

# **Ballet Virginia International Presents**

## ***“Snow White”***

### ***Sandler Center for the Performing Arts***

**Norfolk, VA—February 4, 2013** -- Ballet Virginia International (BVI) is proud to present “Snow White,” March 9 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach. BVI is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Hampton Roads premiere pre-professional ballet company.

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. The cast will feature BVI’s Performing Company, guest artists from renowned dance companies across the nation and a cast of over 100 young dancers from the Hampton Roads community. The full-length classical ballet will be directed and choreographed by BVI’s co-artistic directors as well as additional choreography by Lydia Roberts Coco.

Helen Watson, BVI’s resident ballerina, will dance the lead role of Snow White. She is delighted that her former Nutcracker Cavalier, Seth Parker, will dance the role of Prince in the ballet. Parker has danced with Ohio Ballet and as a soloist with Ballet San Jose.

Other major roles will be danced by BVI’s Performing Company, a dedicated group of young dancers who trains at least five days a week in addition to rehearsals for performances.

“Working with our dancers and watching them grow artistically is so exciting. The professionalism and work ethic they develop during the rehearsal process shows up in the most beautiful ways on stage,” said Suzanne Lownsbury Long, co-artistic director for BVI.

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. BVI first performed “Snow White” in 2008. The current production will feature additional dancers, some in new roles, as well as updated costumes. “We have come so far in the past five years,” said Janina Michalski Bove, co-artistic director for BVI. “We have a first-rate performing company as well as increased funding for sets and costumes. These elements allow us to continue to build on the already exceptional quality of our ballets.”

For over a decade, Bove and Long have been producing classical ballets such as “The Nutcracker,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “Alice in Wonderland” and others. The duo’s past productions have graced the stages of Chrysler Hall, 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 5,000 in attendance.

Tickets for BVI’s production of “Snow White” at the Sandler Center range in price from \$21 to \$35 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, or 1-888-326-9849. Please visit [sandlercenter.org](http://sandlercenter.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. Please visit [www.balletvirginia.org](http://www.balletvirginia.org) for information about the Academy and Performances.

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