



Ballet Virginia International Contact:
Lisa McCarty, lisambvi@gmail.com
757-446-1401

Norfolk, VA—May XX, 2015—Ballet Virginia International will finish its' 7th season with two joyous performances of original choreography. Join BVI on Saturday, May 30th 2 PM or 7 PM at the [Barry Robinson Theater](#) in Virginia Beach for the first annual "Cupcake Concert" or on Sunday, June 7th at 4:30 PM at the [Sandler Center for the Performing Arts](#) for "Concert Classique".

The "Cupcake Concert" is a collaboration between BVI's junior company, the First Pointe Players and BVI's Company. First Pointe Players is a proud part of Ballet Virginia International and a training company for young dancers to advance their art by sharing it with the community. They perform in nursing homes, schools and libraries and have held workshops for scouts to educate them in the art of dance as they earn badges.

[BVI's Company](#) is a pre-professional ballet company whose dancers are chosen by BVI co-artistic directors, Janina Michalski Bove and Suzanne Lownsbury. The Company dances in BVI's annual production of "The Nutcracker" and a full-length spring ballet along with other smaller performances throughout the year. These talented dancers perform lead, soloist and corps de ballet roles along with nationally recognized guest artists.

The "Cupcake Concert" is a family friendly performance. Works from Sorrell, Lownsbury and Bove along with Lydia Roberts-Coco will expose young audience members to a wide range of dance style, mood and music. Tickets are \$10 at BVI or at the door. The performance will last a little over an hour including an intermission.

The final performance of the season is "Concert Classique". This joyous performance features both our company dancers and the academy dancers. Ages four and up share the stage and their joy with the audience at the Sandler Center. A variety of ballet, modern, jazz and tap add to the fun of this annual celebration of dance. Tickets are \$15 at BVI and \$20 at the door on Sunday, June 7th.

After the performances are done, many of BVI's company dancers will leave for the summer to continue their dance training at prestigious schools including Ballet Met, Ballet West, Houston Ballet, Orlando Ballet and Washington Ballet. Many of the dancers also received scholarships to attend. Back in Norfolk, BVI will continue training the next generation of dancers with a six-week summer session and then three weeks of workshops and intensives in August.

BVI's reputation in creating and producing professional quality performances along with a commitment to excellence in dance arts education has enabled the ballet to attract acclaimed guest teachers for our summer training. [Roni Mahler](#), an internationally recognized ballerina and master teacher will be the guest teacher for Workshop 2 (8/17 to 8/21). [Olivier Munoz](#) from Orlando Ballet will be the guest teacher for the pre-professional Intensive (8/24 to 8/28).

"Watching our dancers grow both technically and artistically is a joy" says Suzanne Lownsbury, BVI co-artistic director, "Having the training and performing opportunities available to them right here in Hampton Roads is a gift to not only them but also the people who come to see."

About Ballet Virginia International

Founded in 2008, BVI's Academy specializes in a diverse ballet syllabus inspired by the American, Russian, Italian and French schools. This solid technical base ensures added success in Modern Dance, Jazz and Character classes also offered at BVI. Musicality and artistry are developed joyously in a supportive environment. The professional quality productions allow select students and community dancers the opportunity to truly experience dance as a performance art.

