

HOUSE RESOLUTION 95

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the administrators, staff, and students of Kingsport Ballet on the occasion of the organization's twentieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those exemplary organizations that have made significant contributions to the arts through an abiding commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its endeavors is Kingsport Ballet, a non-profit organization sponsored by the Tennessee Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, composed of skilled instructors who have strong backgrounds in their dance form, Kingsport Ballet has gained a reputation in the Southeast as a premiere classical ballet school and company; specializing in full-length ballets, the company performs in venues throughout the Tri-Cities and hosts guest artists from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Kingsport Ballet has seven full-length ballets in its company's repertory, including three Tchaikovsky ballets; and

WHEREAS, under the direction and leadership of Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress Valeria Sinyavskaya, six professional teachers work together to ensure that each student receives the highest quality instruction through a personal, cohesive teaching style; and

WHEREAS, in addition to ballet and pointe, Kingsport Ballet offers instruction in partnering, modern, jazz, ballroom, Pilates, boys' classes, adult ballet, and dance movements and tap/musicality classes for young children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Erika Ballard oversees the modern curriculum, while Ms. Rachel Copenhaver and Ms. Mary Lu Hensley oversee the preparatory curriculum; the combined work

of these professionals and others equips dancers with the training they need to be accepted for study at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC, as well as other highly regarded training programs such as Walnut Hill Academy, Nutmeg Conservatory, and Butler University; and

WHEREAS, a professional of the highest degree, Valeria Sinyavskaya brings to East Tennessee a rich history in the Vaganova method of classical ballet; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sinyavskaya graduated first in the class of renowned choreographer Galina Berezova, who was a pupil of Agrippina Vaganova, founder of the Russian method of classical ballet training; and

WHEREAS, a widely celebrated dancer herself, Ms. Sinyavskaya performed throughout Russia, toured all over the world as principal dancer with the Novosibirsk State Theatre, and guest performed with such companies as the Bolshoi Ballet; she has extensive experience as a teacher, choreographer, and artistic director both within the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, since she began working with Kingsport Ballet in 2002, Ms. Sinyavskaya has staged all three Tchaikovsky ballets, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*; under her astute direction, the company premiered *Giselle* in March of 2007 and *Les Sylphides* in 2008; and

WHEREAS, she has also staged several original works, including a Strauss waltz with Symphony of the Mountains; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and honors for her many achievements within the realm of ballet, Ms. Sinyavskaya was the 2004 recipient of the Arts Council of Greater Kingsport's Arts Leader of Excellence Award, and in 2008, she had the distinction of being the proud recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission's Individual Artist Fellowship Award for choreography; and

WHEREAS, working alongside Ms. Sinyavskaya to offer the highest level of training available, Artist in Residence, Rostislav Dzabraev, provides ongoing instruction in partnering and ballet classes, serving as the Rehearsal Assistant to the Director, as well as Primary Outreach Instructor in DANCE CO; Mr. Dzabraev has performed various significant lead roles in Kingsport Ballet productions, including his roles as Harlequin and the Snow King in *The*

*Nutcracker*, *Ocean in Ocean and Pearls*, *Peasant Pas de Deux* in *Giselle*, and *Poet* in *Les Sylphides*, among others; and

WHEREAS, Rostislav Dzabraev's disciplined yet vibrant style of teaching adds dimension and energy to the ballet curriculum and benefits the students at Kingsport Ballet immensely; and

WHEREAS, an organization devoted to enriching and instructing its students with the best talent available, Kingsport Ballet ensures that each of its productions features four to six professional guest artists who are soloists or principals in their respective companies; and

WHEREAS, Kingsport Ballet also offers an annual summer workshop intensive that features master teachers from around the world who come to Kingsport to teach students and, often, to set original or classical choreography on them; and

WHEREAS, some of the acclaimed faculty involved with the intensive include Giana Jigarhan, formerly with the Bolshoi Ballet; Sergei Gorbatov, with the Kirov Ballet; Nina Maria Lucas, Director of Dance at Wake Forest University; and Vladimir Angelov, internationally renowned choreographer, among a host of others; and

WHEREAS, on average, Kingsport Ballet brings in about fifteen professionals to either perform with or teach its students each year; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding training offered by this prestigious organization would not be possible without the enduring support and guidance from the Kingsport Ballet Board of Directors, the esteemed members of which include President Linda Buckles, Vice President Lafe Cook, Treasurer Al Crymble, Secretary Janet Mather, past President Mary Ruth Richards, Historian Dr. Lenita Thibault, Mary Lu Hensley, Alma Velasco, Mary Schnede, Joseph Huffmann, Sandra Woolley, and Executive Director Bertina Dew; and

WHEREAS, a deeply respected organization that holds to the highest precepts of dance instruction, Kingsport Ballet has inspired applause from the arts community of our nation and has brought honor to Tennessee, and it is worthy of the recognition of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the administrators, staff, and students of Kingsport Ballet in celebrating the organization's twentieth

anniversary, commend them on two decades of exemplary service to the art community, this State, and our Nation, and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.