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Ballet Virginia Presents:

"The Nutcracker"

***Coastal Virginia's professional ballet company
with full orchestra from Symphonicity***

(Norfolk, VA — October 15, 2019) – A young girl's dream of a magical Nutcracker that comes to life will fill the stage when Ballet Virginia presents "The Nutcracker," Dec. 20th at 7:30 PM, Dec. 21st at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM and Dec. 22nd at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach.

This twelfth annual "Nutcracker" is also a first for Ballet Virginia with its' professional company of ten dancers. The professional company members will dance alongside our region's finest young dancers in this beloved holiday classic.

Ballet Virginia's reputation for creating and producing high quality performances has enabled the organization to attract talented professional dancers from all over the country as well as train the next generation of dancers. Principal roles will be danced by these talented professional dancers. The dancers will be accompanied by full orchestra from Symphonicity.

Daniel W. Boothe, Symphonicity's music director, will conduct the live orchestra of over 50 musicians in all five public performances at the Sandler Center. The orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's original score and include strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp and celesta.

"We are so excited to have a professional company to work with this season. This group of talented artists will bring refined artistry and brilliant technique to the stage" said Suzanne Lownsbury, co-artistic director and choreographer for Ballet Virginia.

This year, audiences will again notice new touches, including updated choreography, new characters, costumes and our new company members. "We continue to make our 'Nutcracker' a true Hampton Roads creation," said Janina Michalski, co-artistic director and choreographer for Ballet Virginia. "Our sets are locally designed and produced, the choreography is created right here in our studios with our own company dancers, the musicians are local and of course our student dancers are growing up and training right here in the community."

After a successful first year, Ballet Virginia is again bringing together Hampton Roads animal lovers and the local arts community with the "guest" appearance of a dog to the Act I Party Scene. The part will be played by a different dog each show.

For many years, Michalski and Lownsbury have produced an annual Hampton Roads "Nutcracker" as co-artistic directors. The duo's past "Nutcracker" productions have graced the stages of Chrysler Hall, Harrison Opera House and now, for the tenth year, the Sandler Center. Ballet Virginia is the resident ballet company at the

Sandler Center. Last year's "Nutcracker" performances, which included four public performances and three student matinees, drew more than 6,000 audience members. Due to the high attendance, the company has added an additional evening performance on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 7:30 PM.

Tickets for Ballet Virginia's production of "The Nutcracker" with live orchestra at the Sandler Center range in price from \$22 to \$59 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, www.ynottix.com or 1-877-YNOTTIX. Student matinees will be offered at discounted prices at the Sandler Center Dec. 18th, 19th and 20th at 10 a.m., providing local students the opportunity to experience this classic holiday event. Further information and reservations can be found by [contacting Ballet Virginia](#).

Please visit [Ballet Virginia's website](#) for additional information and our 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 Regional Dance America. The organization also provide 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 modern, jazz, tap and character dance classes also 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 in all our students. 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.