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Ballet Virginia International Presents:

Coppelía: A Toymaker's Tale

A brand-new production for BVI

(Norfolk, VA – March 1, 2017) - A delightful and contemporary staging of the beloved classical comic ballet “Coppelía” from Ballet Virginia International (BVI) will be performed at The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach on April 8 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Join Ballet Virginia International for this brand new production for the whole family to enjoy. Everyone will be captivated by Dr. Coppélius’ charming life-like doll, Coppelía, 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 Bove and Suzanne Lownsbury for our region’s finest classically-trained dancers will make this a ballet not to miss.

The production features a talented cast of local dancers and guest artists including Ballet Virginia International’s “home grown” ballerina, Athena England as Swanilda, the friendliest maiden in the village. Ms. England has danced other lead roles with BVI including Sugar Plum Fairy in “The Nutcracker”. Leo Ameika will dance the role of Swanilda’s suitor Franz. After a commanding performance as an Arabian lead in “The Nutcracker”, Emma Barnett will perform the sultry lead in the Czardas. Stephen Gregory, formerly of Ballet West, will take on the role of Dr. Coppélius. Mr. Gregory, a BVI audience favorite, has performed many roles with the ballet company including Drosselmeyer in “The Nutcracker” and the Mad Hatter in “Alice in Wonderland”.

First performed in the spring of 1870 in Paris, “Coppelía” 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 musical score from the great French composer, Leo Delibes, together with clever and entertaining choreography and staging bring the 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”, “Nutcracker” and many contemporary works as well. “If you’ve never seen a ballet before, this is the one to come see” says co-director Michalski Bove, “because it is so light-hearted and fun.” “This is a brand-new production for BVI and we are excited to bring a fresh rendition of this charming ballet to the Hampton Roads community” added co-director Lownsbury.

BVI is the resident ballet company at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach and a member of the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (SERBA). Tickets for BVI's production of "Coppélia" at the Sandler Center range from \$18 to \$40 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office, www.ynottix.com or 1-877-YnotTix. Please visit Ballet Virginia International's website for additional information and the 2016/2017 season performance schedule.

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About Ballet Virginia International

Ballet Virginia International (BVI) is a regional ballet company with an associated academy which provides professional quality productions/performances and training for classical ballet dancers in the Hampton Roads community. BVI upholds the standards required to maintain membership standing with the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association (SERBA) of Regional Dance America. BVI also provides opportunities for professional dancers, lighting, set and costume designers as well as choreographers while continuing education and outreach programs for our community-at-large.