

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Amy Aldridge to Retire

*Culminating 23-year career at Pennsylvania Ballet with George Balanchine's Rubies*

**Philadelphia, PA (March 28, 2017)** – [Pennsylvania Ballet](#) Principal Dancer Amy Aldridge has announced she will retire after 23 seasons on stage with Pennsylvania Ballet, with a performance of George Balanchine's pas de deux from *Rubies* on Sunday, May 14 at 2pm at The Academy of Music.

"Amy is an exquisite dancer and exemplifies professionalism and what it means to be a principal dancer and a star," said Artistic Director Angel Corella. "I've admired her dancing for years, but after having the privilege to work with her I can now say I admire her as a person. She will always be a big part of the history of the Company. A performance of *Rubies* is the perfect way for us to celebrate her dedication, love, and passion for ballet during her time at Pennsylvania Ballet."

Born in Richmond, VA, Amy began her dance training at The School of Richmond Ballet and continued with The School of American Ballet and Boston Ballet before graduating from the North Carolina School for the Arts, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

Amy joined Pennsylvania Ballet for the 1994-1995 season and quickly rose through the ranks and earned the position of Principal Dancer in 2001. She has performed principal roles in numerous works, including *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Cinderella*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Square Dance*, *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, *Ballo della Regina*, *Theme and Variations*, *Tchaikovsky pas de deux*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, *Without Words*, *Petite Mort*, *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, *The Second Detail*, and most recently, *Le Corsaire*.

"I've spent 23 years of my life dedicated to this beautiful art form and it has given me so much in return," said Aldridge. "It feels right to retire this year with *Rubies*; I've always loved dancing Balanchine and *Rubies* has had a lasting impact on me since I first learned it."

*Rubies*, the second act of Balanchine's full-length ballet *Jewels*, is a clean, crisp piece which is influenced by Balanchine's experiences in urban America. Set to a jazz-inflected score by Igor Stravinsky, *Rubies* portrays the fast-paced and glamorous style of New York City.

Amy also created original roles for Dwight Rhoden's *2x7*, Trey McIntyre's *Cantilena*, Matthew Neenan's *Keep* and *As It's Going*, and Jorma Elo's *Pulcinella*. In May 2004, she performed as a guest artist with New York City Ballet dancing *Tarantella* as part of the George Balanchine Centennial Celebrations. She has also appeared with BalletX in Matthew Neenan's *Broke Apart*, Elo's *Scenes View 2*, and at Jacob's Pillow in the Summer of 2006.

“I feel fortunate to have gotten the opportunity to work under two amazing artistic directors and collaborate with so many talented choreographers,” said Aldridge. “My future is still full of dance, but in a different capacity. I love teaching and look forward to sharing my experience and knowledge with the next generation of dancers.”

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### **About Pennsylvania Ballet**

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the nation’s leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company’s annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works. For more information, visit [www.paballet.org](http://www.paballet.org), call 215.551.7000 or connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) to go behind the scenes at any time.

Pennsylvania Ballet’s season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and American Airlines.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts – a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency – and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

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