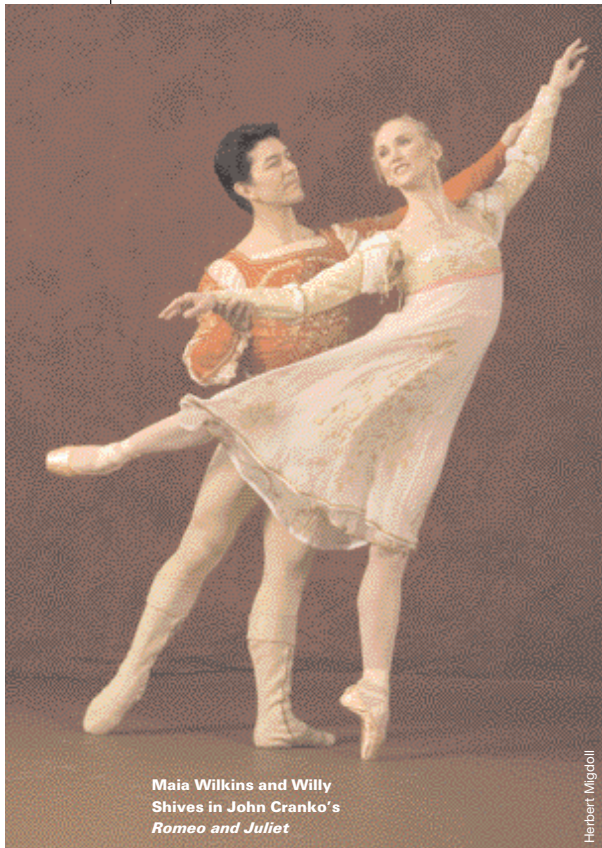


By Jocelyn Anderson

New Directions



Maia Wilkins and Willy Shives in John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*

Herbert Migdall

Taking Leave

Longtime Joffrey Ballet dancer Maia Wilkins ended her 17-year career with the company with a farewell performance in May. At press time, she was scheduled to dance Gerald Arpino's *Sea Shadow* with her husband, Michael Levine, and Arpino's *Ruth, Ricordi per Due* with longtime partner Willy Shives. New Artistic Director Ashley Wheeler did not renew Wilkins's and Levine's contracts for the 2008-09 season, stating his intention to showcase other talents within the company.

Wilkins trained at The Joffrey Ballet School on scholarship from the age of 16. She joined the company in 1991 and has since become one of the company's most known ballerinas. *Pointe* spoke to her in April to look back and find out about her plans for the future.

What have you learned most from your years at the Joffrey?

To remember why I do it. It's something that's been valuable. There are so

many highs as performers because you get to live your passion. But at the same time, because it's so important to you, when something doesn't go right, it's crushing. So I think it's remembering that balance.

What do you want to do next?

Neither one of us is stopping dancing, and we will continue performing and probably teaching. We both want to go back to school and pursue some of those interests. I want to do some writing. I'm also interested in documenting some of Mr. Arpino's work, not just notation, but the personal stories.

What are you looking forward to most now?

I've been to the Joffrey School, Joffrey II, Joffrey main company, and now everything is open. Where do we want to go? Our lives are no longer one career. It's really a total adventure. We are discovering that so much more is out there.

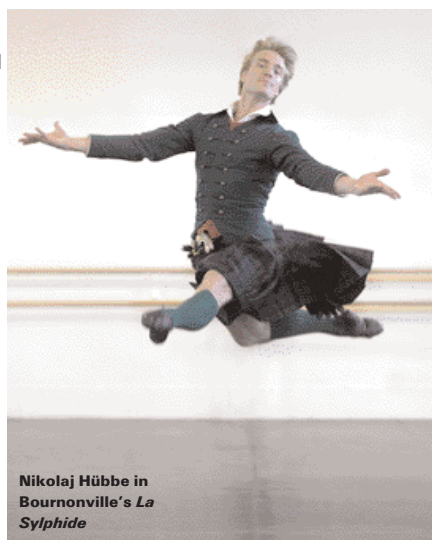
Farewell, Richmond

Anne Sidney Davenport, a dancer with Richmond Ballet for eight seasons and former Dayton Ballet dancer, retired from the stage with a farewell performance in George Balanchine's *Mozartiana* and the world premiere of Mauricio Wainrot's *Voyages* in May. Davenport joined Richmond Ballet in 1999 and has performed many of the full-length classics, as well as John Butler's *After Eden* opposite Desmond Richardson at New York City's Joyce Theater last year. A graduate of Butler University, she is now working on her certification as a child life specialist and will continue to teach at the School of Richmond Ballet.

Danish Departures

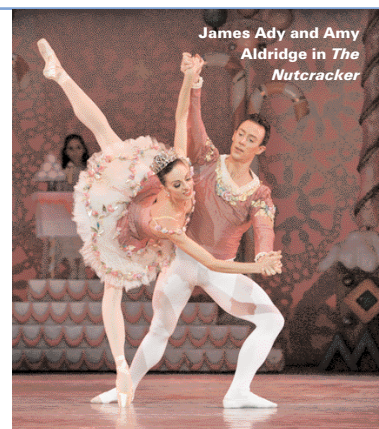
The Royal Danish Ballet marked three major departures in the spring. Nikolaj Hübbe, now retired from his position as principal at New York City Ballet, will take the helm of the RDB in July. So he was set to perform *La Sylphide* and Jorma Elo's

Lost on SLOW on April 8. Outgoing Artistic Director Frank Andersen's celebration also featured *La Sylphide*, as well as Act III of *Napoli* on May 23. Principal dancer Kenneth Greve's finale was *Onegin* on May 17.



Nikolaj Hübbe in Bournonville's *La Sylphide*

Martin Mydtskov Rønne



James Ady and Amy Aldridge in *The Nutcracker*

Paul Kohnik

University Bound

Pennsylvania Ballet principal James Ady retired from the stage in April when he performed as Franz in *Coppélia* one last time. Ady trained at the North Carolina School of the Arts, San Francisco Ballet School and Rock School before joining the PB corps de ballet in 1999, becoming a principal in 2005. He has enrolled at Boise State University in Idaho to study business, journalism and psychology.