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Ballet Virginia's Season 23/24 offers New Treasures and Audience Favorites

Ballet Virginia: (Norfolk, VA — May 23, 2023) Ballet Virginia is excited to announce a full season of dance in 2023/2024. In our fifth season as a professional company, we are honored and excited to perform both contemporary and classical works created by an ensemble of talented choreographers from around the country.

"We are thrilled to be working with Dwight Rhoden, Darrell Grand Moultrie, and Duncan Cooper this season. [Moultrie](#) is one of America's most sought-after choreographers. He has created works for American Ballet Theatre, Ballet X, and even Beyonce," says Lydia Roberts Coco, Ballet Virginia's professional company Artistic Director and Choreographer, "We're also thrilled to bring on Jared Brunson as our new Associate Artistic Director."

Dwight Rhoden is a critically acclaimed choreographer whose innovative works have been performed around the world. Rhoden is a founding artistic director and resident choreographer of Complexions Contemporary Ballet.

Duncan Cooper's work will be performed at the October performances of "Moving Forward". He is a former member of the San Francisco Ballet. "I'm excited to see what magic Duncan creates for our company," says Lydia Roberts Coco.

"Ballet Virginia brings innovative contemporary works, collaborations with other local arts groups, and our beloved full-length classical productions to the community. "We are honored to have the opportunity to bring a wide and diverse range of professional quality dance performances to Hampton Roads," says Janina Michalski, Ballet Virginia co-director.

The upcoming season will include the fall repertoire performances "Moving Forward" on October 13th and 14th at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach, seven performances of "The Nutcracker" from December 15th to 17th at the Sandler Center, "Diversity in Dance" at Zeiders American Dream Theater on February 9th and 10th, and a new production of "Cinderella" on March 16th. Live orchestra accompaniment from Symphonicity is planned for all public performances of "The Nutcracker".

"We're looking forward to choreographing a brand new "Cinderella" with a contemporary twist for our company. It's such a timeless story full of hope, magic, and humor. We can't wait for audiences to see it in March" says Suzanne Lownsbury, Ballet Virginia co-director.

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

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, and Harrison Opera House. Since 2009, the company has performed at the Sandler Center and is proud to be a Resident Company at the theater. In 2022, Sandler Center performances included five public performances and two student matinees. All seven performances were sold out and drew over 8,000 audience members.

“With this exciting season and the growing reputation of our professional dance company, we are able to attract talented, versatile, and diverse dancers from all over the country including several former Ballet Virginia Academy alumni. We also use select dancers from our own 450 academy students as well the community for our productions.” says Suzanne Lownsbury, Ballet Virginia co-director.

Tickets for Ballet Virginia’s upcoming season will be on sale by 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.

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, alignment, discipline, self-confidence, joy, and a sense of teamwork in mind. Our professional-quality performances offer our academy students the opportunity to perform side-by-side with professionals. We uphold the highest standards and strive to maintain artistic excellence in all our endeavors.