

# JANEFRANKLINDANCE

## *The Big Meow*: family-friendly theatre

- a story about an orange fluff-ball told through movement, text and music

**What:** *The Big Meow*

**Featuring:** Jane Franklin Dance:  
Emily Crews, Carrie Monger, Matthew Rock, Amy Scaringe,  
Brynna Shank, Rebecca Weiss

Music: Mark Sylvester, Jonathan Matis, John Kamen & Mark Merella

**Where &  
When:** Theatre on the Run -  
3700 S Four Mile Run Drive  
Arlington VA 22206

January 14 and January 28, 2017 @ 3 pm

**Details:** [About \*The Big Meow\*](#)

Arlington, VA - Jane Franklin Dance announces performances of *The Big Meow* on January 14 and January 28, 2017 @ 3 pm at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, VA 22206

Specially adapted for young audiences, Jane Franklin Dance offers a family-friendly performance of *The Big Meow*. Little Cat is taunted by neighborhood felines because his meow is just too darn loud. The movement-based theatre performance is adapted from the children's book by Baltimore author Elizabeth Spires and tells the story of an ever-hopeful orange fluffball who desperately wants to belong to the band of neighborhood cats, but is ostracized for a "loud as a lion's roar" meow. *The Big Meow* is a story of hope, disappointment, courage and the need for belonging.

These simple themes are part of every neighborhood, but in this wonderful tale told through the experiences of Little Cat, a potential weakness is a unique strength.

Music is by several local composers including Mark Sylvester and Jonathan Matis, with a surf guitar medley arranged and recorded by John Kamen and Mark Merella

**Tickets:** \$13 General Admission  
\$9 Children under 12 years  
\$40 Family of 4  
Online: <http://www.janefranklin.com/performances/tickets>  
By Phone: 703.933.1111.  
Tickets Available at the door for \$15 General Admission, \$10 Children  
Directions to Theatre on the Run: <http://www.janefranklin.com/contact>

**Photos:** For high-resolution photos, please contact [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com) or 703.933.1111

**Contact:** Brynna Shank, Administrative Assistant 703-933-1111, [assistant@janefranklin.org](mailto:assistant@janefranklin.org)

Jane Franklin, Artistic Director; 703-933-1111, [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com)

### **About Jane Franklin Dance**

Jane Franklin Dance crosses disciplines in partnership with music, media, visual artists and community participants. A vibrant part of the Washington DC/Northern Virginia cultural community, Jane Franklin Dance has been presented at multiple venues and festivals and internationally in Mexico and in the U.K.. A recipient of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region Creative Communities Award, Jane has developed innovative and collaborative projects combining dancers with the round wall skateboarding community, with a life size kinetic sculpture, with the architecture of a specific site, with dogs & owners, and with interactive live video and sound for numerous public art projects. Jane Franklin is a recipient of the American Association of University Women Elizabeth Campbell Award for the Advancement of the Arts in Arlington, and Jane Franklin Dance has been recognized by Virginia's Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The company tours for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Paul Mellon Arts in Education Program and the Virginia Commission's Tour Directory.

### **About Elizabeth Spires**

Elizabeth Spires is the author of six collections of poetry for adults, most recently THE WAVE-MAKER, and six books for children, including THE MOUSE OF AMHERST, I AM ARACHNE, and I HEARD GOD TALKING TO ME: WILLIAM EDMONDSON AND HIS STONE CARVINGS. She lives in Baltimore and teaches at Goucher College where she directs the Kratz Center for Creative Writing. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *The New Criterion*, *The Paris Review* and many other literary magazines and anthologies. She has been the recipient of the Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship, a Whiting Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Witter Bynner Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, two Ohioana Book Awards, and the Maryland Author Award from the Maryland Library Association.

### **About Mark Sylvester**

Composer and multi-instrumentalist Mark Sylvester strives to blend the sounds, styles, and instruments of American folk music with the experimental spirit of contemporary classical and art rock music. He performs as a solo guitarist and singer-songwriter, as an accompanist, and as a member of Great Noise Ensemble. His compositions can be heard on his two solo CDs: "New Music for Banjo" (2009), which was awarded the 2009 WAMMIE Award for Classical Recording; and "American Gypsy" (2003), a collection of 15 original pieces for solo guitar. In addition to performing as a soloist and with GNE, Mark is active in the Washington area's folk and acoustic music scene. He performs and records with many of the area's singer-songwriters, and he has earned numerous WAMMIE nominations for Contemporary Folk Instrumentalist. From 1997 to 2001, Mark was a member of the avant-folk group, Tree Surgeons. They appeared at festivals, art galleries, clubs, cafes, bookstores and headlining performances from Massachusetts to Virginia, performing original acoustic music from their two CDs, *Witness* (2000) and *Eye of Time* (1998).

### **About Jonathan Matis**

Jonathan Matis has been composing and performing many types of music professionally since 1993. His interest in combining improvisation and composition led him to graduate studies in composition at the Hartt School of Music where he studied with Robert Carl and David Macbride. In May of 2008, Jonathan toured the United States playing guitar with Joe Lally (of Fugazi). In March of 2006, he was invited to Philadelphia to compose and perform as part of a residency with Pauline Oliveros and her Deep Listening Band. In the summer of 2005, he was selected for participation in the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium. He has been leading his own genre-bending ensembles for over fifteen years, and has performed in venues across the country; as diverse as the Kennedy Center and CBGB's. Jonathan has been collaborating with a variety of choreographers for the past several years, and has generated many pieces for dance. He has been a finalist for the Metro DC Dance Award in music composition for three consecutive years. Jonathan leads the DC Improvisers Collective, a free jazz ensemble; the Low End String Quartet, a re-imagining of the classical standard; and *Eigenvalues*, a duo project exploring the possibilities of spoken-word and electronic processing.