

SOUTHWEST  
VIRGINIA

# *Ballet*

**Artistic Director: Pedro Szalay**

# *Répertoire*

## From the Artistic Director

Thank you for your support and interest in Southwest Virginia Ballet. We are looking forward to an exciting 33rd Season serving Virginia's Blue Ridge. I am grateful for the opportunity to direct, mentor, and teach for our company and to work in such a supportive community. Season 2023 - 2024 started with our annual participation in Symphony Under Stars with Roanoke Symphony and continues with our production at the beautiful Grandin Theatre - *Répertoire*, collaborating with great artists from our community. I am so appreciative of the continuous support from our audiences for our full length productions such as *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*, especially this year as we will have live music. The Orchestra of Virginia's Blue Ridge, will bring you another level of mesmerizing moments.

Collaborations with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Taubman Museum of Art, Botetourt Music Academy, Junior League of Roanoke Valley and the Piedmont Arts Center are expanding our dancers and audience experiences. Southwest Virginia Ballet gives back to our dancers and community throughout the year with:

- Free pre-professional dance instruction (over 500 instructional hours per year)
- A wide variety of performance and outreach opportunities for dancers. (over 20 per year)
- School performances for the community (over 2000 students)
- Free performance tickets for area human services clients (500 tickets annually)
- Free participation in full length productions (ages 7-adult, cast over 150)
- Dance Español, SVB's movement and Spanish language program in the Roanoke City Schools, Henry County and Martinsville City Schools.

Truly we are so blessed for your continuous support, without you all we will not be able to share the passion and love of dance to our region. Please continue sharing with friends, families and neighbors about us, Arts connect us in all the levels.

"Everything must come from the heart, must be lived", Pina Bausch.  
I am looking forward to see you all at our next performances.

Peace and love,  
Pedro



## 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.



**Southwest Virginia Ballet Company Members  
2023-2024**

Charlotte Bain, Lillian Bordens, Franziska Borneff, Jayla Bowles, Tyrique Bowles, Charlotte Brock, Forrest Buehler, Lauren Cox, Lily Ebrahimi, Julianne Edwards, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Clarissa Gill, Abigail Hewitt, Maggie Jarrett, Margaret Kauffman, Dara Kerman, Mikaela Marton, Sarah Masinter, Alta Merzvinskas, Genevieve Nault, Garima Patel, Maren Pauley, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Lachlan Robrecht, Natalie Routt, Erin Schallon, Evelyn Soucie, Emma Staley, Katie Jane Vass, Aaliyah Vorst, Lucia Walker, Sophia Walker, Lisa Warren, Evalyn Williams



**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.

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**BRYAN "HARVEST BLAQUE" HANCOCK** a Perry F. Kendig Award Nominated actor, Slam poet and musician. Bryan works at The Jefferson Center music lab as their lead Hip-Hop studies teacher. His acting credits include the Showtimers production of "12 Angry Men", Hollins Playwright's festival "Pheromones". He is currently a cast member of The Big Lick Conspiracy Comedy Troupe. Harvest also is the Host/ Curator of the bi-weekly poetry show Soul Sessions. For 9 years Soul Sessions has been the peaceful, creative hub for all walks of life. Soul Sessions is an open space for one to let their soul be free and their voice be heard through open mic poetry. We are housed at Ursula's Café located at 511 Jefferson Street Roanoke, Va. He also is in his second year residency at Carillon Healingarts working in grief and loss, teen psych unit, and with fellow colleagues for the essential soul project that connects essential workers on Friday evenings to share poetry and talents.





**SCOTT WILLIAMSON, Guest Artist** - An internationally recognized tenor, the *Times* of London called Scott Williamson's debut at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, "brilliant." His work has been praised in *The New York Times* and *New York Sun*, *Opera News* and *The Washington Post*. His performances of Mendelssohn and Dallapiccola with the American Symphony Orchestra are available on iTunes. Scott's repertoire spans over a millennium of western music, and he has participated in more than 100 premieres.

Known for his "innovative collaborations," "visionary programming," and "intelligent, passionate" stage presence, Scott has impacted thousands of lives across six generations of students, artists, and audiences in the United States and around the world. In 2019 he founded *Collective Euphonia*, an interdisciplinary ensemble of artists.

General and Artistic Director of Opera Roanoke from 2010-2018, he created the company's premiere Young Artist program and produced notable regional premieres. Guest Curator in Music at the Taubman Museum of Art, Scott curates and performs the semiannual series *Listening to Paintings* and teaches in the Museum Studies program. Scott's art is featured in *The Mountain Lake Symposium and Workshop: Art in Locale*. His poetry has appeared in *Atlanta Review* and *Tupelo Quarterly*.

A Fulbright Scholar, Scott served on the faculty of West University in Romania. He began his career teaching at W&L in Lexington and continues to teach in the music department. He has served as Music and Program Director of Temple Emmanuel in Roanoke, and is thrilled to be working again with Pedro and 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.



**ELIZABETH FRANCIS, SVB's Stage Manager**, is grateful for the opportunity to return to Southwest Virginia Ballet Company as the stage manager for this season. Previously, she has stage managed for Logos Theatricus 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!

**ALEXIS POTTER, SVB's Rehearsal Assistant**, is currently a junior 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) where she discovered her true love of dancing, at the age of seven. She has been a member of SVB's company since the 2017-2018 season. Since then, Alexis has had the opportunity to perform in many ballets with SVB including *The Nutcracker*, *Coppellia*, *TIES* and *Cinderella*! Alexis has been privileged to perform several original works as well as attend the University of North Carolina School of the Arts' five week Intensive.



Alexis would like to thank her parents and grandparents for being her biggest supporters, always being there for her. She would also like to thank Mr. Pedro and the staff at Star City School of Ballet and at UNCSA or guiding her to be the dancer she is and for helping her find her love of dance again. Alexis further would like to thank Amelia Ball, Ana Maria Barrios, Tony D'Alerio, and Erin Potter for being her biggest fans and always being there for her.

# Southwest Virginia Ballet's Graduating Seniors

**FRANZISKA BORNEFF** is a senior at Hidden Valley High School and is excited to spend her final year dancing with Southwest Virginia Ballet. She has been a company member since 6th grade and a part of SVB's Nutcracker since the age of seven when she performed as a reindeer. During the week, she trains with Star City School of Ballet. Franziska's most cherished spring performances have been Cinderella and Coppelia. She is grateful to be part of a loving and encouraging dance community and hopes to continue dancing in college alongside her studies. She thanks Pedro Szalay, her dance teachers throughout the years, and her family for their loving support.



**MARGARET KAUFFMAN** is a senior at Governor's School and Patrick Henry High School. She has danced with Southwest Virginia Ballet's company for 7 years and is very excited for what this dance season has in store. Her favorite role was performing Clara in Nutcracker her junior year. Outside of dance, she enjoys the outdoors, volunteering in the NICU at Carilion hospital, and working with children. Because of her passion for medicine and infant care, she plans on eventually working in neonatology. Lastly, she would like to thank her parents for always supporting her in dance and her career goals!

**ERIN SCHALLON** is a senior at Cave Spring High School and is looking forward to seeing what her final year at Southwest Virginia Ballet entails. Erin joined Southwest Virginia Ballet's company in the 6th grade and has had the opportunity to perform in numerous roles including the Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara in The Nutcracker and the Summer Fairy in Cinderella. She also has been blessed to have the opportunity to be in Coppelia, excerpts from Swan Lake, and Ties. She has been a member of the Star City School of Ballet for 12 years. As her senior year begins she is excited to perform in The Nutcracker and this year's spring production of Romeo and Juliet. Erin is looking to further her ballet career through college or trainee opportunities. She would like to thank Pedro Szalay and the other Star City School of Ballet's instructors, her parents, and friends for all of their love and support throughout the years.



# Répertoire

## **The Dancer**

Music - Felix Mendelssohn

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Franziska Borneff, Clarissa Gill, Maggie Jarrett, Mikaela Marton,  
Sarah Masinter, Erin Potter, Sophia Walker

## **Water Music**

Music - George Frederic Handel

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Charlotte Firestone, Maggie Jarrett, Dara Kerman, Alexis Potter,  
Erin Schallon, Sophia Walker

## **At the Mid Hour of Night**

Music - Benjamin Britten

Performed by - Scott Williamson

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Dancer - Franziska Borneff

## **Magyar Tánc**

Music - Johannes Brahms Hungarian #5

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Tyrique Bowles, Lillian Bordens, Lauren Cox, Vivian Fernandez,  
Abigail Hewitt, Dara Kerman, Lachlan Robrecht, Natalie Routt

## **Danzón**

Music - Arturo Marquez

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Franziska Borneff, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Maggie  
Jarrett, Sarah Masinter, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Erin Schallon,  
Sophia Walker, Evalyn Williams

## **Intermission**

## **Water Lilies**

Music - Claude Debussy

Choreography - Tess Post

The tranquil beauty of “Water Lilies” by Monet was this work’s inspiration

Charlotte Brock, Forrest Buehler, Maren Pauley, Evelyn Soucie, Emma Staley, Lucia Walker, Lisa Warren

## **One More Song**

Composed and performed BY - Bryan “Harvest Blaque” Hancock

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Dancers - Tyrique Bowles and Alexis Potter

## **Excerpt of Romeo and Juliet - Girlfriends Act III**

Music - Serge Prokofiev

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Vivian Fernandez, Maggie Jarrett, Mikaela Marton, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Erin Schallon, Sophia Walker, Evalyn Williams

## **Tarantella**

Music- Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Dancer- Lachlan Robrecht

## **I Will Give My Love in an Apple**

Music - Benjamin Britten

Performed by - Scott Williamson

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Dancer - Sophia Walker

## **Kashmir**

Music - Led Zeppelin

Choreography - Pedro Szalay

Tyrique Bowles, Vivian Fernandez, Charlotte Firestone, Abigail Hewitt, Dara Kerman, Alexis Potter, Erin Potter, Lachlan Robrecht, Erin Schallon, Sophia Walker, Evalyn Williams



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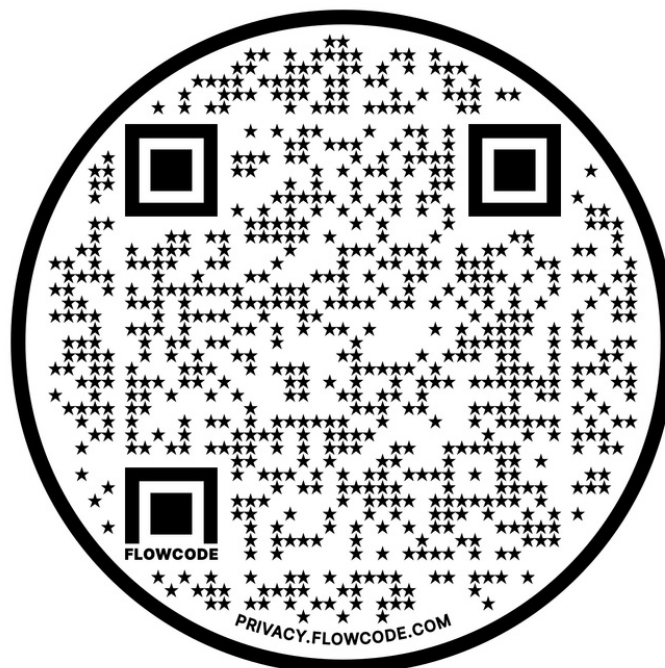
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# The Nutcracker

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PEDRO SZALAY

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2 P.M. & 7 P.M.

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
3 P.M.

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