



Ballet Virginia Contact:
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From Ballet Virginia:

(Norfolk, VA — September 12, 2019) Ballet Virginia is excited to announce its first public performances as a professional ballet company. The 2019/2020 season will debut with "Masquerade" at the Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach.

"Masquerade" will showcase a pas de deux choreographed by [Jaquelyn Long](#), which was originally performed by the Houston Ballet. Resident Choreographer, Lydia Roberts Coco, will create two new works, "No Mo' Cantina" and "Dark Instincts", for the professional company. Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski, Ballet Virginia's Artistic Directors, will also choreograph as well as oversee the entire mixed repertoire production. New creations by current company members will round out the entertaining and diverse production.

The addition of a professional company will raise the performance quality of Ballet Virginia throughout the season. This 12th season includes the "Masquerade" performances on October 25th and 26th at the Zieders American Dream Theater, eight performances of "The Nutcracker" from December 18th to 22nd at The Sandler Center, "Diversity in Dance" on February 28th and 29th at the Attucks Theater and "Sleeping Beauty" on April 4th and 5th at The Sandler Center. Live orchestra accompaniment from Symphonicity is planned for "The Nutcracker". Educational outreach, small venue performances and collaboration with other local arts organizations will add to the first season.

"Thanks to the growth and success of our academy and pre-professional company we are now able to support a professional company. Having a professional company will allow us to do more outreach and perform challenging repertoire," said Suzanne Lownsbury, Ballet Virginia Artistic Director and Choreographer.

"Working with a permanent group of professionals allows our artistic staff to create a look and style that is unique to Hampton Roads," said Janina Michalski, Ballet Virginia Artistic Director and Choreographer. "Masquerade has a wide variety of both dance genres and choreographic styles which will keep the audience entertained and engaged."

Tickets for Ballet Virginia's production of "Masquerade" at Zieders American Dream Theater range in price from \$25 to \$35 and can be purchased at the theater box office or online at (thez.org/show/masquerade/).

Please visit [Ballet Virginia's website](#) for additional information and season performance schedule.

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About Ballet Virginia

Ballet Virginia is a professional ballet company with an associated academy. The organization provides professional quality productions, performances and training for the Hampton Roads community. Ballet Virginia upholds the standards for membership standing with the Regional Dance America. The organization also provides opportunities for lighting, set and costume designers as well as choreographers while continuing education and outreach programs for our community-at-large.

The academy draws from a diverse ballet syllabus inspired by the American, Russian, Italian and French schools. This solid technical base ensures added success in other dance genres offered at the Academy. Our professional productions allow selected students and community dancers the opportunity to experience dance as a performance art.

Our Mission

At Ballet Virginia we are committed to supporting our mission of fostering a lifelong passion for dance through nurturing education, invigorating performances and artistic excellence. Our two academies teach to the whole child by instilling discipline, self-confidence, joy and sense of teamwork. Our performances are of the highest caliber as academy students perform side by side with top-tier professionals. We uphold the highest standards and strive to maintain artistic excellence in all our endeavors.