Roanoke Ballet Theatre

Featuring the professional company and students of Roanoke Ballet Theatre, guest artists, & Select dance schools

Sandra Meythaler - Executive/Artistic Director



Dracula

October 24th | 2pm & 7pm

The Jefferson Center ~ Roanoke, Va.

October 30th | 7pm

The Academy Center of the Arts ~ Lynchburg, Va.



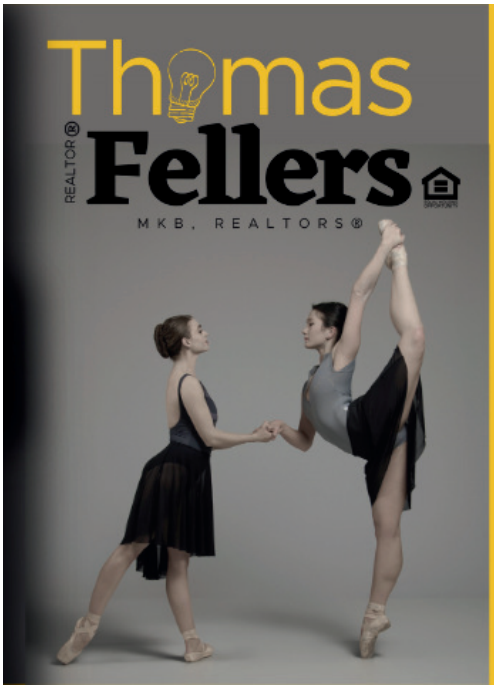
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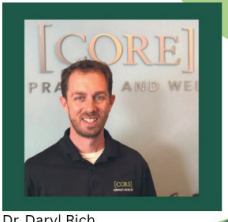
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Roanoke Ballet Theatre

welcomes you to

Dracula

Featuring the professional company and students
of Roanoke Ballet Theatre, guest artists,
& Select dance schools

Executive/Artistic Director
Sandra Meythaler

Roanoke Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
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Mission Statement

Roanoke Ballet Theatre is dedicated to enriching the soul of the community through the beauty of dance.

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Executive/Artistic Director	Sandra Meythaler
Choreography	Sandra Meythaler, Norbert Nirewicz, Antonia Dougherty, Jenny Richards, Vilmedis Cobas
Stage Manager	Nicole Espinosa, Carolin Koepplin
Projections	Zosia Miko, Norbert Nirewicz
Set Design	Sandra Meythaler
Costumes	Renee Aguilera, Courtney VanOsten, Sandra Meythaler
Videographer	Gabe Simpkins
Photographer	Laura White

Directors, Staff, and Guest Artists

Executive/Artistic Director - Sandra Meythaler



Sandra Meythaler, a native of Ecuador, began dancing professionally at the age of fifteen with Compania Nacional de Dance in Ecuador and then joined the National Ballet of Ecuador in 1989 as principal ballerina at the age of twenty.

She performed ballet and contemporary dance around the world, including Peru, Belgium, Germany, Italy, England, France, Spain, Brazil, Columbia, and Japan. She also danced with Ballet Novo, Opera Ecuador, and Koral y Esmeralda.

After immigrating to America, in 2001 Sandra became a part of Roanoke Ballet Theatre as a teacher. By 2007 she was promoted to Executive/Artistic Director. In the years that she has been at Roanoke Ballet Theatre, Sandra has been a tireless visionary leader of the School of RBT. She broke ground in 2010 by establishing the City Youth Ballet, a pre-professional company of dancers who have the dedication, talent, skills, and desire to move into a professional dance role. In 2012, her vision brought on the creation of Roanoke's very own professional Ballet Company. The professional Company of Roanoke Ballet Theatre is a group of dancers who not only offer exceptional performances, but also serve as role models to the students in the school. Sandra believes that dance is for everyone, and that it comes from the heart.

Choreographer of *Dracula* - Norbert Nirewicz



A native of Poland, Norbert began his ballet studies at the National Ballet School in Gdansk. He was a finalist in Poland's 7th National Ballet Competition and obtained a silver medal in the same competition two years later. As a Dancer for the Polish National Theater, he portrayed roles in a variety of classical ballets such as "Swan Lake", "Giselle", "Sleeping Beauty" and "La Fille Mal Gardee" in Warsaw and throughout Europe. After leaving Poland Mr. Nirewicz joined Ballet Classico de Camara in Venezuela, as a Principal Dancer adding "La Bayadere", "Le Corsaire" and many more to his repertoire. After Mr. Nirewicz competed at the US International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS, he was offered a Principal contract to join Cleveland/San Jose Ballet. He performed with the company for two seasons in Nahat's "Blue Suede Shoes" and Roland Petit's "Carmen" garnering publicity and critical acclaim. In the summer, Norbert competed in the 16th New York International Ballet Competition where he was a finalist. After two seasons with Cleveland/San Jose Ballet Mr. Nirewicz joined Columbia City Ballet with a Principal contract where he performed in "Don Quichote" and "Dracula", among others.

Since 2002 Norbert has been working as a freelance Dancer, Teacher, and Choreographer performing across the United States, Japan, Latin America, and Europe adding many more ballets to his repertory. Ballets such as "Apollo", "Who Cares", "Allegro Brilliante", "Combat", "Serenade", "Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, and "Romeo & Juliet" to name the few. He has taught numerous Master Classes, Company Classes, and Summer Intensive Workshops throughout the country and has created award winning choreography for ballet companies and dance competitions.

Director of Admissions - Renee Aguilera



Renee Aguilera, born outside of Chicago, Illinois, began her pre-professional training at Dancenter North in Libertyville, Illinois, under the direction of Cheri Lindell, taught by Victoria Barlow, Greg Begley, Altin Naska, and others. There she attended intensives and master classes taught by Amy Brant, Rafael Delgado, Melissa Anderson, Mia Wilkins, Patricia Blair and more. Renee was a scholarship winner of CNADM (Chicago National Association of Dance Masters) which she attended for three years.

In 2003, her training began at the Virginia School of the Arts, under the direction of Petrus Bosman. She was fortunate enough to work with teachers and choreographers such as Martha Faesi, David Keener, Jeff Rogers, Tyrone Brooks, Lisa Thomas, and other staff. She graduated in 2005 from VSA and E.C. Glass High School. Ms. Aguilera continued her dancing at Radford University in Radford, Virginia, under the instruction of Inessa Plekhanova, where she also studied Interior Design and Psychology. She has danced in major ballets such as many Nutcrackers, The Sleeping Beauty, Paquita, Cinderella, La Fille Mal Garde, Don Quixote, and countless others.

This is Ms. Renee's 13th season with Roanoke Ballet Theatre. She is the former Ballet Mistress and Costume Director, ballet and pointe teacher, and past company member of Roanoke Ballet Theatre's professional company.

Grants & Development Director - Carolin Koepplin



Carolin Koepplin is a native of Idaho Falls, Idaho. She fell in love with ballet at the Idaho Falls School of Ballet under the tutelage of Deborah Bean. Carolin then earned a B.F.A. in Ballet cum laude from the University of Utah with an emphasis in both performance and teaching. In Utah, she performed with the Ballet Department's companies: Utah Ballet and the Character Dance Ensemble.

Ms. Koepplin's professional career has provided opportunities to dance with many wonderful artists and organizations. In California, she was a Soloist with Central West Ballet. In Oregon, she was a Principal dancer with Ballet Fantastique, originating many roles for premieres such as The Raven in *Nevermore: Tales of Edgar Allen Poe*, Mary Quite Contrary in *Babes in Toyland*, and Maid Marion in *Robin Hood and Maid Marion*, and many others. Now in Virginia, Carolin joined Roanoke Ballet Theatre in 2023. Ms. Koepplin is also an accomplished Ballet and Character Dance instructor and holds a graduate certificate from the University of Oregon in Nonprofit Management. She is proud to be the Grants and Development Director for RBT.

Master Teacher - Yulia Vidal



Ms. Yulia Vidal Savigne is a professional ballet dancer and master ballet teacher originally from Cuba. Before moving to the United States, Ms. Vidal was a principal dancer and teacher in The National Dance Company of Ecuador. She also served as a principal dancer and teacher in the school and company of Ecuatoriano de Camára and as a soloist dancer at the Ballet de Camagüey in Cuba. She has starred in a plethora of classical, neo classical, and contemporary ballet works. Ms. Vidal also founded and taught for the Escuela Metropolitana La Metrodanza and taught at La Fundacion Danza in Ecuador.

Master Teacher - Vilmedis Cobas



Mr. Vilmedis Cobas Silot is a dancer, teacher of dance and choreography and prolific, award-winning choreographer. His formal training took place at the Vocational Art School and National School of Art in Cuba. He has danced as a Principal Interpretive Dancer at National Dance Company of Ecuador, Ecuadorian Chamber Ballet and with the Contemporary Dance group- Subject to Change, Retazo Theater Dance Company, and Theatre of Caribbean Dance Company in Cuba. Mr. Cobas has also been a choreographer and teacher for contemporary group Ballet Humanizarte.

Master Teacher- Monica Tortolero



Former Prima Ballerina of Venezuela at the National Ballet of Caracas – Teresa Carreño. Monica was born in Venezuela, began training at the age of 7, and her professional career at the age of 13; dancing with the Youth Ballet of Venezuela. Monica has been trained by Vicente Nebrada, Vladimir Issaev, Ruta Butviliene, Rumen Rachev, Zane Wilson, Willy Burman at the Ballet Nacional de Caracas. She danced as a principal at the National Ballet of Caracas- Teresa Carreño and then with The Contemporary Ballet of Caracas. Mrs. Tortolero has danced extensively abroad at many festivals and galas, including The International Gala in Washington D.C at the Kennedy Center as prima ballerina representing her country, receiving a representative ovation from the public and critics. She was invited as an international guest artist to participate in the 80th anniversary at The Lituanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, where she danced with stars of the Moscow Ballet and many others. She received the award "National Artist Award Venezuela" as Best Classical Dancer of the Year in 1997 and "The Arts and Letters Major Competition" as Best Neoclassic Pas de Deux in 2005.

Monica began her position as a ballet teacher at the Emil Friedman School and was a part of the staff at DANZARTE, Classical Ballet Academy in Caracas. She obtained different accreditations and international certifications of methodology for teaching classical ballet such as the "American Ballet Training Curriculum (ABT)", the Russian Vaganova certification method for Ballet Teachers granted by Ballet Master Mr. Vladimir Issaev, and recently the certification as a teacher of the method of "Progressive Ballet Technique (PBT)".

Guest Artist (Dracula) - Wiktor Krakowiak-Chu



Wiktor Krakowiak-Chu is a native of Poland, born in Lodz, an international guest soloist, a graduate of the Lodz National Ballet School, and participant of international and national ballet competitions.

Since childhood, when he was still a student of the ballet school, Wiktor was constantly engaged in cooperation with the Ballet of the Grand Theatre in Łódź, with which he was professionally associated for seasons (2008-2023). In the 2011-2013 season, he collaborated with the Ballet of the Grand Theatre in Poznań. During his years of work in Polish Opera Theatres, Wiktor had the opportunity to cooperate with many outstanding choreographers and creators. As an artist, he has performed in most of the titles from the repertoire of not only classical ballets such as "Swan Lake", "The Nutcracker", "Sleeping Beauty", "Giselle", and "Snow White", but also in titles from the neoclassical repertoire where he successfully created solo roles: "Spartacus" by Kirill Simonov, "The Promised Land" by Gray Veredon, "Die Schopfung," by Uwe Scholz. He also has unforgettable roles

in the Broadway musical by Susan Stronman, “Contact”, and the legendary “Rite of Spring”, by Martha Graham. Wiktor also performed in most of the works of the opera, operetta and musical repertoire, which allowed him to develop not only his acting and stage skills but also to broaden his musical sensitivity to other genres of performing arts. Currently, the artist is a freelance international soloist, taking part in numerous projects in Europe and the USA. His repertoire includes primarily leading characteristic roles that require well-thought-out acting and unconventional stage expression, such as Rothbart in “Swan Lake”, Drosselmayer in “The Nutcracker”, or the main title roles in the ballets "Dracula" or "Don Quixote".

He is a music lover by passion and a lover of old furniture and vintage style. Apart from art, Wiktor's interests also include cycling and bikepacking, as well as real estate trading. In "Dracula", he plays the title role of “the vampire of all time” - Count Dracula; a descendant of an ancient Transylvanian noble European family.

Photo by Joanna Miklaszewska

Outreach Dance Schools

We would love to thank the dance schools who have collaborated on this production with us. It has been a pleasure to have your students dance and learn alongside our professional company and school! Thank you all for your participation!

Dancing the roles of the Bats & Spiders on 10/30

Arsema Casper
Estella Crocker
Ava Huger
Atleigh Mason
Avery Woody
Lilly Wonder
Ivy Denninghoff
Hadley Pierce
Abrielle Poulin

The Rockbridge Ballet

126 Walker St, Lexington, VA 24450 - 540.463.3436 -
rockbridgeballet@gmail.com
Artistic & Executive Director, Evelyn Branscome

Roanoke Ballet Theatre

Company Dancers



Antonia Rae Dougherty
Wilmington, DE



Samantha Jo Dunham
Lawrence, KS



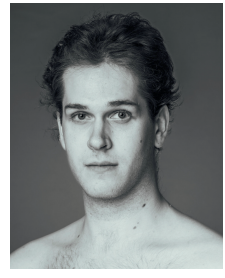
Catherine Fletcher
Fort Worth, TX



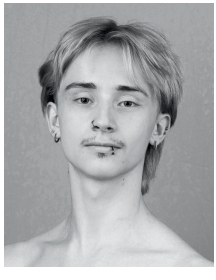
Elise Franchi
Indian Land, SC



Scarlett Fulton
Roanoke, VA



John Gardner
Greensboro, NC



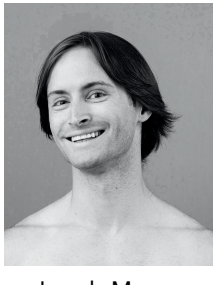
Noah Heare
Roanoke, VA



Isabella Kaup
Hilton Head, SC



Skylar Moreira
Daytona Beach, FL



Jacob Myers
Manassas, VA



Katherine Nettles
Greensboro, NC



Tirza Panunto
Chico, CA



Emily Parlock
Phillipsburg, NJ



Maya Pope
Harrisonburg, VA



Ida Soranno
Nashville, TN



Katherine Steele
Chapel Hill, NC



Reynu Wood
Cary, NC

Apprentices



Katie Carr
Kalispell, MT



Olivia Clouse
Cary, NC

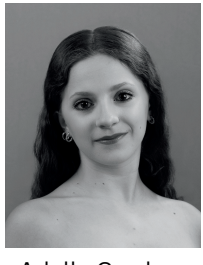


Alexia Lipscomb
Portland, OR



Emma Hamell
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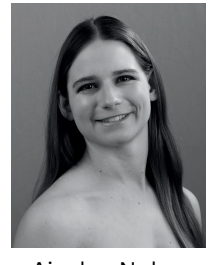
Trainees



Adelle Cordray
Knoxville, TN



Alexa Duffy
Moorestown, NJ



Ainsley Nolan
Pittsburgh, PA

The Story of Dracula

Act I

The ballet opens in a village in Transylvania, located at the wild foothills of the castle of Count Dracula. Jonathan Harker, an Englishman, is passing through the village on his way to meet with his client, Count Dracula. The two men are planning to meet about a real estate transaction that would secure properties in England for the Count. The villagers urge Jonathan not to go to Dracula's castle but he ignores them and continues on. During his journey to the castle, Jonathan is attacked by wolves, but he manages to escape. Led by Dracula's servant Igor, Jonathan finally makes it to the castle very late to meet Dracula. As Jonathan is unpacking his bags, Dracula is enchanted by a picture of Mina, Jonathan's fiancée. After having a meal with Count Dracula, Jonathan goes to bed. While Jonathan is asleep, Dracula summons his three brides and instructs them to capture, but not eat, Jonathan. Jonathan wakes up and struggles with the brides as they put him in shackles. With Jonathan imprisoned, Dracula summons his hunchback and prepares to leave for London to pursue Mina. The three brides fall asleep and Jonathan manages to escape. He grabs his suitcase and flees the castle, intent on returning to London.

Act II

The second act opens in England at the home of Lucy and Arthur Holmwood where a party is happening. Count Dracula, a visiting dignitary from Romania, is among the guests, as is Dr. Abraham Van Helsing, a priest, Father Augustine, and Mina. Dracula disappears from the party just as Jonathan enters back from his trip to Transylvania. Jonathan and Mina reunite. Meanwhile, Lucy is trying to persuade her husband to pay attention to her, but he rebuffs her. When Arthur leaves, Lucy despairs that her husband is uninterested in her. Mina tries to comfort, her but Lucy is still upset. As Mina leaves, Dracula sneaks into Lucy's bed chamber. Lucy is frightened but is quickly seduced by Dracula's charismatic powers. Dracula bites Lucy and she begins to transform into a vampire. Arthur returns to find Lucy collapsed on the floor. He calls for the others as Lucy lies dying. When Jonathan sees her, he explains about Dracula's true nature.

Act III

Act three opens in a cemetery. The mourners carry Lucy's body in and they place her body on a tomb, then leave. Dracula comes to the cemetery and awakens Lucy so that she may join his other vampires. Unfortunately, Father Augustine re-enters the cemetery in the midst of all of the vampires. He gets swarmed and is eaten. Dracula senses Mina coming toward the cemetery so he disperses the vampires and hides. She approaches the tomb of Lucy and Dracula surprises her. Dracula mesmerizes her, is about to bite her, but the other mourners return. The mourners see Dracula about to bite Mina and a fight ensues, but Dracula manages to escape.

Arthur, Jonathan, Mina, and Dr. Van Helsing chase Dracula to his home. The brides of Dracula, including Lucy, try to stop the group but are unsuccessful. The final showdown with Dracula commences.

Order of Acts

Act I

Villagers and Jonathan
Wolves
Phantoms
Igor and Jonathan
The House of Dracula
Brides of Dracula
Dracula Departs
Jonathan Escapes

15 Minute Intermission

Act II

House of Arthur and Lucy / Waltz
Jonathan and Mina
Guests Depart
Lucy's Despair
Dracula and Lucy
Lucy's Transformation

10 Minute Intermission

Act III

Spirits
Procession
Bats, Spiders & Crows
Dark Creatures
Vampire Dance
Mina and Dracula
Finale

The Cast of Dracula

Count Dracula	Wiktor Krakowiak-Chu
Lady Lucy Holmwood	Tirza Panunto
Lord Arthur Holmwood	John Gardner
Mina Murray	Reynu Wood
Jonathan Harker	Jacob Myers
Brides of Dracula	Elise Franchi, Maya Pope, Isabella Kaup
Igor	Noah Heare
Father Augustine	Vilmedis Cobas
Dr. Abraham Van Helsing	Damon White
Servant	Laura White
Servant Girl	Katherine Nettles
Vampire Girls	(10/24-2pm & 10/30): Skylar Moreira, Katherine Nettles, Emily Parlock, Katherine Steele; (10/24-7pm): Antonia Dougherty, Ida Soranno, Scarlett Fulton, Alexia Lipscomb
Wolves	(10/24): Mary Huff MacGibbon, Aven Biggio, Natalie Brochero, Gracynn Gardner, Addy Pinkley, Senuli Thantirige, Ellie Mae Clemons; (10/30): Skylar Moreira, Katherine Nettles, Emily Parlock, Katherine Steele, Emma Hamell, Samantha Jo Dunham, Adelle Cordray, Ainsley Nolan
Waltz	Women: Skylar Moreira, Katherine Nettles, Emily Parlock, Katherine Steele, Samantha Jo Dunham, Adelle Cordray, Emma Hamell, Ainsley Nolan, Genevieve Dalton; Men: Noah Heare, Wiktor Krakowiak-Chu, Vilmedis Cobas, John Gardner

Phantoms	Mary Huff MacGibbon, Aven Biggio, Annabelle Coles, Natalie Brochero, Audrey Kochan, Phoebe Horton, Gracynn Gardner, Addy Pinkley, Senuli Thantirige, Ellie Mae Clemons, Sophia Simpkins
Spirits	Gracynn Gardner, Mary Huff MacGibbon, Aven Biggio, Ellie Mae Clemons, Addy Pinkley, Emma Bednarek, Natalie Brochero, Eliana Miller, Senuli Thantirige, Annabelle Coles, Audrey Kochan, Pheobe Horton, Annabelle Krell, Sophia Simpkins, Ruby DiGiovanni, Nicholas Krispin
Darkness	Catherine Fletcher, Samantha Jo Dunham, Oliva Clouse, Emma Hamell, Katie Carr, Adelle Cordray, Ainsley Nolan, Alexa H'onore Duffy, Noah Heare; (10/24-2pm & 10/30): Antonia Dougherty, Ida Soranno, Scarlett Fulton, Alexia Lipscomb; (10/24-7pm): Skylar Moreira, Katherine Nettles, Emily Parlock, Katherine Steele
Spiders	(10/24): Little Spiders: Winifred Wisniewski, Cayce Anne Myers, Amelia Fisher, Eilise Ritchie, Ima Young, Lucy Bingler, Piper Johnson, Evelyn Stephens, Hermione Garrison, Avery Inman Spider Leaders: Mary Huff MacGibbon, Audrey Kochan, Phoebe Horton, Aven Biggio; (10/30): Arsema Casper, Estella Crocker, Ava Huger, Atleigh Mason, Avery Woody, Lilly Wonder
Crows	(10/24): Fielder MacGibbon, Artemis Wisniewski, Annabelle Wade, Eliza Grant, Angelo Willis, Roslynn Katwal, Frankie Jennings, Ruby DiGiovanni, Lisa Popova, Annabelle Krell
Little Bats	(10/24): Evangeline Hopkins, Maebry Wade, Alma Berg Crosby, Edith Alexander, Idabelle Wisniewski, Arya Clinedinst, Marybeth Krell, Cormany Beckett, May Vahlberg, Louise Stephens; (10/30): Ivy Denninghoff, Hadley Pierce, Abrielle Poulin

Town Women	Antonia Dougherty, Ida Soranno, Scarlett Fulton, Alexia Lipscomb, Olivia Clouse, Catherine Fletcher, Katie Carr, Alexa H'onore Duffy
Flower Lady	Genevieve Dalton
Town Men	Noah Heare
Big Town Kids	Ruby DiGiovanni, Annabelle Krell, Eliana Miller, Emma Bednarek, Lisa Popova, Angelo Willis
Little Town Kids	Ima Young, Piper Johnson, Avery Inman, Lucy Bingler, Artemis Wisniewski, Annabelle Wade, Hermione Garrison, Fielder MacGibbon, Eliza Grant, Frankie Jennings, Evelyn Stephens, Roslynn Katwal

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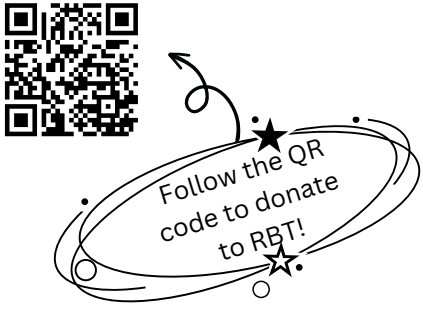
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