



FACT SHEET 2007-08

Now in its 24th professional season, Richmond Ballet, the State Ballet of Virginia, is ranked today as one of the top mid-sized ballet companies in America, producing exceptional dance programs that reach more than 100,000 people throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation. An article in *Dance Magazine* celebrated the Ballet's work, praising Artistic Director Stoner Winslett's repertory development and her ability to attract a strong ensemble of international artists to the Ballet.

Equally essential to Richmond Ballet's success is its School of Richmond Ballet, a nationally recognized training institution that provides classes to more than 700 students annually. The School of Richmond Ballet enrolls students of all ages and skill levels at its state-of-the-art facility in downtown Richmond. In addition, Richmond Ballet is gaining increased national attention for the quality of its education and outreach programs, particularly its innovative *Minds In Motion*.

Mission As the State Ballet of Virginia, Richmond Ballet is committed to:

- building an institution of integrity that addresses its community's needs, as well as its responsibilities to the art form;
- providing the finest training to its dancers and students; and
- enhancing the community by providing significant education and outreach programs.

History Founded in the late 1950s by local dance enthusiasts, Richmond Ballet served the Richmond community as a civic ballet for over 25 years before becoming a professional company in 1984. Individuals, corporations and public entities that believe in the vision of professional dance and training for the Commonwealth support Richmond Ballet. In 1990, Governor Douglas Wilder proclaimed Richmond Ballet the State Ballet of Virginia.

Services Richmond Ballet offers citizens of Virginia an extraordinary range of performances and services:

- An extensive repertory ranging from full-length ballets to 19th and 20th century masterpieces and works created by contemporary choreographers;
- The School of Richmond Ballet offers the finest and safest dance training for pre-professional and avocational students in classes ranging from classical ballet to jazz and modern, as well as intensive summer training for students from around the country;
- Youth performances provide area school children with the opportunity to see portions of well-known ballets performed in the theater;
- Lecture-demonstrations in schools help to enrich the cultural lives of area elementary school children;
- *Minds In Motion* offers a curriculum-based program designed to teach more than 1,500 fourth-grade children the values of discipline and self-worth through the medium of movement;
- Preview lectures given prior to each production provide insight into the art of ballet.