

Ballet Virginia Contact:
Lisa McCarty
lisa@balletvirginia.org
PH. 757-446-1401



Ballet Virginia's "Season Opening 2022" includes Work by acclaimed NYC Choreographer

Ballet Virginia: (Norfolk, VA — September 21, 2022)

Ballet Virginia (BV) is proud to kick off the season with our professional company in "Season Opening". 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.

The company will perform both contemporary and classical works featuring choreography by Lydia Roberts Coco, BV's Artistic Director, as well the work by Dwight Rhoden. Rhoden's work, "Evermore" and Coco's work "Bolero" are sure to delight. Other works to be performed are, audience favorite, "Phases" by Coco and a scene from "Laurencia" a tour de force ballet by Chabukiani.

"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", says Lydia Roberts Coco, Ballet Virginia's professional company artistic director and choreographer. "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."

Along with the impressive offerings of the professional company, Ballet Virginia's second company (BVII) will also grace the stage with works by Suzanne Lownsbury and Janina Michalski. As a second company, BVII provides training and performing experiences for a select group of talented dancers between the ages of 13 and 20. These dancers often go on to professional dance careers. Several members of our professional company are BVII alumni, and they are also represented in companies such as Houston Ballet, ABT Studio Company and Nevada Ballet Theatre to name just a few.

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

Performances of this mixed repertoire production are October 28 at 7:30 PM and October 29th at 2 PM and 7:30 PM at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach's Town Center. Tickets for Ballet Virginia's "Season Opening" are on sale through the theater box office, thez.org or by calling 757-499-0317. Information about the company members as well as the entire season performance is available at www.balletvirginia.org.

"In our 15th season, this professional group of talented artists continues to raise the level of dance performance in Hampton Roads," says Janina Michalski, Ballet Virginia co-director.

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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.