



BALLET VIRGINIA PRESENTS

# HOME *for the* HOLIDAYS



## HOLIDAYS AT THE Z

Filmed Live at Zeiders American Dream Theater

November 18, 2020

# BALLET VIRGINIA

## SUZANNE LOWNSBURY

Co-Artistic Director  
Choreographer

## JANINA MICHALSKI

Co-Artistic Director  
Choreographer

## LYDIA ROBERTS COCO

Resident Choreographer

## LISA MCCARTY

Children's Program Director  
Marketing Director

## COMPANY DANCERS

Rebecca Ailstock, Gianna Coco, Colin Jacob, Jackson Kettell, Julia Stewart, Casey Shephard,  
Leah Upchurch, Hayley Ann Vasco

## BALLET VIRGINIA II

Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Kaylee Bejarano, Amiee FitzPatrick, Reagan Hammond, Lauryn Hedelund, Emily Kodolitsch, Oliva Levy, Charlotte Mann, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Katherine Shillito, Leah Trimble

## ACADEMY FACULTY

Suzanne Lownsbury, Janina Michalski, Lydia Roberts Coco, Lisa McCarty, Patricia Sorrell, Hannah Whelton, Kimberly Lawver, Elbert Watson, Colin Jacobs, Rebecca Ailstock, Julia Stewart, Casey Shephard, Leah Upchurch, Delia Allen, Charlotte Mann, Emily Kodolitsch, Hayley-Ann Vasco, Lorraine Graves, Jackson Kettell

## PRODUCTION

Production Manager: David Latham  
Wardrobe: Mershonda Berry and Judy Fortier  
Set Design: Rett Hansel  
Photography: Hayley-Ann Vasco

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ballet Mistress: Hannah Whelton  
Building Manager: Rett Hansel  
Front Desk Staff: Gianna Coco, Spencer Long, Karen Shillito  
Volunteer Coordinator: Karen Shillito  
Guild Coordinator: Jennifer Kodolitsch

## BALLET VIRGINIA

700 West 21st Street in Norfolk  
*and*  
4314 Virginia Beach Blvd in Virginia Beach

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harry J. Brown, Esquire—Board Chair, Alperin Law Office, Legal Counsel

Grace Atkinson—Community-at-Large

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Patrick Francis—NATO

Jennifer Kodolitsch—Ballet Virginia Guild Representative

Suzanne Lownsbury—Ballet Virginia Co-Artistic Director

Janina Michalski—Ballet Virginia Co-Artistic Director

Page Miyares—Atkinson Realty Realtor

Lisa McCarty—Board Secretary

Amy Sokol—WHRO Vice President of Finance

**Board Advisors:** Lorraine Graves, Patricia Sorrell

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***We thank our board members for their continued support and contributions.***

***If you are interested in serving on the Ballet Virginia Board of Directors, please contact Suzanne Lownsbury at [suzanne@balletvirginia.org](mailto:suzanne@balletvirginia.org).***

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Ballet Virginia is a non-profit performing arts and arts education organization. Since 2008, we have offered performances and educational opportunities to the Hampton Roads community. Some of our proudest achievements include maintaining a professional company, opening a second location in Virginia Beach and offering excellent dance training.

In a typical year, tuition and performance tickets cover only a portion of our expenses. Now, during these unprecedented times, we need your help more than every. We have adapted to the new environment by offering small in-person classes and performances. These much-appreciated programs have taken effort, time and creativity. We are passionate and determined to weather this storm, but we need your support. Your donations will help us remain a part of this community for years to come.



# ARTISTIC STAFF

## **Suzanne Lownsbury– Co-Director/Choreographer**

Ms. Lownsbury began her training with the Toledo Ballet and Charlotte Regional Ballet, continuing her studies in Tidewater Ballet Association's residency program under the direction of Gene Hammett. Suzanne joined the Cleveland Ballet as a trainee, progressing to soloist and principal roles within a year. She went on to dance with the Cleveland/San Jose Ballet for eleven years. Her many featured roles include Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Maria and Tzarina in Dennis Nahat's renowned Nutcracker, Swanilda in Coppelia, the title role in Giselle and many neo-classical roles. She has toured throughout the United States and Europe, including a tour to the Edinburgh Festival.

Ms. Lownsbury moved back to the Hampton Roads area and joined Virginia Ballet Theatre, dancing such roles as the Greedy One in Three Virgins and a Devil, as well as Lucy in the world premiere of Dracula. She also joined the VBT academy faculty, becoming assistant director in 2000. Her teaching credits include School of Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland City Dance, Evelyn Ott School of Dance and Virginia Governor's School for the Arts. Suzanne has also taught and judged dance competitions throughout the United States.

Ms. Lownsbury has set many ballets and her choreography includes Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella, Coppelia, Danse de la Sprit, Spring Symphony, Summer Symphony, The Nutcracker, Twelve Dancing Princesses, Peter and the Wolf, Sleeping Beauty and more.

In 2008, Suzanne and Janina Michalski created Ballet Virginia with the support of many devoted and dedicated parents. She is also extremely proud of her daughter, Jacquelyn Long, who is an alumna of Ballet Virginia and a member of Houston Ballet.

## **Janina Michalski – Co-Director/Choreographer**

Originally from Southern California, Janina began her early training in the Los Angeles area. She trained as a scholarship student at the Joffrey Ballet with Meredith Bayliss, Dorothy Lister, Cho-San Goh, Basil Thompson and Glenn White. At age 16, she apprenticed with Los Angeles Ballet under the direction of John Clifford, where she studied extensively with Irena Kosmovska. As a member of the Pacific Association for Regional Ballet, Ms. Bove was awarded scholarships to the Craft of Choreography conferences sponsored by the National Association for Regional Ballet, now called Regional Dance America.

Ms. Michalski danced with such noted companies as Atlantic City Ballet, Colorado Ballet and the Cleveland Ballet, where she performed as soloist and principal dancer. During her career, Janina traveled the country as a guest dancer and teacher.

Following her move back to California, Ms. Michalski was co-director of her own company and academy for six years. Upon an offer from Glenn White, she moved to Hampton Roads, where she served as academy director and rehearsal assistant for the Virginia Ballet Theatre for 17 years. During this time, she also served on the faculty of the Virginia Governor's School for the Arts.

In 2008, Janina set out on a journey with Suzanne to create Ballet Virginia with the support of many dedicated and devoted parents.

## **Lydia Roberts Coco—Resident Choreographer**

Ms. Roberts Coco began her training in Norfolk, Virginia. Her professional training started with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center on a full merit scholarship. Ms. Roberts Coco was invited to become a member of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (the Ailey junior company) where she danced for three years. She then went on to perform with the Jamison Project under the direction of Judith Jamison. She was also invited by Judith Jamison to become a member of the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Lydia toured internationally as a principal dancer with the AAADT for seven years. Her credits include leading roles in Pas De Duke, Night Creature, Fix Me Jesus from Alvin Ailey's signature piece Revelations, Suite Otis and many others. Lydia currently teaches ballet and modern at Ballet Virginia and is a guest instructor for Old Donation School in Virginia Beach. Her choreography has been chosen twice for the South Eastern Regional Ballet Association Festival (SERBA). She is also an adjudicator and instructor for the West Virginia Dance Festival. Lydia is honored to be Ballet Virginia's Resident Choreographer.

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## **PROGRAM NOTES**

This diverse program of holiday treats is the “silver lining” of the pandemic for Ballet Virginia. In October it became apparent that we would not be able to perform our beloved annual Nutcracker at the Sandler Center.

So, we began to plan a smaller program either to be done virtually or in a small theater. With tenacity, passion and some help from our local arts community, we managed to do both!

The dancers, faculty and staff thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued interest and support.

**Enjoy the show!**

# Ballet Virginia Presents

## HOLIDAYS AT THE Z

Filmed live at The Z on November 18, 2020

### **Les Patineurs (The Skaters Ballet)**

*Based on choreography by Fredrick Ashton*

*Corp de Ballet:* Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Reagan Hammond, Lauryn Hedelund, Olivia Levy, Sofia Romulo, Katherine Shillito, Leah Trimble

*Blue Ladies:* Giana Coco and Leah Upchurch

*Blue Boy:* Colin Jacob

*White Couple:* Julia Stewart and Jackson Kettell

*Red Ladies:* Casey Shepard and Hayley-Ann Vasco

### **Snow Scene, excerpt from “The Nutcracker”**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski*

*Dream Clara and her Prince:* Hayley-Ann Vasco and Jackson Kettell

*Snow Queen:* Katherine Shillito

*Snowflakes:* Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Lauryn Hedelund, Reagan Hammond, Olivia Levy, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Leah Trimble

*Frost Fairies:* \*Sophia Loomis and \*Zoey Pham - \*Students from Ballet Virginia

### **Virginia Beach Rockettes**

*Choreography by Delia Allen*

Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Kaylee Bejarano, Aimee FitzPatrick, Lauryn Hedelund, Emily Kodolitsch, Reagan Hammond, Olivia Levy, Charlott Mann, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Katherine Shillito, Leah Trimble

### **Peace on Earth**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury*

Rebecca Ailstock, with \*Lila Bauer and \*Emily Lewis \*Students from Ballet Virginia

### **Under the Tree**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski*

Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Kaylee Bejarano, Aimee FitzPatrick, Lauryn Hedelund, Emily Kodolitsch, Reagan Hammond, Olivia Levy, Charlotte Mann, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Katherine Shillito

## **Ave Maria**

*Choreography by Lydia Roberts Coco*

Leah Trimble and Colin Jacob

## **Spanish Princess, excerpt from “The Nutcracker”**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski*

Gianna Coco

## **Sugar Plum Fairy Variation, excerpt from “The Nutcracker”**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski*

Rebecca Ailstock

## **Under the Tree**

*Choreography by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski*

Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Kaylee Bejarano, Aimee FitzPatrick, Lauryn Hedelund, Emily Kodolitsch, Reagan Hammond, Olivia Levy, Charlotte Mann, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Katherine Shillito

## **A 2020 Kind of Christmas**

*Choreography by Lydia Roberts Coco*

### ***Jingle Bells***

*Miss Priss:* Casey Shepherd

*Sassy Elves:* Rebecca Ailstock, Gianna Coco, Julia Stewart, Leah Upchurch

*Future Mrs. Claus:* Hayley-Ann Vasco

*Swagster Elves:* Colin Jacob, Jackson Kettel

*Little Elves:* Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Iana Niknezhad, Leah Trimble

*Baby Elf:* \*Zoey Pham \*Student from Ballet Virginia

### ***My Reindeer Don't Like To Fly***

*Future Mrs. Claus:* Haley-Ann Vasco

*The Reindeer:* Delia Allen, Ema Amuial, Kaylee Bejarano, Amiee FitzPatrick, Reagan Hammond, Lauryn Hedelund, Emily Kodolitsch, Olivia Levy, Charlotte Mann, Iana Niknezhad, Sofia Romulo, Kathrine Shillito, Leah Trimble

### ***Man with the Bag***

*Kris Kringle:* Jacob Wessler

*Future Mrs. Claus:* Haley-Ann Vasco

*The Kringlettes:* Rebecca Ailstock, Gianna Coco, Casey Shepherd, Julia Stewart, Leah Upchurch

### ***We Wish You a Merry Christmas***

Rebecca Ailstock, Gianna Coco, Jackson Kettel, Colin Jacob, Julia Stewart, Casey Shepard, Leah Upchurch, Hayley-Ann Vasco



# CONTRIBUTORS

**The continued success of Ballet Virginia is greatly due to the generosity of our many contributors and volunteers. We thank you all!**

## ***Government Support***

The City of Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission  
The Virginia Commission for the Arts  
Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities  
Norfolk Southern Corporate Good Government Fund  
The Hampton Roads Business Consortium

## ***Benefactors - \$5,000 +***

Betsy Atkinson  
Amy Sokol  
Sandra Wills "In remembrance of my beloved Jim"

## ***Director's Circle - \$3,000 +***

Anonymous  
CHKD Sports Medicine

## ***Theater Circle - \$500 +***

Anonymous, Grace Atkinson Hagerty, Page Atkinson Miyares, Jane Bray, Brown Family, Fleming Family, Lorraine Graves, Emily Hansen, Naomi Hochhaus, Seth and Diane Larson, Monique McClellan, Naomi Muellner, Siebert Family, Linda Stenke Flanagan, The Virginia Lottery, Jacob Wessler, JC Wills and Sons Inc.

## ***Center Stage - \$100 +***

Olivia Rae Anderson, Jennifer Baden, Hilary Dunigan, Patrick Francis, Hilary Garofalo, Hornbuckle Family, The Isabel Glass Family, Jete Dancewear, Sue Johnson, Elliott Jones, Sue Mason, Katherine Nufer, Hilary Poirier, Jim Price, Lena Ulises, Scott Vengamo

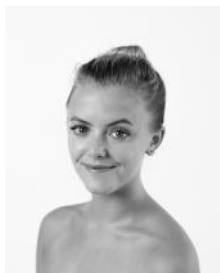
## ***Friends of Ballet Virginia - \$25 +***

Adrienne Ashby, Bejarano Family, Kendall Bryant, Cree Family, Dancers Boutique, Debb Family, Delaney Family, Douglas Family, Elliott Family, Faires Family, Galecki Family, Gerald Family, Caileigh Gold, Hebert Family, Jasahn Holman, Johnson Family, Jennifer Kodolitsch, Diitrios Kourbetis, Livni Family, Rob Loomis, Jacquelyn Long, Suzanne Lownsbury, McCann Family, Lisa McCarty, Janina Michalski, Jeryl Phillips, Pressley Family, Puckett Family, Reyna Family, Lydia Roberts Coco, Victoria Romulo, Silasi Family, Trisha Upchurch, Lena Ulises, Woodside Family

## ***Gifts in Kind***

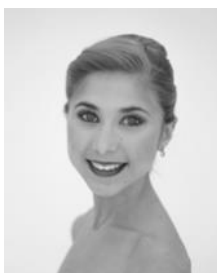
Grace Atkinson-musical theater, Harry Brown-legal services, Michele DeVito—backstage, Judy Fortier-wardrobe, Danielle Gerard—musical theater, Shelby Hammond—backstage, Gene Hansen-transportation, Jennifer Kodolitsch-ballet guild, Jenn Mann—fundraising, Debbie Porter—backstage, Mandy Porter—front desk, Karen Shillito-volunteer coordinator, Kim Siebert-admin support, Robin Trimble-event planner

# BALLET VIRGINIA COMPANY MEMBERS



**Rebecca Ailstock**

Hometown:  
Virginia Beach, VA



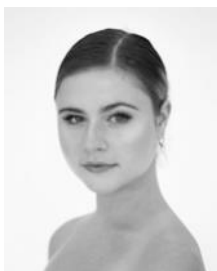
**Casey Shephard**

Hometown:  
Chesapeake, VA



**Gianna Coco**

Hometown:  
Chesapeake, VA



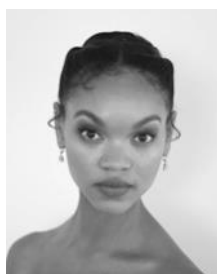
**Julia Stewart**

Hometown:  
Naples, Italy



**Colin Jacob**

Hometown:  
Cleveland, OH



**Leah Upchurch**

Hometown:  
Virginia Beach, VA



**Jackson Ketell**

Hometown:  
Tampa, FL



**Hayley-Ann  
Vasco**

Hometown:  
Norfolk, VA

*We thank our company members for dancing safely through the pandemic with testing, mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. The future looks bright as we see your commitment and passion to dance.*

# BVII

## BALLET VIRGINIA'S SECOND COMPANY



**Company is listed from left to right and top to bottom:**

Ema Amual: Frank W. Cox High School  
Kaylee Bejarno: Norfolk Collegiate  
Amy FitzPatrick: Floyd E. Kellam High School  
Reagan Hammond: Nansemond-Suffolk Academy  
Lauryn Hedelund: Grassfield High School  
Emily Kodolitsch: Granby High School  
Olivia Levy: Norfolk Academy  
Charlotte Mann: Granby High School  
Iana Niknezhad: Ocean Lakes High School  
Sofia Romulo: Oscar F. Smith High School  
Katherine Shillito: Granby High School  
Delia Allen: Grafton High School  
Leah Trimble: Frank W. Cox High School

Our BVII dancers range in age from 14 to 18. They train over 23 hours per week. Each year, several are accepted into nationally acclaimed training programs on scholarship. The extensive education they receive both in the studio and on stage prepares them for a potential professional dance career in dance. Other BVII alumni have gone on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, scientists and a host of other challenging and meaningful life pursuits.

# SEASON EVENTS

*Subject to change due to the pandemic*

March 20-21, 2021

“Visions of Hope” – Zeiders American Dream Theater

This new production will focus on the journey of moving forward with compassion and gratitude while acknowledging the strife and conflicts of life. We invite you to join us for this important journey .

May 7-9, 2021

“Sleeping Beauty” – Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

Be transported to a land of fairies, royal pageantry and a fated princess. This gem among classical ballets will shine with Tchaikovsky’s score and Ballet Virginia’s artistry.

June 13, 2021

Concert Classique – Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

Save the date for our most joyous performance of the year. Students from Beginning Ballet through BVII will perform.

Check our Facebook Events Page or Instagram for other exciting events throughout the season.

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**and**

**4314 Virginia Beach Blvd in Virginia Beach**