



Apex's own  
Classical and Contemporary Dance Conservatory and  
Nonprofit Ballet Theatre

## Spring Spectacular 23rd Anniversary Performance

We are back at The Cary Arts Center on May 31 at 3pm presenting our Spring Spectacular! *Steadfast Songs of Friendship* presents a fun-loving portrait of sisterhood as our performers trace the arc of developing relationships. The dancers leap, waltz, swirl, and tap through a glittering stage performance. As part of Infinity Ballet's twenty-third anniversary celebration, the dance selections incorporate works of ballet classics as well as musical theatre. Get your tickets now <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/46548341/infinity-ballet-theatres-steadfast-songs-of-friendship-cary-arts-center>



Infinity Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization relying solely on volunteer efforts, grants, and donations of dedicated individuals, companies, government partners, and charitable foundations. Please scan and make a tax-deductible donation so that our dancers can continue to PERFORM in APEX.



## All the World's a Stage



*The Wolf and the Toymaker*

In the fall of 2024, we had six successful performances of our Storybook Ballet Series at the Halle Cultural Arts Center in Apex. In November, Infinity Ballet Theatre presented *The Wolf and the Toymaker*, and in December local audiences enjoyed our annual production of *Nutcracker Dances*.

In addition to these performances that are traditionally part of Infinity Ballet's season, IBT dancers had some unique opportunities to be on stage this year. Company members were invited to participate in State Ballet Theater of Ukraine's chinese dance in *The Nutcracker* performance at the Carolina Theater in Durham in December. Then

in February, a group of 19 Infinity Ballet students performed in the State Ballet Theater of Ukraine's

lovely production of *Sleeping Beauty* at the Carolina Theater in the roles of knitters, peasants, kittens, and cupid dancers. Company member, Olivia Avants said this about these experiences:

***I think participating in the State Ballet of Ukraine's *Sleeping Beauty* let me see how professional our studio is, especially in the standard for the quality of dancing. There is an expectation of precision and effort our staff tries to uphold, even though we're a pre-professional environment. You also get to see the efficiency backstage at the company, and even though we didn't speak to most of the dancers, the passion we all felt for this art connected us all.***

Just last weekend, company dancers participated in the Apex Peakfest festival downtown, performing fun snippets from the upcoming *Steadfast Songs of Friendship* production. Lastly, company members were a special part of the Celebration of Life, featuring exquisite costumes made by the late Marilyn Vaillant. It was lovely to be a part of a memorable afternoon of eloquence and reverence in honor of this special lady.



Although most of this article has been about our talented dancers of school age, take note that very soon our tiniest performers will make their performing debuts with Infinity Ballet! Our First Step classes (ages 3-8) will perform in a studio show on **May 17th**. Come out and be a part of the audience applauding these dancers for the first time - all friends and family are invited!



Chinese Dancers



Cupid Dancers





## Workshops

Infinity Ballet dancers of all ages were privileged to enhance their training this year in lots of workshop classes. Last fall, Ms. Anna Marie offered a contemporary workshop for adults that included instruction on stretching, breathing, and moving.

In January, Candice Morrisette kicked up a fun Jazz/HipHop workshop to offer dancers a way to let loose and express themselves. Also, Mr. Valery Lantratov visited Infinity to share his vast knowledge and experience with a pure classical ballet workshop. Mr Lantratov is the Artistic Director of the Russian National Dance Foundation, a People's Artist of Russia, former dancer with the Moscow Stanislavsky Ballet and Kremlin Ballet, and a long-time friend and guest instructor at IBT.

Mr. Chad gave a modern workshop to wake up dancer's imaginations in February. Then, in another IBT annual tradition, ten of our dancers participated in the UNC School of the Arts Winter Festival weekend with dancers from all over the state.

Earlier this month, Ms. Cari-Lenn Youngkin gave an awesome modern dance workshop where dancers worked on fine-tuning their movement skills. Keep your eye out for more information about another ballet workshop coming in June taught by one of IBT's alumni dancers, Julia Walden.

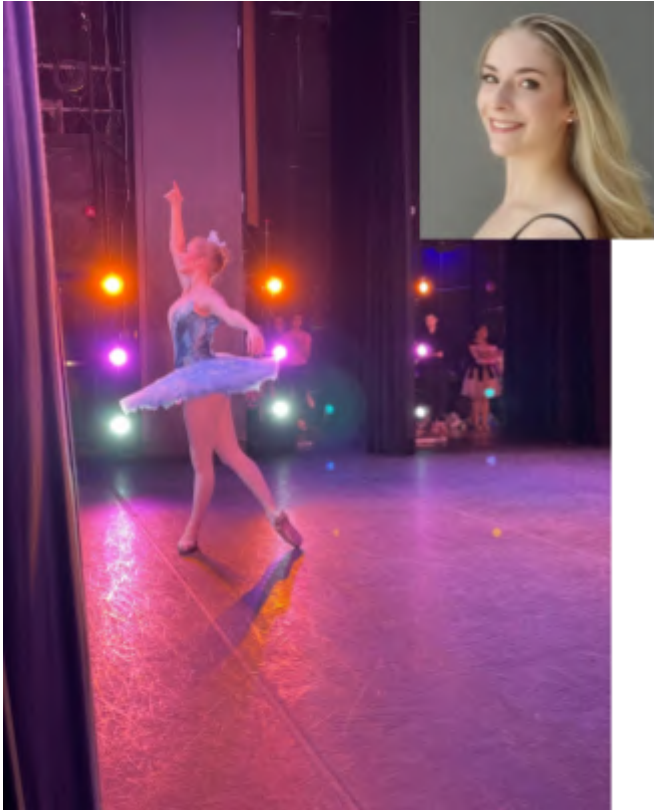


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# Spot Light on IBT Company Alumni

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## Julia Walden Ballet Theatre of Maryland



Crystal Fountain Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*,  
Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Julia Walden was a student at Infinity Ballet Conservatory from 2005 until 2020. While dancing at Infinity, Julia performed many featured roles such as Cinderella, Princess Florine, Sugar Plum Fairy, and Dew Drop Fairy. Julia attended summer intensives at American Ballet Theatre, Carolina Ballet, Richmond Ballet, and Sarasota Ballet. She graduated from Apex Friendship High School with honors and was offered a position in the trainee program at Sarasota Ballet. Upon completing that program in 2022, Julia became an apprentice with The Ballet Theatre of Maryland in Annapolis and has since become a demi-soloist with the company. She

is on the faculty of the company conservatory and also teaches ballet, pointe, jazz and contemporary dance at two other dance schools in Maryland.

Julia recently had the following to share:

***Infinity Ballet is such a special place to train and learn because of the dedication to classical technique, the abundance of performance opportunities and the loving environment. My time spent at Infinity is what shaped me into the dancer and teacher I am today. I just finished my third professional season by performing Swan Lake. I am so grateful to be performing and teaching in Annapolis.***

Julia is excited to visit Apex over the summer and offer a ballet workshop at Infinity, scheduled for Wednesday, June 18.



*Flower Festival*, North Beach School of Dance and  
*The Nutcracker*, Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Save your spot in summer classes and camps at [www.infinityballet.com](http://www.infinityballet.com). Julia Walden will be teaching the Intermediate level ballet and pointe classes on Wednesday June 18th. Drop ins are welcome! Give us a call at 919-303-1105.

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# Spring Survey-We Hear You!

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Thank you to everyone who responded to our spring parent survey! The overwhelming majority shared that participating in IBT performances has been a positive experience. Families especially praised the quality of our venues, costumes, and artistic direction, often describing them as excellent.

You also offered thoughtful suggestions; here are few of those:

- Introduce performance expectations in class to help younger dancers feel more confident
- Host casual social events—like park meet-ups or group dinners—to build community outside of rehearsal
- Encourage teachers to actively invite dancers to participate in performances
- Consider bundling key updates into fewer emails

The survey feedback is being reviewed by not only IBT's faculty and staff, but also by the current Board of Trustees and officers.

## **Infinity Ballet Theatre Board of Trustees**

### **Officers:**

President: Stephen Keith

Vice President: Courtney Sheldon

Treasurer: Position Available

### **Board Members:**

Artistic Director: Debra Sayles Senchak

Community Engagement: Ashlea Hass

Parent Guild Lead: Ushma Shukla

Outreach & Communications Advisor: Mary Beth Walden

Please continue to reach out to any of the people above with new ideas and inquiries about how you can support IBT. (Note that we are very interested in finding a volunteer treasurer ASAP.)



Peakfest performers



*Infinity Ballet congratulations our dancers as they take on their ambitious plans this summer. Wishing you all the best of luck as you continue to pursue your dreams.*

- Olivia Avants: Joffrey Ballet and the Nutmeg Ballet Summer Intensives.
- Olivia Beaumont: Boston Ballet Summer Intensive
- Abby Clinkscales: Charlotte Ballet Summer Intensive and UNCSA year round dance program.
- Lydia Mooberry: Carolina Ballet Summer Intensive
- Melody Phillips studying abroad in Germany
- Vanessa Phillips: Austin Ballet Summer Intensive
- *Special Teacher*, Anna Marie Kool, pursuing her state licensure in Elementary and Special Education.

**Infinity Ballet Conservatory and Theatre**  
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919-303-1105



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