

Southwest Virginia Ballet



Moving Stories Beyond Words

NEWS RELEASE

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TIES

Roanoke, VA: Southwest Virginia Ballet is very proud to premier new choreography in their production of TIES. A collage of film, music, and dance, audiences will be delighted as dancers ride the rails of history with a vision of the past, present and future in this highly expressive ballet.

Performance Location and Dates:

The Jefferson Center, Luck Avenue, Roanoke, VA.

Sat. April 5, 2008 at 7 p.m. and Sun. April 6, 2008 at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 Adults and \$17 Ages 18 and under

To me, Ties as a title, is about people, incredible connections to others and to the land that holds them. Many have uprooted or been uprooted, leaving a country, a region or a family...pushed by their selves or pushed by circumstances to reach and go beyond their comfort zone. As a result of WWII, my family emigrated from Hungary to Venezuela where I was born. I loved both my countries; however, when wing-spreading time came for this young man, I went to New York City, and then Richmond, Virginia and finally here to Roanoke where my dreams have led me.

So when I started searching for a new project for the Southwest Virginia Ballet, I was intrigued by the rail history of this region and its influence on emigration to Roanoke. As the idea developed, I decided to leave the chronological telling to the museums. Instead I am focusing on the relationships of people. The dreamers, laborers, and witnesses who chose to stay in or come to the Big Lick, the Magic City, the Star City, and the Roanoke Valley. Our costume changes will flit through history like the children, parents and grandparents of O. Winston Link's photographs. Relationships will develop and dissolve throughout the choreography like the spirits that rise, suffuse and integrate into the earth that is this Valley. Their spirits grew out of great dreams, cold steely labor, disappointments and victories. Watch the images of the train with its trails of steam and imagine it to be the spirit of the tough gritted people who brought the clanging steel cars to our days and nights.

As with these people, it takes collaboration and we are happy to have fostered that in this production. Thank you to O. Winston Link for the captured images of a past era and the museum that houses them here in Roanoke. We also thank the Virginia Museum of Transportation for sharing ideas and history. David Austin's original score made for O. Winston Link Museum expresses the spirit of a past and contemporary era. For the promotional image used on posters and such, we thank Nancy Stark of Signature 9 Gallery. She consistently captures the images of today's railcars that harkens a history on their own rusty skins. Please visit and support these museums and artists as they have supported Southwest Virginia Ballet.

Pedro Szalay, artistic director

Southwest Virginia Ballet is a pre-professional youth dance company, celebrating 18 years in the Roanoke Valley. Over 30,000 residents and 15,000 school age children have enjoyed SVB productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Coppelia*, *Firebird*, *Snowmaiden*, *Graduation Ball*, *Paquita* and other original works. SVB dancers have performed in local festivals, community fundraisers and artist-in-residency school programs. Today their alumni are dancing professionally across the United States and Europe.