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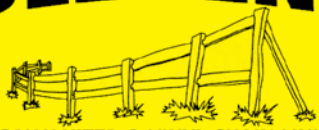

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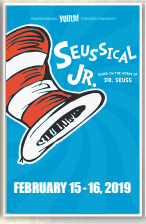

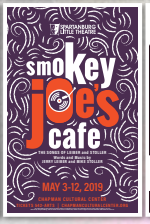

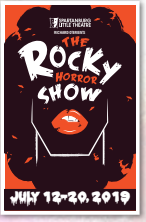

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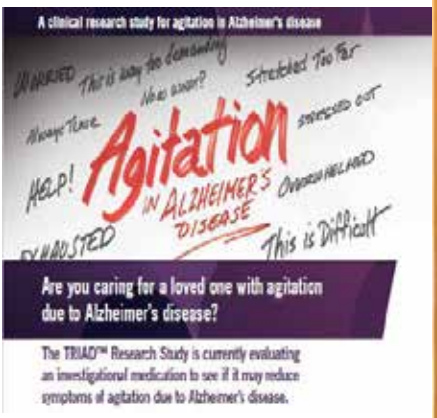

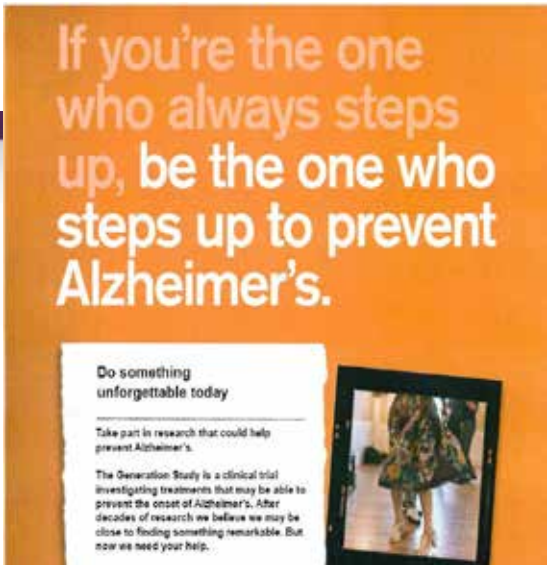

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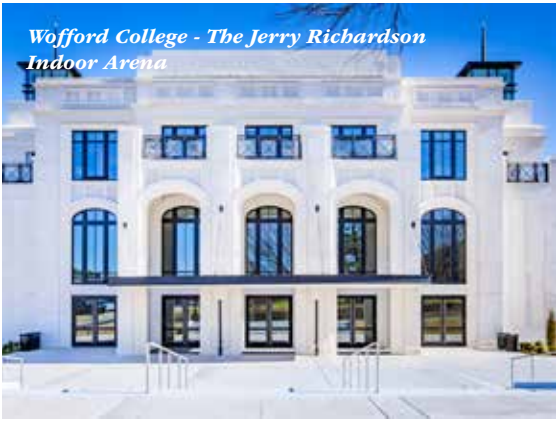
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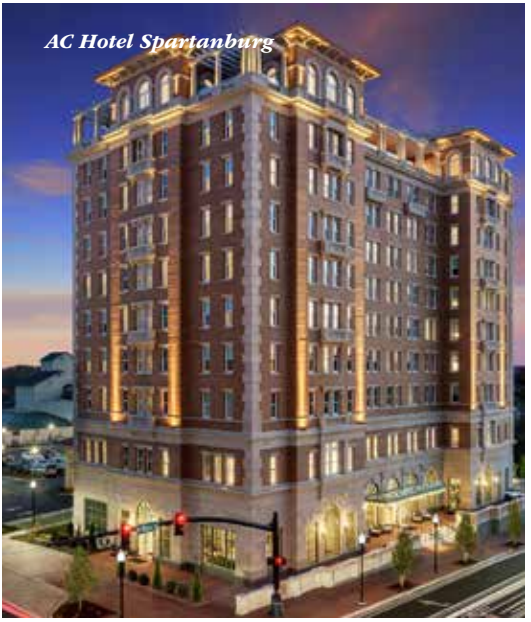
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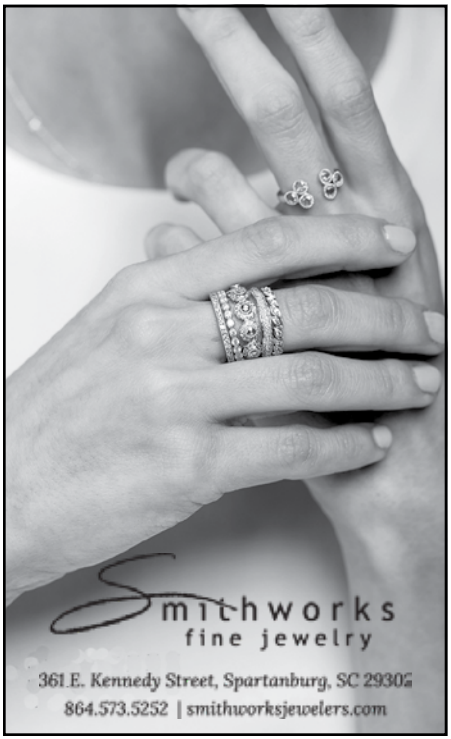

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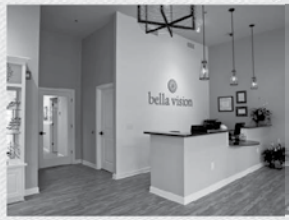

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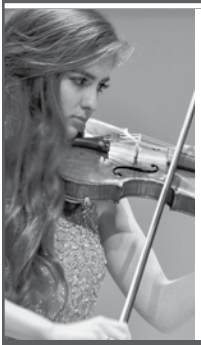

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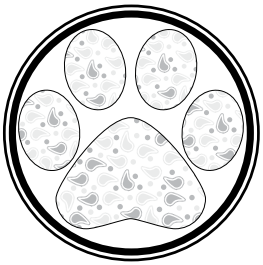

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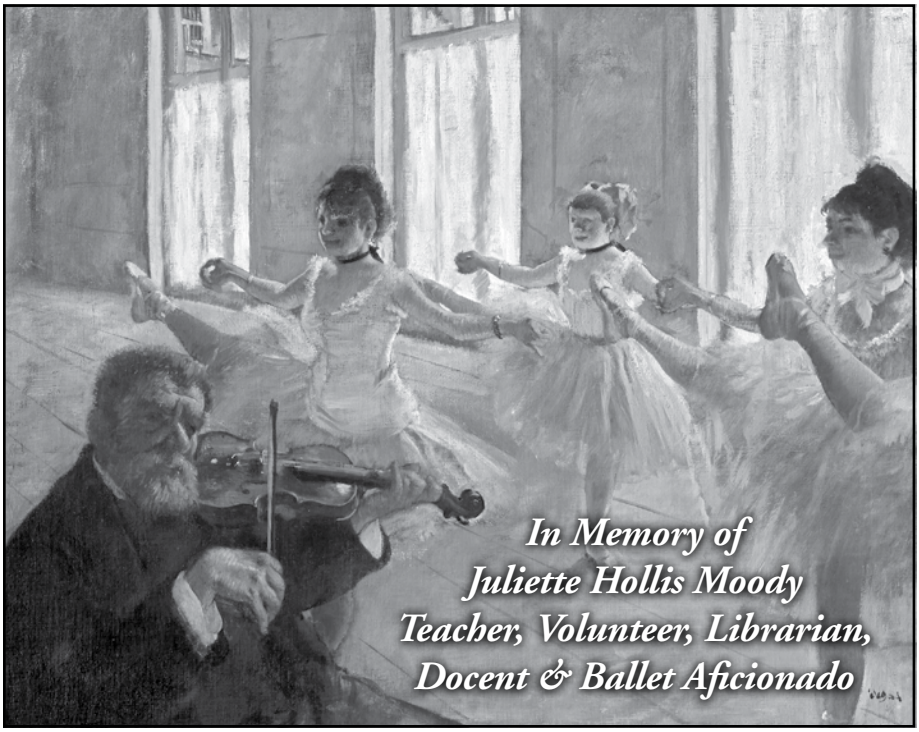

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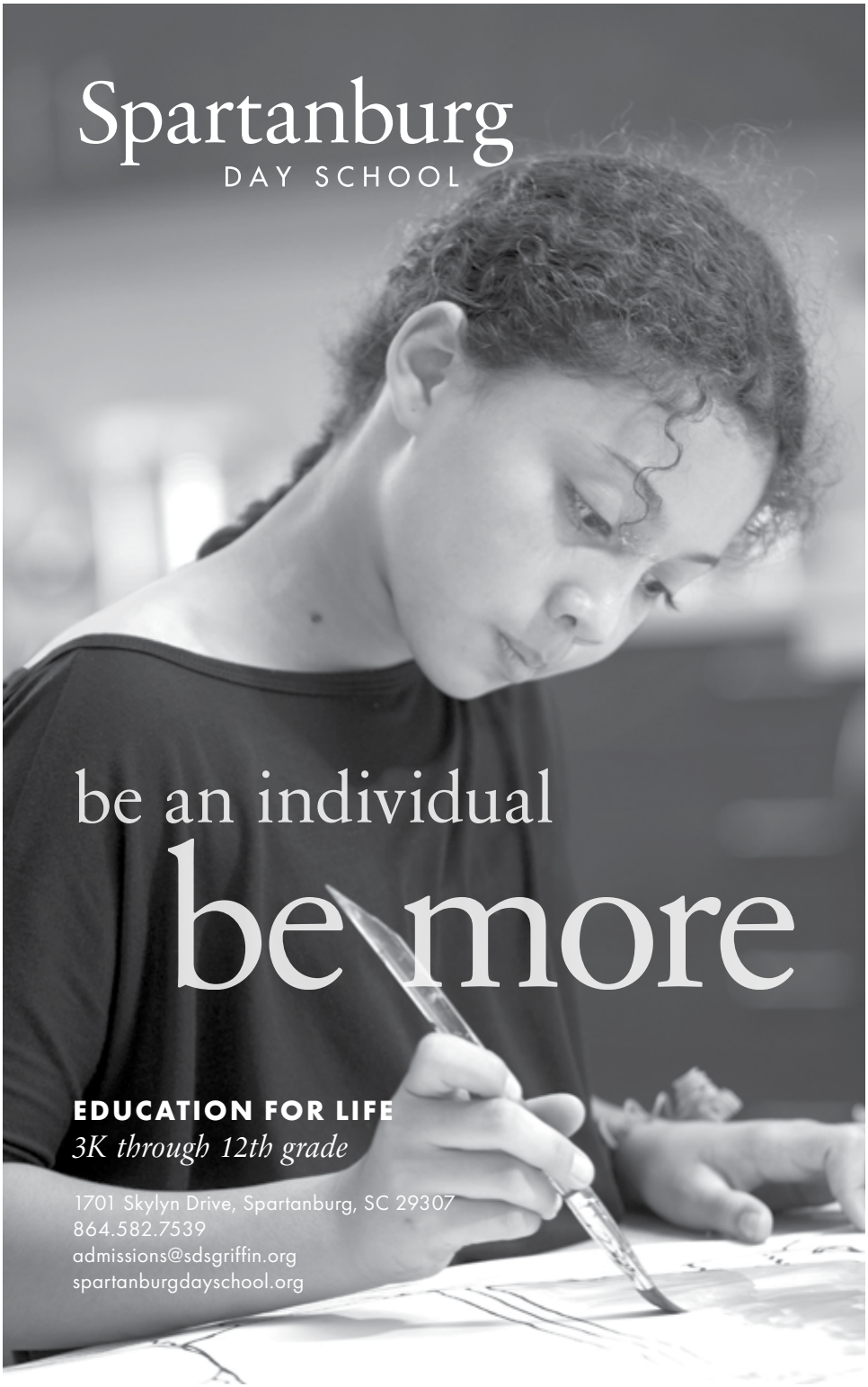
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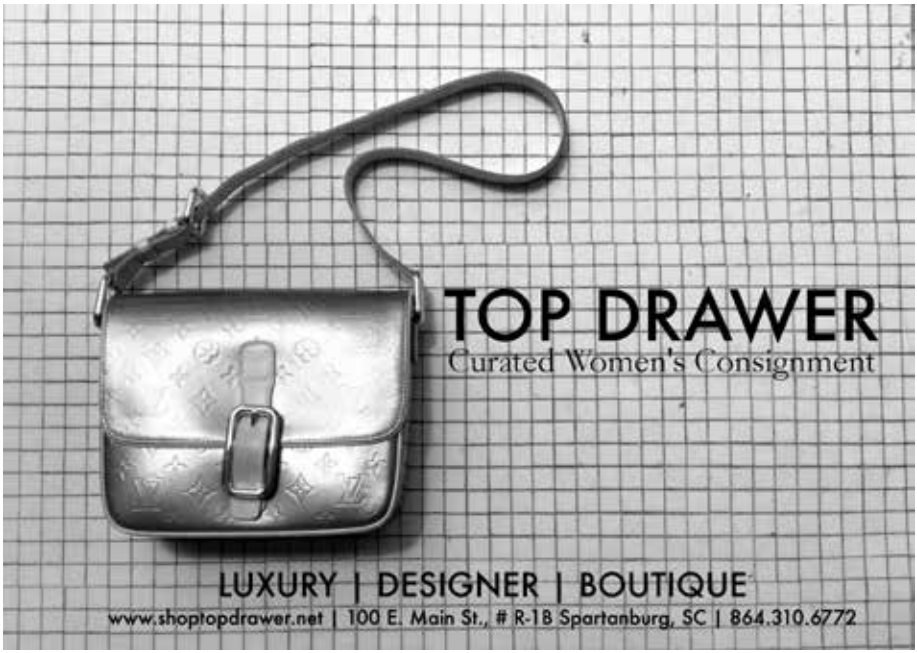

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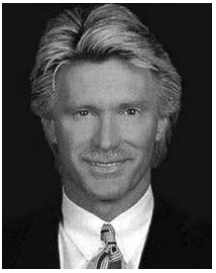

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BALLET SPARTANBURG ARTISTIC STAFF

CARLOS AGUDELO ***ARTISTIC DIRECTOR***

Born in Colombia, South America, Mr. Agudelo began his training with the Atlantic Foundation for the Performing Arts in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, under the direction of Ruth Petrinovic. He received a scholarship to study at the Harkness Ballet School in New York City with David Howard. He danced with the Israel Classical Ballet in Tel Aviv, Israel and with the International Ballet de Caracas under the direction of former Harkness Ballet dancer, Vicente Nebrada. With Ballet de Caracas, Mr. Agudelo toured all over the world including a season at City Center in New York. He performed in works by John Butler, Margo Sappington, Vicente Nebrada, George Balanchine and Alvin Ailey who coached him in Mr. Ailey's ballet *The River.* He also danced with Ballet Hispanico of New York under the direction of Tina Ramirez, in works by Tally Beatty, Jeoffrey Holder, Lynn Taylor Corbett, and many other innovative choreographers. Mr. Agudelo has been Ballet Spartanburg's Artistic Director since 1991. His choreography includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream. Carnival of Animals, DanSynergy, The Nutcracker, Coppélia, Peter and the Wolf, Fairy Tales (The Magic Pearl), Altered States, Carmina Burana, The Hobbit, Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, The Sleeping Beauty, The Little Mermaid, An American in Paris, The Great Gatsby and West Side Story.* Under his direction, Ballet Spartanburg has performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, the Koger Center in Columbia, the Peace Center in Greenville, in Tryon and at the Foundation for the Performing Arts in Rutherford County, NC. Also under his direction, Ballet Spartanburg has performed his choreography in operas for the Converse College Petrie School of Music including *Oh, Susannah!, La Traviata, Carmen*, and *Hansel and Gretel.*

LONA GOMEZ

BALLET MASTER/CENTER FOR DANCE EDUCATION PRINCIPAL

Lona Gomez is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. She was awarded a Ford Foundation Scholarship to train with the Boston Ballet School. She became a member of Boston Ballet II as well as an apprentice with the Boston Ballet Company under founder and director, the late E. Virginia Williams. She then was offered a contract with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where she danced for 9 years under the direction of Patricia Wilde, former principal dancer with New York City Ballet. She danced corps, soloist, and principle roles in full length classical ballets as well as many Balanchine ballets. Her noted soloist roles include the Scotch Lass in Balanchine's Scotch Symphony, the soloist girl in *Balanchine's Donizetti Variations, Valse Fantasie, Tarantella, Allegro Brilliante, Four Temperaments*, and *Serenade*. Her noted roles in the classics include Myrtha and Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle*, Pas de Trios and 4 Cygnets in *Swan Lake*, and "Grisi" in *Pas de Quatre*. She has worked with Lisa DeRibere, Daniel Levins, Frederick Franklin, Paul Sutherland, Larry Long, as well as Victoria Simon and Susan Pillar of the NYCB Trust. As the principal of the Center for Dance Education for 23 years, she has developed a successful spiral-based school syllabus. Under her direction, the school continues to be committed to inspiring excellence in dance training. Under her tutelage her students have continued to dance professionally in ballet companies across the world as well as continue their academic studies in elite higher institutions. She choreographs for the Advanced Division and The Company. In September 2016, Lona's piece entitled Passages was selected to be presented at TedxTryon in North Carolina. In 2017, Lona choreographed a piece entitled, *I Am I Am, for DanSynergy 9.*

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BALLET SPARTANBURG
2018-2019 COMPANY DANCERS

CHARLIE CARROUTH was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She has been a student at Ballet Spartanburg since 2007 and has performed many ballets such as *The Nutcracker, Hansel and Gretel, Cinderella, The Little Mermaid, An American in Paris, The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Great Gatsby.* Charlie has trained at summer intensives with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Charlotte Ballet, and Alonzo King LINES Ballet, where she had the opportunity to train under the direction of choreographer and artistic director Alonzo King. This is Charlie's second year with The Company and her first year as an apprentice. She is very excited for Ballet Spartanburg's upcoming performance season.

GRAYSON DRIVER is originally from Apex, NC. She began dancing at Cary Ballet Conservatory, where she trained with Rossana Machi. She continued her training at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. Grayson went on to dance as a trainee and apprentice at Charlotte Ballet under Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, Patricia McBride, and Mark Diamond. She then went on to dance with Atlanta Festival Ballet, Southern Arc Dance Theater, and Ballet Evolution. While dancing with Ballet Evolution, Grayson had the opportunity to perform many soloist roles in original works by Jonathan Tabbert, including the Serpent in *Creation*. In July 2017, she performed in *Light Lines*, a choreographic showcase by Crystal Wellman in collaboration with local artisans in Charleston, SC. During her first year with Ballet Spartanburg she danced the lead roles of Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* and Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*. Grayson is thrilled to be starting her second season with The Company.

DOMINIQUE GUERRA was born in Wellington, Florida and moved to South Carolina in 2010 where she began her training at the age of 10 under Lona Gomez and Carlos Agudelo at Ballet Spartanburg. She has performed in *The Nutcracker* as Clara, Columbine Doll, Mirliton, and other roles. She has also performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Cinderella, DanSynergy 8* and *9*, *Década, An American in Paris, The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Great Gatsby*. Dominique has attended two summer intensives with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and the last two years of summer intensives with Pacific Northwest Ballet. She is delighted to be dancing this year as a company dancer.

EMILY HODGE has studied at Ballet Spartanburg with Ballet Master Lona Gomez and Artistic Director Carlos Agudelo for 13 years. During that time she has performed in numerous ballets and danced the parts of Clara, Trepak, Mirliton, and Columbine in *The Nutcracker*, the Spring Fairy in *Cinderella*, and the Canary Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*. She has received additional training during summer intensives at Juilliard, Boston Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre in New York. She is looking forward to being part of the upcoming season as a trainee with The Company.

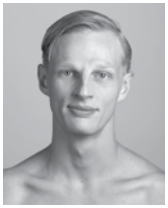
ISAAC MARTINEZ began his training at the Hartt School in Connecticut. He trained rigorously with faculty from Cuban National Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Royal Danish Ballet, Martha Graham Company, and José Limón company. In 2015, Isaac transferred to The University of Oklahoma where he finished his degree in Ballet Pedagogy. His repertoire includes works from *Don Quixote, Swan Lake, La Bayadére, The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Coppélia, Le Corsaire, The Firebird*, in addition to original works by faculty, students, and choreographers around the world. Isaac has choreographed and produced works of his own, which have been showcased in university productions, professional theater productions as well as international dance festivals. Isaac is thrilled to embark on his second season with The Company.

NICHOLA MONTT is originally from Boston, MA and received her training under the direction of Marylou Cunningham in Hanover, MA and at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, MA. She has also trained with the American Academy of Ballet, Festival Ballet Providence, and in Paris, France with Dance New York International. While in Paris, Nichola studied with teachers from the Paris Opéra Ballet, Stefanie Batten Bland and had the opportunity to perform a piece set by a member of the William Forsyth Company, at the invitation of Kazuko Hirabayashi. While with the Purchase Dance Company, Nichola performed multiple works by Jessica Lang. Ms. Montt graduated from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Arts Management. Upon graduation, she started her professional dance career dancing with XACO Contemporary Ballet in NY before joining Ballet Spartanburg. Nichola has performed lead roles in *The Nutcracker, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Cinderella, The Sleeping Beauty, The Great Gatsby, An American in Paris* and The Balcony Pas De Duex from *Romeo and Juliet*. Nichola has also performed with International Ballet Academy of Greenville in their production of *Giselle*. In September 2016, Nichola and former Company member Will Scott performed *Passages*, a duet choreographed by Lona Gomez for TedxTryon in North Carolina. This is Nichola's sixth season with Ballet Spartanburg.

CARRIE PREUS is originally from Augusta, GA and began her formal dance training under Ron and Kathleen Jones. When she was fifteen she decided to attend the University of North Carolina School of the Arts as a full-time high school ballet student. While at UNCSA, she had the privilege of studying under Ethan Stiefel, Nigel Burley, and Warren Conover. Upon graduation, Carrie became a trainee for Nashville Ballet, but found herself wanting to pursue a college education. In May of 2015, she graduated summa cum laude from Kennesaw State University with a B.A. degree in Dance with a concentration in Ballet. While in school, Carrie also danced professionally with The Georgia Ballet and other Atlanta area dance companies and collectives. After college, she joined Bodiography Contemporary Ballet in 2015. During her time there, Carrie danced several leading roles, including the lead in Maria Caruso's *Parabola*. Last season she danced the "White Cat" and "Carabosse" in *The Sleeping Beauty*, several lead roles in *The Nutcracker*, and "Jordan" in *The Great Gatsby*. She also has a huge passion for teaching dance. She has been teaching dance at a professional level since 2013. Carrie is very excited for her second season with Ballet Spartanburg.

JOHN ROCHE was born in Latvia. He was adopted and raised in Spartanburg. He began training at Ballet Spartanburg at the age of four, and has performed various roles such as Fritz and the Nutcracker in *The Nutcracker*, the boy in *Carnival of the Animals*, and Peter in *Peter and The Wolf*. John has attended summer intensives with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and USC Dance Conservatory in Columbia, SC, and has performed with SLT, SYT, Spartanburg Repertory Opera and Converse College Opera Theater. He is very excited about his first year as a trainee with The Company.

ANALAY SAIZ was born in Cuba. She studied and graduated from the National School of Arts in Havana, Cuba. Thereafter, she joined the National Ballet of Cuba. Ms. Saiz was also a member of Ballet de Camaguey, Ballet de Laura Alonso, National Ballet of Ecuador, Ballet Olinda Saul in Brazil, Ballet de Monterrey Mexico and was also a member of The Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami. Ms. Saiz has performed soloist roles in ballets such as *La Fille Mal Gardee, Carmen, Don Quixote, La Bayadere, Coppélia, Paquita, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Grand pas de deux Classique* among others. Ms. Saiz also participated as an international invited artist in many very important international ballet festivals, such as Fendafor International Festival and Amazonia International Festival. Through her career, she has had the pleasure of being taught by internationally renowned ballet teachers such as Fernando Alonso, Ramona de Saa and Rolando Sarabia. Analay is very pleased to be performing for her sixth season with Ballet Spartanburg.



BRENTON TAFT grew up in Salt Lake dancing with his family. He has performed several lead roles including Gaston from *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as the prince from *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. As a child he had the opportunity to perform with Ballet West's *The Nutcracker*. He went on to perform several lead roles with Mountain West Ballet, including the Arabian King in the *The Nutcracker* and Bottom in their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He attended Utah Valley University and danced with their performance company, Repertory Ballet Ensemble, where he was able to guest with Utah Regional Ballet taking on a variety of roles in their production of *Romeo and Juliet*. His most recent endeavors took him to Ballet Chicago where he trained in the Balanchine style and performed as the Dark Angel in *Serenade*. In their *Nutcracker* production he performed as the Snow King, Russian, and Rat King. He is thrilled to be dancing for the second season with The Company.

LUKE UMPHLETT is from Columbus, NC, and has been training with Ballet Spartanburg since 2013. He has performed in numerous ballets such as *The Nutcracker, The Sleeping Beauty, An American in Paris, The Great Gatsby, Cinderella, A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and many more. He has also been a guest artist at the Greenville Ballet in their production of *Coppélia*. Luke has trained at multiple summer intensives including the Ballet Conservatory of Asheville, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Ballet Chicago, and most recently, The Washington School of Ballet. Luke is very excited about his first year as a trainee with The Company.

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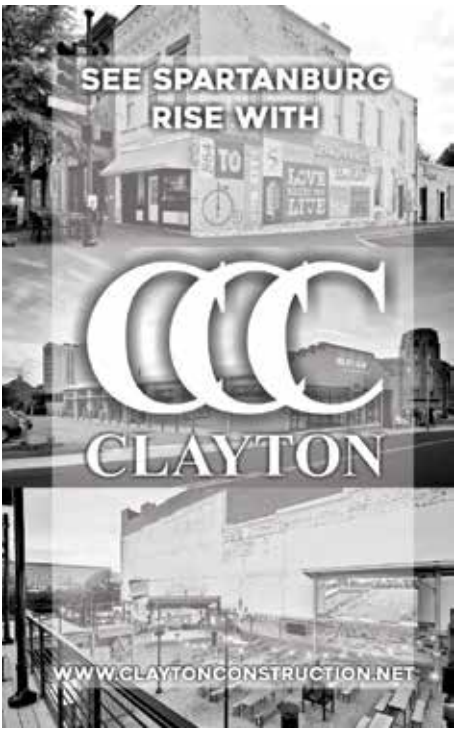

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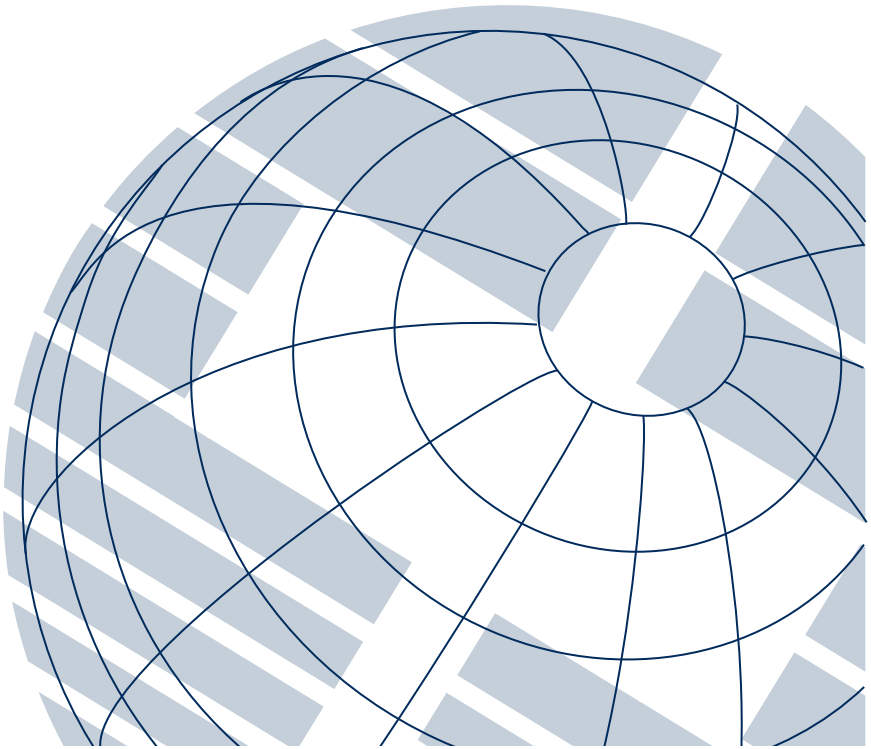

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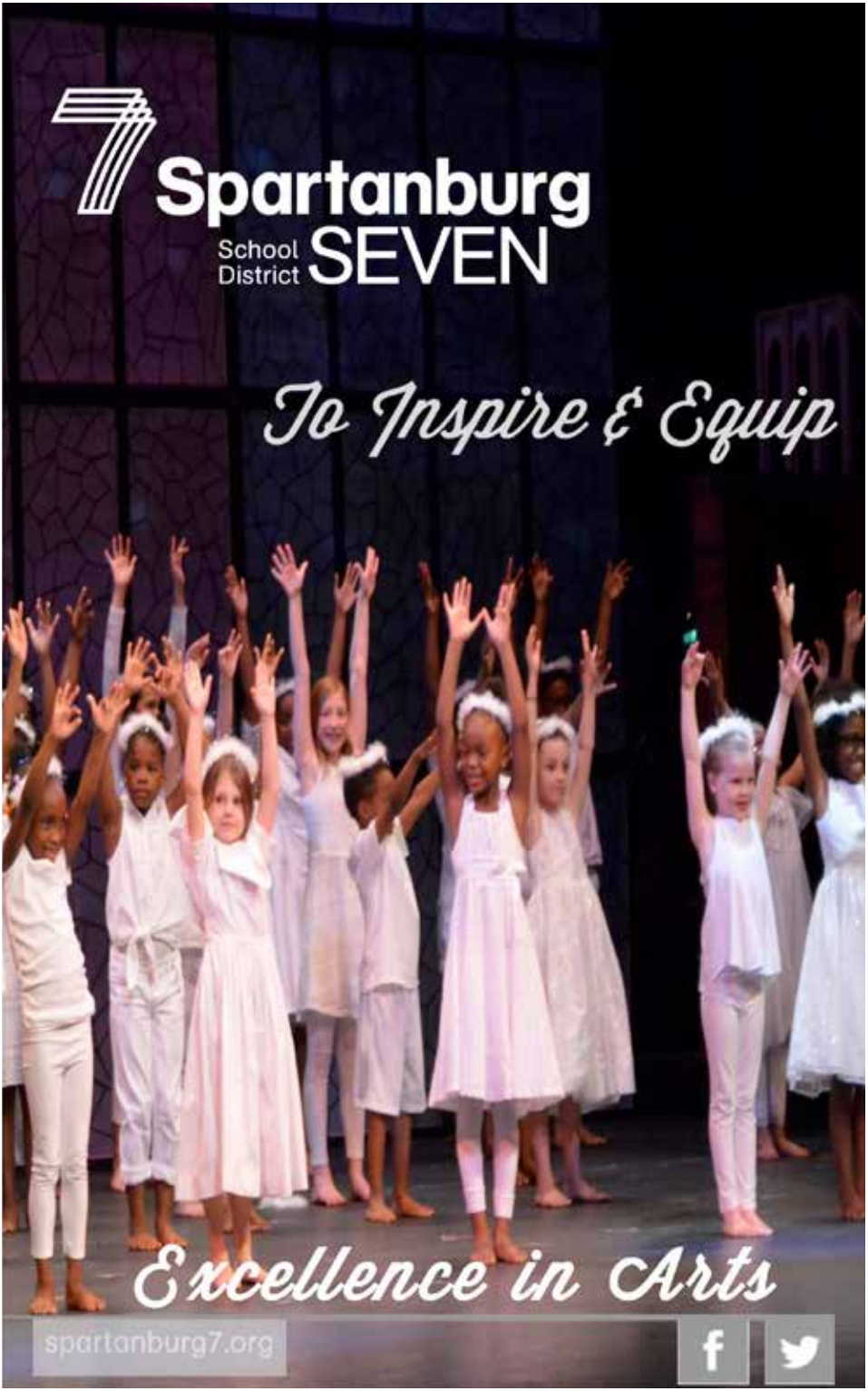
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