



Ballet Virginia  
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## Ballet Virginia Presents

### “Sleeping Beauty”

April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at The Sandler Center

Norfolk, VA – February 28, 2022 – Ballet Virginia is proud to present “Sleeping Beauty” on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the [Sandler Center for the Performing Arts](#) in Virginia Beach. Featuring our professional company and select students, the production is among a series of full-length classical ballets the company has presented over the past fourteen seasons.

*Sleeping Beauty* is a time-honored and favorite fairytale of love and hope. This classical ballet will appeal to adults and children with its many offerings of characters, dancing, music, staging and drama. Join the Lilac Fairy as she saves Princess Aurora and her kingdom from the Carabosse’s jealous rage and stay captivated all the way through till the “happily ever after”.

The original choreography and staging dates back to the great Russian traditions of the choreographer Marius Petipa. But, with the creativity and artistry of Ballet Virginia’s co-artistic directors, Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski, the ballet has been re-staged for the

contemporary audience. Additional choreography from Ballet Virginia’s professional company artistic director, Lydia Roberts Coco, will add drama and freshness to draw audience members deep into the story.

The professional company has grown both artistically and technically since its’ inception in 2019 with performances such as, *The Nutcracker*, mixed repertoire programs and now, *Sleeping Beauty*. “This company of talented dancers has a wide range of movement styles from contemporary to classical which will add energy, musicality and artistry to this masterpiece of classical ballet,” says Lydia Roberts Coco. Educational outreach, small venue performances and collaboration with other local arts organizations, such as the Virginia Arts Festival and Symphonicity have added to an exciting third season.

“Thanks to the growth and success of our academy and our pre-professional company, BVII, we can maintain a professional company. Having a professional company allows us to have a rich creative process with the dancers and perform challenging repertoire,” said Suzanne Lownsbury, Ballet Virginia Co-Artistic Director.

“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 Co-Artistic Director.

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