



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RICHMOND BALLET STUDIO TWO CELEBRATES ONE OF ITS OWN

RICHMOND - Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, celebrates the opening of Studio Two with the spotlight on one of its own, beloved company member Cecile Tuzii, who has announced that she will retire at the end of June. Artistic Director Stoner Winslett shared that Cecile has brought a special element to Richmond Ballet because she is French, and, having danced in France, Germany and Switzerland before coming to the United States, she brings a special legacy in her ballet background. Cecile is also a brilliant actress, Ms. Winslett said, and that brilliance has allowed her to excel in roles such as Giselle, Swanilda, and Emily, the lead character in Agnes de Mille's *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY*.

Cecile's 2007 performance in *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY* is so memorable that Richmond Ballet is reviving the ballet to give the audience an opportunity to see Cecile in this signature role once more before she leaves the stage in June. Ms. Winslett commented, "I am always sad to see a dancer retire, but Cecile has had a marvelous, worldwide career to celebrate, and she has made this choice at the time that feels right for her. Cecile is a brilliant woman who is dedicated to ballet, and I am confident that she will continue to make a contribution in a new way."

In addition to showcasing the talent of Cecile Tuzii in *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY*, Richmond Ballet will bring to life two other works never before seen in Richmond: Jessica Lang's *SOLO IN NINE PARTS* and George Balanchine's *DUO CONCERTANT*. Studio Two will begin on November 1 and run through November 11 at Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre, located at 407 East Canal Street in Downtown Richmond.

SOLO IN NINE PARTS is an acquisition from Jessica Lang through the Jerome Robbins New Essential Works Program. Featuring uplifting music by Antonio Vivaldi, *SOLO IN NINE PARTS* is the perfect way to start an evening. Lang's choreography closely echoes the movement of Vivaldi's music and it has the ability to highlight Richmond Ballet dancers as both individuals and a brilliant ensemble.

Choreographed by George Balanchine, *DUO CONCERTANT* focuses on the relationship between the movement and music. Composed by Igor Stravinsky in 1932, *DUO CONCERTANT* had been a favorite piece of music for George Balanchine for many years when he created his ballet with the same name for the Stravinsky Festival in 1972. In the Richmond Ballet Company premiere of *DUO CONCERTANT*, the musicians will perform on stage with the dancers, displaying the intense relationship between the musician and dancer.

The final piece on the program is *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY*. Originally performed by the Company in 2007, de Mille's *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY* brings to life the story by Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. Set in a small Southern town, the ballet tells the tale of a mysterious and affluent woman entombed in the memory of her former life. Her ill-fated life is not fully revealed until after her death in an unsettling final twist. *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY* questions the human ability to let go of the past and embrace the future.

Performances of *SOLO IN NINE PARTS*, *DUO CONCERTANT* AND *A ROSE FOR MISS EMILY* will 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 guest artists, Richmond Ballet dancers, and artistic staff).

PERFORMANCES

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| Thursday, November 1 | 6:30pm |
| Friday, November 2 | 6:30pm |
| Saturday, November 3 | 6:30pm |
| Sunday, November 4 | 2:00pm |
| Wednesday, November 7 | 6:30pm |
| Thursday, November 8 | 6:30pm |
| Friday, November 9 | 6:30pm |
| Saturday, November 10 | 6:30pm |
| Sunday, November 11 | 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.

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."