

Ballet Virginia International Presents

“The Nutcracker”

Symphonic Orchestra to accompany Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

Norfolk, VA—November 19, 2012--Ballet Virginia International (BVI) is proud to present “The Nutcracker,” a Hampton Roads family tradition, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts. BVI is the only pre-professional ballet company in Hampton Roads to perform this beloved holiday classic, featuring BVI’s Performing Company, guest artists from renowned dance companies across the nation, a cast of over 100 young dancers from the Hampton Roads community, and live musical accompaniment by Symphonicity.

BVI’S reputation in creating and producing professional quality performances has enabled the ballet to attract acclaimed artists and train the next generation of dancers. BVI’s 5th anniversary marks an exciting milestone with Haley Ann Vasco, a BVI Performing Company member, performing the lead role of Dream Clara. Upon high school graduation next year, Vasco is headed for a professional career in dance.

“This will give our resident ballerina, Helen Watson, an opportunity to show her maturity and technical prowess as Sugar Plum Fairy,” said Janina Michalski Bove, Co-Artistic Director for BVI. Ms. Watson has become an audience favorite and is sure to once again please the audience with her new role. Joining Watson will be Duncan Cooper as the Cavalier. Cooper’s professional credits include San Francisco Ballet and Dance Theater of Harlem.

BVI is proud to unveil yet another addition to its spectacular “Nutcracker” sets. For the 5th anniversary performances, BVI will have a new “front of the house” set. Through continuous updating and additions, BVI is able to keep audiences amazed and delighted with not only the quality of the dancing but the production as a whole, including live music.

“We are very excited to be working with Symphonicity once again this year,” said Suzanne Lownsbury Long, Co-Artistic Director for BVI. “Live music brings depth to the production and gives our dancers and the audience a rich experience.”

Maestro David S. Kunkel will be conducting the live orchestra of over 50 musicians in all three public performances at the Sandler Center. The orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky’s original score and include strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, celesta and more. The orchestra consists of members of Symphonicity, the Symphony Orchestra of Virginia Beach, which is also a resident company at the Sandler Center. More information on Symphonicity can be found at www.symphonicity.org.

For over a decade, Bove and Long have produced an annual Hampton Roads “Nutcracker” as Co-Artistic Directors. The duo’s past “Nutcracker” productions have graced the stages of Chrysler Hall, the Harrison Opera House and now the Sandler Center. BVI is the resident ballet company at the Sandler Center. Last year’s “Nutcracker” performances drew more than 4,000 in attendance.

Tickets for BVI's production of "The Nutcracker" at the Sandler Center range in price from \$20 to \$47 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, www.coxtix.com or 1-888-3-COXTIX. Clara's Sugar Plum Dessert Tea Parties will be hosted by performers after the matinee performances at the Sandler Center December 8th and 9th. Tickets for the Tea are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, www.coxtix.com or 1-888-3-COXTIX.

School performances, at discounted prices, will be offered at the Sandler Center Dec. 6 and 7 at 10 a.m., providing local students the opportunity to experience this classic holiday event. Contact schoolshows@balletva.org for further information.

BVI will also perform an abridged version of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 1 and 2 at the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts.

Please visit www.balletva.org for additional information and our season performance schedule.

About Ballet Virginia International

Co-founded by Janina Michalski Bove and Suzanne Lownsbury Long, BVI is committed to providing dancers in the Hampton Roads community with a professional dance education, training and technique, as well as fostering a love of movement and the arts. With a combined experience of over 100 years, our instructors are dedicated to bringing students to the highest technical and artistic level possible by freely sharing their talents.

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