

**Press Release – For Immediate Release – Contact: Bertina Dew, Kingsport Ballet – 201 Cherokee Street, Kingsport, TN 37660 [www.kingsportballet.org](http://www.kingsportballet.org) – 423-863-1280 – dewbertina@gmail.com**

## **Kingsport Ballet Wraps Up Eventful Summer Students Travel to and from KB to Receive Training**

*Kingsport, TN* – Kingsport Ballet kicked off the summer training season with a three week intensive in June. The workshop featured three guest artists: Sasha Vykhrest, Assistant Artistic Director with Columbia Classical Ballet, Lyvan Verdecia, dancer with Ballet Hispanico and formerly with the National Ballet of Cuba and Andre Valadao, Assistant Ballet Master with Dance Alive National Ballet. Kingsport Ballet artistic director Valeria Sinyavskaya and instructors Vadim Burciu and Erika Ballard also taught during the intensive. Mary Ripley returned to KB to offer sessions in yoga and nutrition and Josh Holley taught Jazz.

Four levels of students participated, from as young as 6 years old in the beginner level half-day program, through the advanced, full-day students. Classes were taught in ballet, pointe, partnering and variations, Contemporary, Jazz, Yoga, Nutrition and Seminar.

Students came from all over the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas for the June intensive, including Duffield, Gate City, Weber City, VA, Jonesborough, Chuckey, Morristown, TN, and beyond. Four students traveled from the St. Paul, Minnesota area, and two from Florida. Additional classes in July were offered to serious students wishing to continue their training through the summer, as well as the Angelina Ballerina camp for 3-6 year olds. Students for these classes also came from around the region, including Radford, Virginia and Harlan, Kentucky.

Following the KB Intensive, students traveled to attend summer intensives away from home and enjoy the experience of studying among other dancers from around the country.

**Grace Manna** attended the Bolshoi Academy of Ballet in New York and the Rock School in Philadelphia.

**Holly Munns** attended the Nashville Ballet Intensive and was accepted as an Apprentice in Nashville Ballet for the coming year.

**Emma Brown** and **Abby Fish** are Tennessee Association of Dance scholarship recipients and traveled to Indiana Ballet Conservatory for their Intensive

**Sophie Kooy** attended American Ballet Theater in Birmingham, Alabama

KB Company members also performed Contemporary choreography during area and regional events.

Kingsport Ballet launches a new season in August, with a new dance supply store, kb Boutique, expanded fitness class offerings to include P90X and BodyCombat, and the start of Fall classes on August 15.

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