



Ballet Virginia International Contact:  
Lisa McCarty, [lisambvi@gmail.com](mailto:lisambvi@gmail.com)  
757-446-1401

## Ballet Virginia International Presents “*Sleeping Beauty*”

Guest Artists from Orlando Ballet join the company

(Norfolk, VA—February 10, 2015) -- A breathtaking new staging of “Sleeping Beauty” from Ballet Virginia International will come to life at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Join the Lilac Fairy as she saves Aurora and her kingdom from the evil Carabosse’s jealous rage. “Sleeping Beauty” is a time-honored and favorite fairytale of love and hope. This beautiful ballet will be sure to delight adults and children of all ages with its splendor and tradition.

The original choreography and staging dates back to the great Russian tradition of Petipa. But with the creativity and artistry of BVI’s co-directors, Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski-Bove, the ballet has been restaged with contemporary audience in mind. Along with additional choreography by BVI faculty member Lydia Coco, the fresh approach will draw ballet lovers deep into this magical fairytale.

We are excited to have an amazing cast of guest artists which include Ballet Virginia International’s “home grown” ballerina LeeAnn Walker currently dancing with [Roanoke City Ballet](#). Ms. Walker will be performing the role of the Princess Aurora. Also joining us is Mario Chimal from [Orlando Ballet](#). Mr. Chimal will perform the role of Prince Florimund. Rie Matsuura and Tanner Blee, also from Orlando Ballet, will perform the roles of Princess Florine and Bluebird in the famous Bluebird pas de deux and variations.

Adding to this brilliant cast will be BVI crowd pleaser, Cornelius Bartlett as *Puss in Boots* and Helen Watson, returning to our stage, as White Cat. Other guest artists include Stephen Gregory, formerly of [Ballet West](#), as the evil fairy Carabosse and Ballet Virginia International’s well-loved Children’s Program Director Lisa McCarty, formerly with [Nevada Ballet Theatre](#), appearing as the Queen.

Since 2008, Michalski Bove and Lownsbury have brought to the stage many full-length ballets including “Snow White”, “Alice in Wonderland”, the annual “Nutmcracker” and many contemporary works as well. BVI is the resident ballet company at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach and a member of the [Southeastern Regional Ballet Association](#) (SERBA).

Tickets for BVI’s production of “Sleeping Beauty” at the Sandler Center range from \$18 to \$32 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, [www.ynottix.com](http://www.ynottix.com) or 1-877-YnotTix. Please visit [Ballet Virginia International's website](#) for additional information and our season performance schedule.

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### About Ballet Virginia International

Ballet Virginia International (BVI) is a regional ballet company with an associated academy which provides professional quality productions/performances and training for classical ballet dancers in the Hampton Roads community. BVI will uphold the standards required to maintain membership standing with the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (SERBA) of Regional Dance America. BVI will also provide opportunities for professional dancers, lighting, set and costume designers as well as choreographers while continuing education and outreach programs for our community-at-large.