



Ballet Virginia

Contact: Lisa McCarty at [lisa@balletvirginia.org](mailto:lisa@balletvirginia.org)

or Amy Sokol at [amy@balletvirginia.org](mailto:amy@balletvirginia.org)

PH. 757-446-1401

## **Local Dancer wins Regional Dance America Outstanding Soloist Award**

From Ballet Virginia:

April 17, 2020 -- Ballet Virginia student, Abbie Siebert has been selected as the 2020 RDA Outstanding Senior Classical Soloist. This prestigious award is given by Regional Dance America (RDA). RDA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is elevating the future of dance in America – giving dancers experience and directors perspective. Through the annual adjudication process, regional and national festivals, and the National Choreography Intensive, RDA inspires a community of excellence in dance education and

performance.

Abbie is currently a Ballet Virginia second company (BVII) member and a sophomore at Norfolk Collegiate. Prior to COVID-19, she danced almost 30 hours a week at Ballet Virginia. Currently she trains at home, with classes six days a week via Zoom with Ballet Virginia faculty. Abbie won the outstanding senior classical soloist award for her performance of Medora from the ballet *Le Corsaire*. She worked with Colin Jacob, Ballet Virginia company member, who coached her to perform the variation for both RDA and YAGP (Youth American Grand Prix). Preparation and rehearsals began in August. She estimates she put in 45 hours of practice before performing for the RDA adjudicator in February. The piece shows off Abbie's technique, fluid movements, musicality and artistry.

In a typical year, Abbie would perform her solo in front of hundreds of dancers, teachers and directors at a theater along with other top soloist and ensemble works. This year, due to COVID-19, the RDA Southeast Regional Festival was cancelled. Instead, each soloist will be featured on RDA's social media channels in the coming weeks.

When asked about winning this prestigious award and then not being able to perform it live, Abbie says, "I feel really disappointed about not being able to experience performing my solo in front of a live audience. I'm trying to just focus on the fact that I received the award and to feel good about that."

She is looking forward to being back in the Ballet Virginia studios soon as well as attending Texas Ballet Theater's Summer Intensive. With her rigorous training schedule, strong work ethic and natural talents Abbie plans to become a professional ballet dancer.

Please visit [Ballet Virginia's website](#) for additional information about our training and performances.

# # #

### **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**

Ballet Virginia is committed to our mission of fostering a lifelong passion for dance through nurturing education, invigorating performances, and artistic excellence. In this capacity, it is our vision to enrich the lives of all Hampton Roads residents through dance. We believe that diversity, equity and inclusion allow for more meaningful experiences, and that dance provides an opportunity to bring people of all backgrounds together to create a community that is richer, stronger and more innovative.