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Ballet Virginia's Season includes Work by acclaimed NYC Choreographer



Ballet Virginia: (Norfolk, VA — July 11, 2022) Ballet Virginia is excited to announce a full season of dance in 2022/2023 with our professional company. In our third season with a professional company, we are honored and excited to perform a Dwight Rhoden piece. Mr. Rhoden is the artistic director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, a company on the forefront of dance, and was hailed as “one of the most sought-after choreographers” by the New York Times.

“We are thrilled to be working with Dwight Rhoden this season. Dwight and I go way back to our days as principal dancers with Alvin Ailey’s American Dance Theatre. His works have been performed by New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, So You Think You Can Dance and more. I’m looking forward to seeing both Dwight’s and my work on the same stage.” says Lydia Roberts Coco, Ballet Virginia’s professional company artistic

director and choreographer.

The upcoming season, Ballet Virginia’s 15th, will include fall repertoire performances on October 28th and 29th at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach, seven performances of “The Nutcracker” from December 15th to 18th at the Sandler Center, Winter Mixed Repertoire at Zeiders American Dream Theater on February 10th and 11th plus Norfolk State University TBD and “Coppelia” on March 11th. Live orchestra accompaniment from Symphoncity is planned for all public performances of “The Nutcracker”.

Educational outreach, small venue performances and collaborations with other local arts organizations will round out this exciting and robust season. These events will be posted on social media and our website.

“In our 15th season, repertoire performances, collaborations with other local arts groups and our beloved full-length productions, gives Ballet Virginia the opportunity to bring a wide and diverse range of professional quality dance performances to Hampton Roads,” says Janina Michalski, Ballet Virginia co-director.

“With this exciting season and our reputation as a professional dance company, we have been able to attract talented, versatile, and diverse dancers. Our dancers come from all over the country and include a Juilliard graduate and former Ballet Virginia Academy alumni.” says Suzanne Lownsbury, Ballet Virginia co-director.

For many years, Ballet Virginia has produced an annual Hampton Roads “Nutcracker” as well as many other classical ballets. Past productions have graced the stages of Chrysler Hall, Harrison Opera House and now, the Sandler Center. In 2021, Sandler Center



performances which included five public performances and two student matinees, drew more than 7,400 audience members.

Tickets for Ballet Virginia's upcoming season will be on sale in early September. Information including the new professional company members as well as season opening and winter repertoire selections will be announced on our website, www.balletvirginia.org.

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About Ballet Virginia

Ballet Virginia is a professional ballet company with an associated academy. The organization provides professional 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

At Ballet Virginia, we are committed to fostering a lifelong passion for dance through nurturing education, invigorating performances and artistic excellence. Our Norfolk and Virginia Beach faculty teach dance with technique, discipline, self-confidence, joy and sense of teamwork in mind. Our performances are of the highest caliber as academy students perform side-by-side with professionals. We uphold the highest standards and strive to maintain artistic excellence in all our endeavors.

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