	Natalie Routt
The Jewelry Maker	Maggie Jarrett
The Wig Maker	Lauren Cox
The Hat Maker	Audrey Kelley

Cinderella Cast

Secretary of the Prince	Lachlan Robrecht
Friend to the Secretary	Franziska Borneff (2pm), Margaret Kauffman (7pm)
Fairy Godmother's Attendants	Franziska Borneff (2pm), Lily Ebrahimi, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman (7pm), Sophia Walker
Fairy Godmother's Guards	Tyrique Bowles, James Moledor, Preston Pauley, Connor Walker
Spring Fairy	Ellie Moser
Spring Fairy Courtiers	Forrest Buehler, Maren Pauley, Lucia Walker
Summer Fairy	Erin Schallon
Summer Fairy Courtiers	Lillian Bordens, Mirai Burton, Audrey Kelley
Fall Fairy	Alexis Potter
Fall Fairy Courtiers	Olivia Cox, Sarah Masinter, Erin Potter
Winter Fairy	Emily Nelson
Winter Fairy Courtiers	Franziska Borneff (7pm), Margaret Kauffman (2pm), Charlotte Firestone, Dara Kerman
Mice	Tyrique Bowles, Colin Brown, James Moledor

Cinderella Cast

Pages

Adrian Agosto, Bentley Robertson,
Nate Scott, Sanskrit Vorst

Elves

Lauren Cox, Natalie Routt, Charlotte
Bain, Evelyn Soucie, Aalyiah Vorst,
Julianne Edwards, Charlotte Brock,
Katie Jane Vass, Jayla Bowles, Maren
Pauley, Emma Staley, Lucia Walker,
Garima Patel

Ladies of the Court

Franziska Borneff (7pm), Lily Ebrahimi,
Maggie Jarrett, Sophia Walker,
Margaret Kauffman (2pm), Charlotte
Firestone, Erin Potter, Olivia Cox,
Sarah Masinter, Lilian Bordens, Mirai
Burton, Dara Kerman

Gentlemen of the Court

James Moledor, Tyrique Bowles, Jake
Gomez, Preston Pauley, Connor
Walker



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.

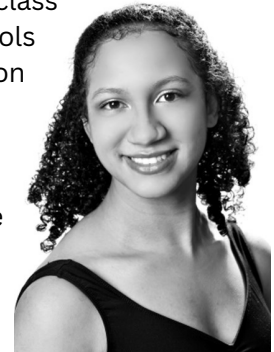
Beginning in 2012, Szalay developed a Spanish language, choreographed movement program called Dance Español for 4th graders in public schools. In 2013, he created a Ballet program for Middle Schools in Roanoke City Public Schools. January 2007, Szalay became Artistic Director of Southwest Virginia Ballet 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 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.



MARK SHEPHEARD - GUEST ARTIST, is a native of Roanoke. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Mark is a painter and hairstylist, and enjoys writing fiction. He has been curling Clara's and other party scene girl' corkscrew curls for the Southwest Virginia Ballet's Nutcracker for over ten years. He has performed in the Nutcracker for twelve years, for the past five performing as Drosselmeyer. Shephard also performed the role of Lord Capulet in SVB's 2017 production of Romeo and Juliet. He is extremely excited to grace the stage again this spring as Cinderella's Stepmother!

JUSTINE THOMAS - GUEST ARTIST - Justine Thomas graduated high school in the class of 2021. She has been training in dance for fourteen years with various dance schools and had been with Southwest Virginia Ballet for two years, but she has had a passion for dance all of her life. Currently, Justine has been working towards and will be graduating from Virginia Western Community College with an associate's degree in General Studies this year. She hopes to attend Hollins University and major in dance and creative writing. In the future, Justine wants to pursue a career in dance and become a dance teacher. She also wants to pursue a career in writing and becoming an author. Dancing with Southwest Virginia Ballet has been an amazing adventure and she is honored to return for the production of Cinderella.



STACIE JOHNSON-LESKE - Lighting Designer, has over 30 years of professional experience as a lighting designer and stage manager for dance and theater. After spending her early years, training to become a ballerina, she found that she had a talent for designing lighting for the stage. She studied at the Interlochen Arts Academy, and obtained a BFA in theatrical lighting design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

She has been the lighting designer for several regional theater companies including the Horse Cave Theater, the Cumberland County Playhouse, and the New Mexico Repertory Theater. However, her real passion is for dance. She was lighting designer/lighting supervisor for the Martha Graham Dance Company, resident lighting designer/stage manager for the Richmond Ballet, and is currently the resident lighting designer/stage manager for The Ballet Theatre of Maryland. She also does freelance lighting design for various professional, academic and community organizations.

When she is not in the theater, she enjoys making fine art pottery which she sells at her studio/gallery, Your Fired Pottery, in Ridgway, PA and through various galleries, gift shops and seasonal juried art festivals.

ELIZABETH FRANCIS, SVB's Stage Manager, is grateful for the opportunity to join the Southwest Virginia Ballet Company as the stage manager for TIES, the Nutcracker and Cinderella this season. Previously, she has stage managed for Logos Theatrics Productions, Inc. (Song of Mark; The Feast of Life), choreographed for Showtimers \ (Rent), and performed in Cabaret (Showtimers), Goodnight Moon (Hollins Theatre), and 42nd Street (Mill Mountain Theatre). Elizabeth currently teaches jazz, tap, and musical theatre for Star City School of Ballet and works full time at Virginia Title Center. She would like to thank her family, friends and coworkers for their love and support. Enjoy the show!



JIM d'ALELIO, SVB's Technical Director. Jim is excited to begin his 7th season as SVB's Technical Director. He is looking forward to another wonderful season of ballet, including TIES, The Nutcracker and Cinderella. Prior to working with SVB, Jim built the sets for his sons' musicals in high schools. He served as an extremely proud "dance dad" for close to twenty years. Jim would like to thank the SVB community and his "pizza boys" for their love and support throughout the years.

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.

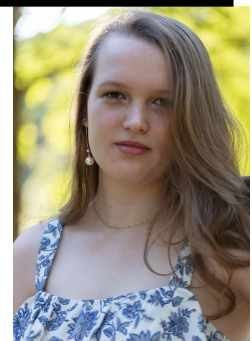


ALEXIS POTTER, SVB's Rehearsal Assistant, is currently a sophomore at Roanoke Catholic School. She began dancing with Floyd Ward School of Dance at the age of three and moved to The Dance Centre of Southwest Virginia (now Star City School of Ballet) and the Southwest Virginia Ballet, where she discovered her true love of dancing, at the age of seven. She joined SVB's junior company for the 2017-2018 season at the age of 10 and was honored to join the senior company in 2020. She has performed in The Nutcracker since 2015 when she was cast as a soldier; and has had the opportunity to perform in many ballets with SVB including Coppellia, TIES and most recently Cinderella! In the

Winter of 2021 Alexis was privileged to perform a solo entitled "Cradle Hymn" with The Roanoke Children's Choir. Alexis was fortunate, this past summer, to attend the University of North Carolina School of the Arts' five week Intensive. In September 2022, Alexis had the opportunity to perform at the Taubman Museum to live reading of Nikki Giovanni's poem, "Fall in Love".

Alexis would like to thank her mom for being her biggest supporter and doing anything she can to help her pursue her dreams, her dad for helping SVB with countless building projects and always being there for her, and her grandparents for helping her get to where she is and driving her to countless dance classes. She would also like to thank Mr. Pedro, Maria Jesse, Grace Frank-Rempel, Tess Post, Carrie Jensen, Sandra Smeltzer, all of the staff at UNCSA for helping her find her love of dance again; Amelia Ball, Ana Maria Barrios, Tony D'Alelio, and Erin Potter for being her biggest fans and always being there for her, Erin Schallon, Cora May, Ellie Moser, and Danielle Riley for all of their love, support, encouragement, and for helping shape her into the person and dancer she is today.

GRACE FRANK-REMPEL, SVB's Production Manager, has been dancing for 18 years. She started at Roanoke Ballet Theatre and moved to The Dance Centre of Southwest Virginia in 2011. While dancing as a company member, performed roles such as Spanish, Marzipan, Snow Queen and Arabian She also has performed in ballets such as Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet, and Coppelia, She was honored to spend several summers training at Bossov Ballet, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Ballet, Summer Dance Company and Point Park University. She also enjoyed the opportunity to represent SVB in Prague, Czech Republic, at the New Prague Dance Festival in 2015. After more than ten Nutcrackers with SVB and eight years in the company, Grace graduated in 2018 from Christa McAuliffe School of Arts & Sciences and graduated from Point Park University in 2021. Grace plans to attend St. John's College for graduate school starting in the fall of 2022.



Southwest Virginia Ballet Junior and Senior Company 2022-2023



Amelia Ball, Lillian Bordens, Tyrique Bowles, Charlotte Brock, Colin Brown, Forrest Buehler, Mirai Burton, Lauren Cox, Olivia Cox, Lily Ebrahimi, Julianne Edwards, Charlotte Firestone, Jake Gomez, Molly Hurd, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Audrey Kelley, Dara Kerman, Sarah Masinter, Cora May, Ellie Moser, Garima Patel, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Lachlan Robrecht, Natalie Routt, Erin Schallon, Evelyn Soucie, Katie Jane Vass, Aliyah Vorst, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Evalyn Williams

Not pictured: James Moledor and Emily Nelson

SVB Graduating Seniors



JAKE GOMEZ, started his journey in dance as a party boy in the Nutcracker at the age of seven, for Southwest Virginia Ballet. He then began taking classes for the Dance Centre of Southwest Virginia (now Star City School of Ballet), and in 2014 joined the junior company. During his time with Southwest Virginia Ballet, Jake performed in Cinderella, TIES, and Dance Español. During the summer of 2016, Jake attended a month-long intensive with the Arts Ballet of Florida in Miami, which was an unforgettable experience. Sadly, in December of 2016, Jake had to step away from the company for a while. In the winter of 2020, he once again was able to take ballet classes. Jake was welcomed back into the SVB family in the spring of 2022 when he once again performed TIES. Jake currently is a senior at Hidden Valley. After graduation, Jake plans to attend a college or university where he will continue to study dance and the arts. Jake would like to thank his fellow company members for their friendship and wonderful memories during his time with SVB, as well as Mr. Pedro and Megan for “keeping the ranch running” and creating a welcoming and fun environment for us.. He would especially like to thank his mother, sister and grandmother, "Bubs", for their unfailing and constant love and support.



CORA MAY began dancing at the age of 6 at the Dance Centre of Southwest Virginia (now Star City School of Ballet) under the instruction of Sandra Smeltzer. She enjoyed dancing in several spring recital roles with the Dance Centre. In 2017 Cora joined the Southwest Virginia Ballet Company, after years of dancing in extras roles. Her first extra role with SVB was as a Little Angel, and she cherished each Nutcracker role she performed afterwards. Cora participated in several spring performances with SVB including Coppelia, Under the Tent, and Metamorphosis. This is her 6th year with SVB and she is very excited to perform the roles Fairy Godmother in Cinderella this year. Cora has received a great amount of support from teachers and mentors throughout the years and she would especially like to thank Maria Jesse, Abigail Furry, Sara Cate Bingham, Samantha Patterson, and Elizabeth Frances. Cora would like to extend a huge thank you to Pedro Szalay and Tess Post, who mentored her throughout her dance journey. Cora has plans to continue her dance career in college as she explores a career centered around art therapy and environmental science.



ELLIE MOSER began dancing at the age of eight years old at Leeanne Ashley Studio of Dance in Bedford, Virginia. During her time there, she danced competitively for three years and in an ensemble for five years. She took classes ranging from ballet and modern to tap, jazz, and acrobatics. She began attending SVB summer intensives and later decided to change studios and take classes at the Star City School of Ballet in order to focus more on her love of ballet and modern. Ellie joined SVB at the beginning of her junior year of high school.

She is a current senior at Liberty High School in Bedford, Virginia, and it is now her second year with Southwest Virginia Ballet. Ellie performed the roles of Hummingbird, Columbine, Spanish, and a snow princess in SVB's 2021 production of *The Nutcracker*. Ellie has also performed in SVB's spring productions of *Coppelia* in 2021 and *Ties* in 2022. She was thrilled to perform her dream role of Clara in this year's production of *The Nutcracker*. She is also very excited to perform as the Spring Fairy in *Cinderella*. Ellie was also selected as this year's Dancer Representative on the SVB Board of Directors. In addition to her love of dance and the performing arts, Ellie is heavily involved in her school and her academics. She is a committee chair for the National FFA Organization as well as an active member of the National Honors Society and Key Club at her school. Ellie plans to attend a four year University after graduating high school in the spring of 2023. While she is still unsure of what she wishes to major in, Ellie has interests in psychology and neuroscience, and hopes to continue dancing throughout her college career. Ellie has received lots of support from many teachers and mentors throughout her dancing career, and would especially like to thank all of the teachers at Star City School of Ballet as well as SVB for making her the best dancer she could be. She would also like to thank Pedro Szalay for his continuous guidance, trust, and support. She could not be more thankful for the opportunities that Pedro and the entirety of SVB has given her. Next, Ellie would like to thank all of her fellow dancers for being the kindest, most encouraging, and loving group of people that she has ever met. Lastly, Ellie would like to extend her greatest thanks to her mother and to Ann Smith for always driving her to classes and rehearsal, providing words of encouragement, and for their never-wavering love and support throughout her entire dancing journey.

SVB Board of Directors

Artistic Director	Pedro Szalay
Interim Executive Director	Megan Potter
President	Spencer Wiegard
Vice President	Beth Kelley
Treasurer	Lauren Maxwell
General Board	John Bouldin, Nancy Kelderhouse, Jessica Mather, Matt Schallon, Lori Strauss, Will Trinkle, Kyle Vorst
Board Student Representative	Ellie Moser

SVB Company Coordinators

Production Coordinators	Grace Frank-Rempel, Melissa May and Megan Potter
Special Events Coordinator	Jenn Moses
Costume Coordinator	Lauren Budlong
Hair Coordinator	Rachel Schallon
Volunteer Coordinator	Melissa May
SVB Company Communications	Melissa May and Megan Potter
School Outreach Coordinator	Megan Potter
Marketing Coordinator	Natalie Soucie
SVB Boutique	Angie Ball and Jennifer Brown
Website Designer	Carrie Cousins



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.

An advertisement for George's Flowers. On the left, a hand with a tattoo holds a vibrant bouquet of yellow, orange, and pink roses in a decorative green vase. The background is a white brick wall. On the right, the text reads: "KEEP IT LOCAL" in large pink letters, followed by "SAME DAY AND RUSH DELIVERY", "100% GUARANTEE ON ALL FLOWERS", "SEE WHAT YOU SEND", and "ALL OCCASIONS | WEDDINGS | LIVE PLANTS". Below this is the "George's" logo in green script with a flower icon, and "A REAL LOCAL FLORIST" in smaller green letters. At the bottom, it says "georgesflowers.com (540) 981-0900" and "1953 Franklin Road | Roanoke".

KEEP IT LOCAL

SAME DAY AND RUSH DELIVERY
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SEE WHAT YOU SEND
ALL OCCASIONS | WEDDINGS | LIVE PLANTS

George's
A REAL LOCAL FLORIST

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1953 Franklin Road | Roanoke

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 and Dance Español, 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 4th 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. Every year SVB has provided free and discounted tickets to over 4000 clients of area human services organizations and underserved communities to attend The Nutcracker & spring productions.

RECOGNITION

The company 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.

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Thank you, Southwest Virginia Ballet!

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



Carrie Cousins

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For some kids, the arts - music, painting, dance, or theater - are lifelines. It's why they come to school. Some even live for it. A vibrant arts community helps our teachers and inspires students. You can make sure the arts are always there for her.



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ARTS CONNECT

Our arts connect us.

Across the community and between neighbors, we get a little closer to each other through the arts. We call on the creative work of artists in tough times and in times of celebration. The poet, the dancer. The muralist, the composer. They inspire and challenge us, bringing us into conversation together.

As we work together to make Roanoke a welcoming home for all, in new and often challenging times, look to the arts to go deeper, to see the world anew, and to foster the connections that matter most.

Congratulations, **Southwest Virginia Ballet** and your community of performers, costumers, teachers, parents and all those making these *Nutcracker* connections possible.

Our city celebrates you.

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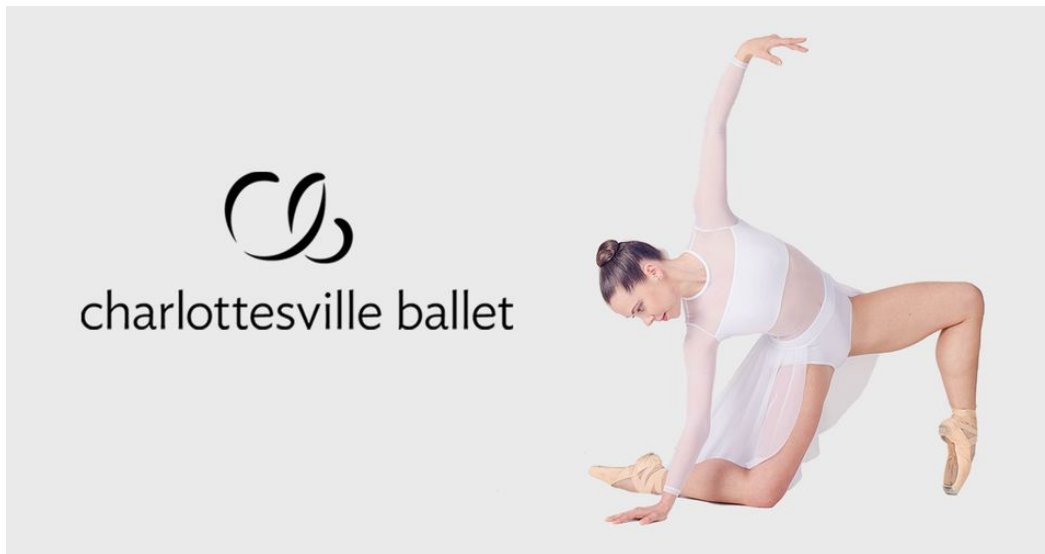
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