



RICHMOND BALLET
THE STATE BALLET OF VIRGINIA

30 Years
Stoner Winslett
Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MINDS IN MOTION, FRANKLIN FEDERAL PRESENT
JAMESTOWN: UNEARTHING A NEW WORLD**

Outreach Organizations Team Up to Bring Public Art to Downtown Richmond

Richmond, VA – *Minds In Motion*, Richmond Ballet’s arts education and outreach program, is pleased to welcome Franklin Federal Savings Bank as the title sponsor for the program’s year-end performances, *Jamestown: Unearthing a New World*, May 1-4, 2014, at the Carpenter Theatre at Richmond CenterStage. Franklin Federal earned the distinction of title sponsor with a generous gift through the bank’s foundation, The Franklin Federal Foundation, now the single, largest gift *Minds In Motion* has received in its near 20 year history. The donation helps ensure that *Minds In Motion* will be able to extend its fully-professional, Carpenter Theatre performance experience to students for a second year.

Free tickets to *Jamestown: Unearthing a New World* will be available to the public at the Richmond Ballet Box Office on a first-come, first-served basis beginning April 16, 2014. Tickets will also be available at the Carpenter Theatre Box Office one hour before each of the performances in May.

These performances in early May, together with an accompanying display in the windows of the old Miller & Rhoads Department store – which will feature the artwork of many 4th grade *Minds In Motion* students – serve as a celebration of public art in the River City’s downtown district, a gathering of artistic energy and spirit offered to the public free-of-charge. The artwork display is scheduled to go up April 3, 2014.

The chance to bring a professional performance experience to the students of *Minds In Motion* is woven into the program’s mission, which supports the notion that such opportunities leave significant and positive impacts on the lives of children, making them more aware of the value of dedicated practice, mutual cooperation, and the uplifting and empowering quality of dance. Through such experiences, students are also exposed to the resources of the Carpenter Theatre – where they learn about the backstage environment and work closely with the Ballet’s own professional dancers and production staff. Additionally, for many students and their families, the *Minds In Motion* performances often mark their first visit to Richmond’s historic performing arts hub.

“We are so grateful to have the support of Franklin Federal,” said Cat Studdard, Director of *Minds In Motion*. “Their contribution helps make it possible for the students, their families and the larger public to experience the culmination of a year’s work in an incredible venue. This shared experience will be truly unforgettable!”

For Franklin Federal, the opportunity to partner with *Minds In Motion* serves as a fitting vehicle to expand its educational community outreach initiatives through a new platform. The Bank’s own financial literacy outreach program, Making Money Count™, partners with elementary schools to teach children how to save, spend and share money responsibly.

The *Minds In Motion* year-end performances will feature nearly 1,400 students, representing a variety of demographics from across the greater Richmond area, along with select members from Richmond Ballet’s professional company. Students will use movement and music to celebrate and explore the year’s ‘Jamestown’ theme, inspired by recent archeological discoveries at the site of the 1607 English settlement that are changing the story of our nation’s earliest days.

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Jamestown: Unearthing a New World | *Minds In Motion* 2014 Year End Performance Dates:

Thursday, May 1, 6:00pm and 8:00pm

Friday, May 2, 6:00pm and 8:00pm

Sunday, May 4, 2:00pm and 4:00pm

The Carpenter Theatre at Richmond CenterStage | 600 E. Grace Street, Richmond, VA, 23219

Free tickets are available to the general public starting April 16, 2014 at the Richmond Ballet box office. For more information, please contact Tanya Dolphin, Education and Outreach Coordinator, *Minds In Motion*, at tdolphin@richmondballet.com or (804) 344-0906, ext. 289

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Minds In Motion, founded by Richmond Ballet in 1995, is the cornerstone of the Ballet's arts education and outreach efforts. *Minds In Motion* seeks to reach elementary school-aged students from across the State of Virginia, from all walks of life and abilities, to expose them to the experience of movement and music. Through *Minds In Motion*, Richmond Ballet creates a bridge for students to gain a greater understanding of art, to develop new approaches to learning an academic curriculum, and to gain self-confidence and self-discipline, while also learning to present themselves onstage and to the world. The students in the Ballet's *Minds In Motion* program are encouraged to see dance as a means of embracing cooperation and as an exercise in practicing mutual respect. *Minds In Motion* classes are filled with students from the varying backgrounds represented throughout Virginia's public and independent schools.

Minds In Motion is the realization of one of the Ballet's core beliefs: that dance has a unique power to both transform and uplift our lives and to reinforce community bonds. The *Minds In Motion* program offers an opportunity to participate in this transformative, positive experience, regardless of financial means, as the support of Franklin Federal and other generous corporations, foundations, individuals and public funders help make it possible for schools to participate in *Minds In Motion* regardless of their ability to pay.

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Franklin Federal Savings Bank has been serving Central Virginia for over 80 years and has consistently focused on helping individuals and families save and invest money for their future. Since 2010, the Bank has been partnering with area elementary schools to bring Making Money Count™ to 2nd grade students. Utilizing a team of experienced classroom instructors and a proprietary SOL-based curriculum, the Making Money Count™ program has impacted over 30,000 students.

For more information, contact makingmoneycount@franklinfederal.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

Media wishing to attend any performances of *Jamestown: Unearthing A New World* **must** arrange to do so through Richmond Ballet's press office by contacting Kate Crowder at kcrowder@richmondballet.com or 804.344.0906, ext. 246.

For more information on *Minds in Motion*, Richmond Ballet and its classes and programs, please 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 30th professional season, Richmond Ballet's mission is to "awaken and uplift the human spirit, both for audiences and artists."