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RICHMOND BALLET BRINGS NEW WORKS TO LIFE

RICHMOND – Richmond Ballet *New Works Festival* will bring to the stage four brand new works from four innovative choreographers. From April 4-14th, patrons will have the chance to see these original works in the Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre, in the heart of the Arts and Cultural District in Downtown Richmond.

Artistic Director Stoner Winslett states, “*New Works Festival* is such an exciting time at the Richmond Ballet. We invite four choreographers who have never worked with Richmond Ballet before to come in and work with our professional dancers on a sketch of a new work. We then present these four short new pieces of choreography all on the same program in our Studio Theatre. It is always such an invigorating time for both dancers and audiences as the different styles and intentions are revealed!”

The choreographers for *New Works Festival* are Starrene Foster, Sasha Janes, Darrell Moultrie, and Amy Seiwert. Starrene Foster has been recently reviewed by *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* as “one of Richmond’s leading, most original choreographers.” As the Artistic Director of The Starrene Foster Dance Project, she was awarded the 2006 Theresa Pollack Award for Artistic Excellence, and The Top 40 under 40 by Richmond, *Style Weekly*. Sasha Janes received his formal ballet training from the Australian Ballet School. After performing in many prestigious companies including The West Australian Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, and North Carolina Dance Theatre, Mr. Janes currently serves as Associate Artistic Director and Choreographer for North Carolina Dance Theatre.

Darrell Moultrie is the rare choreographer who boldly integrates multiple styles of dance in an effort to give both audiences and dancers a transformative experience. He has carved out an impressive career that seamlessly weaves his distinctive and highly praised ballet, modern, and theater dance choreography, to on-stage Broadway performances (most recently, *Billy Elliot*), and to television work. Amy Seiwert is a former dancer with the Smuin and Sacramento Ballets and she is currently Choreographer in Residence for Smuin Ballet. Named one of 25 to Watch by *Dance Magazine* in 2005, Amy has twice been invited by Peter Martins to participate in the New York Choreographic Institute where she had the opportunity to create work on *New York City Ballet* dancers.

During the *New Works Festival*, *Assemblé*, an art exhibition featuring the art work of the Hang Five Artists (Loryn Brazier, Beth Marchant, Nancy Mauck, David Tanner, and Tom Wise) will be on display in the Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre lobby. The artwork is available for purchase, with 50% of the proceeds going to support Richmond Ballet.

Performances of *New Works Festival* take place in the Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre located at 407 East Canal Street. Tickets are available for purchase in person at the Richmond Ballet box office, by phone at 1.800.514.3849, or online at www.etix.com. Single tickets start at \$20. Tickets for opening night Choreographer’s Club start at \$65 (and include a post-performance reception with the choreographers and Richmond Ballet dancers and artistic staff).

PERFORMANCES

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| Thursday, April 4 | 6:30pm |
| Friday, April 5 | 6:30pm |
| Saturday, April 6 | 6:30pm |
| Sunday, April 7 | 2:00pm |
| Wednesday, April 10 | 6:30pm |
| Thursday, April 11 | 6:30pm |
| Friday, April 12 | 6:30pm |
| Saturday, April 13 | 6:30pm |
| Sunday, April 14 | 4:00pm |

The 2012-13 Studio Theatre Series is sponsored by Altria Group. Richmond Ballet is grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Crowne Plaza Hotel Downtown Richmond for their continued support.

Funding for the *New Works Festival* was also provided by donors who supported Richmond Ballet through the 2012 Amazing Raise. Their names will be listed in the playbill insert in gratitude for their generosity.

For more information about Richmond Ballet and its classes and programs, visit www.richmondballet.com or call 804.344.0906

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Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, is dedicated to the education, promotion, preservation, and continuing evolution of the art form of ballet. Richmond Ballet strives to keep meaningful works of dance alive and to produce and foster new works that remain true to these values. Now in its 29th professional season, Richmond Ballet's mission is to "awaken and uplift the human spirit, both for audiences and artists."