



BVI Media Contact:  
Lisa McCarty  
[lisambvi@gmail.com](mailto:lisambvi@gmail.com)  
757-446-1401

## *Ballet Virginia International Presents “Alice in Wonderland”*

*April 14th at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts*

(Norfolk, Va., March 7, 2018)—A tumble down a rabbit hole leads a young girl into a nonsensical world of colorful characters and curious adventures when [Ballet Virginia International](#) (BVI) presents “Alice in Wonderland”, April 14 at the [Sandler Center for the Performing Arts](#) in Virginia Beach. Featuring BVI’s company and students, as well as guest artists, the production is among a series of full-length classical ballets the company has presented over the past ten seasons, appealing to both young audiences and those who are young at heart.

“With Alice, we are creating a 21st-century, full-length story book ballet,” said Suzanne Lownsbury, Co-Artistic Director for BVI, the Sandler Center’s resident ballet company. “It has all the elements of a classic, like “Sleeping Beauty”, but updated for our times.”

This year’s production will feature original and updated choreography by Lownsbury, Co-Artistic Director Janina Michalski Bove and Lydia Roberts Coco, a BVI faculty member. The collaboration of these three talented choreographers makes for an innovative and entertaining production. “Lewis Carroll’s quirky and unusual story makes this both fun and challenging to stage,” said Bove. “The characters are unique and lend themselves to creative choreography.”

BVI’s reputation in creating and producing professional quality performances has grown since the company was launched in 2008, enabling the group to attract guest artists and nurture local talent. In the lead role of Alice will be BVI’s home-grown ballerina Kyra Coco. Local audiences have had the joy of watching Ms. Coco blossom from a promising young dancer to an accomplished ballerina over the past ten seasons of BVI productions. Lydia Roberts Coco, formerly with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, will dance the role of the Queen of Hearts.

Along with guest artists, the cast boasts BVI’s Company, younger BVI students and community dancers. The cast of 125 dancers allows BVI to offer the youth of Hampton Roads an unparalleled experience of being a part of a professional quality dance production committed to excellence in dance arts education.

In addition to watching the ballet, children ages 4 to 10 are invited to participate in our Spring Ballet Parade during intermission. Come as you are or dress up as your favorite “Alice in Wonderland” character. This fun event is free with ticket purchase.

BVI is the resident ballet company of the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach and a member of the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (RDA/SERBA). Tickets for

“Alice in Wonderland” range in price from \$18 to \$40 and can be purchased at the [Sandler Center Box Office](#), <http://www.ynottix.com/> or 1-877-YnotTix

Please visit [www.balletvirginia.org](http://www.balletvirginia.org) for additional information regarding this performance, the 2017/2018 season performance schedule or BVI's Academy.

# # #

#### About Ballet Virginia International

Co-founded by Janina Michalski Bove and Suzanne Lownsbury, [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, BVI instructors are dedicated to bringing students to the highest technical and artistic level possible by freely sharing their talents.