



Ballet Virginia

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## Local Dancer Earns Spot at Prestigious Ballet Company

From Ballet Virginia:

October 17, 2020 – Former Ballet Virginia student,

Kyra Coco has been selected for a position with American Ballet Theatre Studio Company.

According to the Company's website, "The central mission of ABT Studio Company is to prepare its exceptionally promising dancers (ages 16-20) for careers in American Ballet Theatre's main Company or other leading ballet companies worldwide. ABT Studio Company serves as the crucial vehicle for transitioning from student to professional performer. Nearly 80% of current American Ballet Theatre dancers are alumni of ABT Studio Company, including nine Principal Dancers and thirteen Soloists."

Kyra began her dance training at age three with current Ballet Virginia Children's Program Director, Lisa McCarty. With guidance from her mother, a former principal Alvin Ailey dancer and current Resident Choreographer at Ballet Virginia, Kyra continued training with Ballet Virginia faculty who quickly realized her immeasurable talent. During her years at Ballet Virginia, Artistic Directors Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski cast her as Clara in "The Nutcracker", Alice in "Alice in Wonderland" and made her the youngest dancer ever to be part of Ballet Virginia II.

Starting at age 11, her summers were filled with intensive training at Houston Ballet and Orlando Ballet – both with full scholarships. At the age of 15, Kyra began training year-round with Houston Ballet, again on a full scholarship. She also competed in YAGP (Youth American Grand Prix) at age 9 and went on to compete in the New York finals.

Ms. Coco is from Chesapeake and attended Western Branch High School before leaving for Houston. With her undeniable talent, strong work ethic and kind heart, Kyra is sure to find success in this incredibly competitive field.

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

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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. 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 innovative.