

Press Release - Kingsport Ballet

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KINGSPORT BALLET RECRUITS INSTRUCTOR FROM ROME, ITALY

Kingsport, TN – The school, performing company and arts and fitness center that make up Kingsport Ballet, continue on their trajectory of growth, sustainability, and aim to provide high value to the community they serve.

While the Company's physical space is in downtown Kingsport and its arts revenues benefit the local economy, the community it serves spans the southeastern United States. Students commute from their homes in Marion, Virginia, Harlan, Kentucky, Morrisown, Tennessee, and all points in between, to study at Kingsport Ballet, year-round. Their summer programs attract students from further afield, such as South Carolina, Florida and Georgia.

The Company launched its 2017-2018 season with the addition of a newly recruited instructor and choreographer who relocated to Kingsport in September of 2017 from Rome, Italy. Maestro Odoardo Bordoni has brought with him several decades of experience as award-winning performer and choreographer, published author in *pas de deux* methodology, and international instructor with a strong Vaganova pedigree. During his early years, Maestro Bordoni significantly added to his Italian ballet training by being awarded an internship with the Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, as one of the first foreign students to be accepted. He continued his studies there, performing in productions and competitions with some of the leading Russian ballet companies and personalities of the 1980s and 90s.

Maestro Bordoni's duties at Kingsport Ballet include assisting Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress, Valeria Sinyavskaya with training students and choreographing and rehearsing for productions. He will offer instruction in pas de deux, character dance, and ballet and pointe for various age groups.

His specialty (and frequently awarded area of expertise) includes the fine art of re-staging lesser-known ballet classics and short ballets, in addition to contemporary choreography. *"With Maestro Bordoni joining our ranks we will be perfectly positioned to fulfill our sustainability and succession goals. We are very excited to welcome him into our community and are grateful for the support of area businesses to help us make this plan possible!"* Lee Houston, Vice President of Powell Valley National Bank and Kingsport Ballet board president.

Last season the Company created a brand-new, original ballet in commemoration of Kingsport's centennial, blending the work of their own choreographer Erika Ballard, with international choreographers. Seeds of Change will be restaged April 12-15, 2018 at Eastman's Auditorium. Community volunteer, Debbie Waggoner, had this to say about the never-before seen ballet: *"It is wonderful, we need to share it with our parents and grandparents, it was absolutely outstanding. So glad I went!"*

The Company's Nutcracker (staged last season to sold-out audiences) will be performed at the Wellmont Performing Arts Center at Northeast State on December 14-17. Tickets are on sale through their website, facebook page and box office: 423-378-3967.

"Kingsport Ballet combines a caring faculty and a great facility to create a wonderful nurturing environment for their students." Sylvie Mesnier, Former Prima Ballerina with Paris Opera Ballet

Kingsport Ballet is under the management of Bertina Dew and the artistic direction of Valeria Sinyavksaya. The organization is funded for operating support by the Tennessee Arts Commission under an agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts and the General Assembly. Outreach programs are funded in part by the TAC's Funds for At Risk Youth, the City of Kingsport and the Massengil De-Friece Foundation, among other generous supporters. For a full list of sponsors please visit our website: www.kingsportballet.org (New website under construction)