



Ballet Virginia Contact:
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Ballet Virginia Presents: Coppélia: A Comical Tale

(Norfolk, VA – January 31, 2023) - A delightful and contemporary staging of the beloved classical comic ballet “Coppélia” from Ballet Virginia (BV) will be performed at The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach on March 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Join Ballet Virginia for this much-loved production for the whole family to enjoy. Everyone will be captivated by Dr. Coppélius’ charming life-like doll, Coppélia, and the hilarious mix-up that ensues. There is young love, jealousy, mistaken identities, and mischief. But, in the end, true love wins. Delightful music by Delibes and charming choreography by Janina Michalski and Suzanne Lownsbury for Coastal Virginia’s professional ballet company, Ballet Virginia, will make this a ballet not to miss.

The production features our professional company dancers including Jackson Kettell who will dance the role of Swanilda’s suitor, Franz, following a commanding performance as the Cavalier in “The

Nutcracker”. Guest artist Christopher Lingner, formerly of the Cincinnati Ballet, will take on the role of Dr. Coppélius. At press time, the dancer for the role of Swanhilda was to be determined.

First performed in the spring of 1870 in Paris, “Coppélia” soon became a crowd favorite. To this day, ballet companies worldwide perform this beloved comic classic to audiences so charmed they find themselves smiling and laughing along with Swanhilda and the rest of the cast. The great French composer Leo Delibes's musical score along with clever and entertaining choreography and staging bring this fun story to life.

Since 2008, Janina Michalski Bove and Suzanne Lownsbury have brought to the stage many full-length ballets including “Snow White”, “Sleeping Beauty”, “Alice in Wonderland”, “The Nutcracker” and many contemporary works. “If you’ve never seen a ballet before, this is the one to come see” says co-director Michalski, “because it is so light-hearted and fun.” “We are excited to bring a fresh rendition of this charming ballet to the Hampton Roads community, “ co-director Lownsbury.

Ballet Virginia is the resident ballet company at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach. Tickets for BV’s production of “Coppélia” at the Sandler Center range from \$22 to \$47 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com. Please visit Ballet Virginia's website for additional information.

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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 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 performance art.

We believe that diversity, equality, and inclusion allow for more meaningful experiences. Dance provides an opportunity to bring people of all backgrounds together to create a community that is richer, stronger, and more innovative.

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 academies teach the whole student by instilling discipline, self-confidence, joy, and a sense of teamwork. 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.