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For Immediate Release

Kingsport Ballet Artistic Director Receives Award

Kingsport, TN – Artistic Director, Valeria Sinyavskaya has been honored by the Tennessee Arts Commission with the **Individual Artist Fellowship award in choreography for the 2008-2009 year.**

Winning the competitive grant award is an achievement Ms. Sinyavskaya is very proud of. “It is always a pleasure to be recognized for one’s work, but never expected – I just think of it as doing what I love to do.”

Since beginning her work with Kingsport Ballet, Ms. Sinyavskaya has staged various major works and premiered productions typically staged by much bigger and more affluent companies. Some of these projects include: *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Les Sylphides*, *The Nutcracker* based on the original Russian version, and various other original works.

Blending the work of professional artists with that of company dancers and area students is something Ms. Sinyavskaya has a lot of experience with. Prior to Kingsport Ballet she directed companies in Florida and Tokyo, Japan, where she worked with professional and semi-professional dancers.

Ms. Sinyavskaya graduated first in the class of renowned choreographer Galina Berezova, pupil of Agrippina Vaganova, the founder of the Russian method of classical ballet training. She holds a Master of Fine Arts and her performing experience includes all the major classical roles as principal dancer with the Novosibirsk State Academic Theatre Opera and Ballet in Russia, and as guest performer in other Russian ballet companies such as the Bolshoi. Ms. Sinyavskaya has international performing, teaching and directing experience that spans over forty years.

The Tennessee Arts Commission grant is designed to recognize professional artists who either by education, experience, or natural talent engage in a particular art form or discipline in the state of Tennessee.

“Having attracted such an accomplished, talented artist to our organization speaks to the fact that we have the support, appreciation, and motivation here in Kingsport, to keep this beautiful, international art form alive and thriving. Being able to provide the framework and structure upon which Ms. Sinyavksaya can display her craft is something we are very proud of,” said Executive Director, Bertina Dew.

The Kingsport Ballet company celebrates their 20th anniversary this year. *The Nutcracker* will once again be performed at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville, December 4-6. Their anniversary performance, *A Platinum Celebration: Acts from Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake and Paquita*, will be performed April 24-26, 2009 at the Eastman auditorium. For additional performance and programming information call: 423/378-3967 or visit: www.kingsportballet.org

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Valeria Sinyavskaya, Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress of Kingsport Ballet