

PRESS RELEASE

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BALLET VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL AND LONDON SQUARE GALLERY ANNOUNCE FIRST ANNUAL “ARTISTS SUPPORTING THE ARTS” GALA

Ballet Virginia International and London Square Gallery will debut their first annual Artists Supporting the Arts Gala, October 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM. This creative black tie event was developed to celebrate and support a broad spectrum of fine art in Hampton Roads. Hosted at the magnificent new Ballet Virginia International Norfolk studio, located at 700 W 21st Street, in the heart of historic Ghent, this event will showcase 80 pieces of visual art in all mediums. All artwork will be original work, completed within the last two years, and not previously shown in the area. London Square Gallery will oversee the art collection and selection process. Tickets for the event will go on sale Thursday, October 1, 2009, and will be \$20.00 per person for Ballet Virginia International Members, and \$30.00 for non-members. The event will include light appetizers and bar by the top area restaurants.

The evening’s event will be highlighted by several exciting awards. The Juror’s Choice Award, a \$1000.00 prize, will be selected by Ann Dearsley-Vernon (Director of Education, Retired, The Chrysler Museum) and Mr. Ed Gibbs (Director of Visual Arts Department, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth). The People’s Choice Award, a \$500.00 prize, will be voted on by those attending the event. “We are truly honored to have Mrs. Dearsley-Vernon and Mr. Gibbs as jurors! Their reputation and expertise are unmatched in our arts community,” stated Janina Michalski Bove, Artistic Director for Ballet Virginia International.

Sixty percent of all art sales will go to the artists, and forty percent will go to support the 2009-2010 theatre season for Ballet Virginia International. Ballet Virginia International offers three stunning performances each season, featuring Ballet Virginia International’s performing company, and guest artists from renowned national companies. “The season opens with a special partnership between Ballet Virginia International and the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C., in association with the Universal Ballet of Korea, November 28 2009, at the Sandler Center for the performing Arts,” said Suzanne Long, Artistic Director for Ballet Virginia International. “The performance will include Peter and the Wolf, Swan Lake Act II, a premier piece choreographed by Ballet Virginia International’s Lydia Roberts Coco, and a special appearance by the Kirov Academy dancers.”

Nutcracker performances will be held at the Harrison Opera House December 18 through December 20, and December 12 and 13 at the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts. The well-known, annual Hampton Roads event will feature guest artists from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and others. The final production of the season will be Sleeping Beauty in April 2010 at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, and will feature original choreography by the Ballet Virginia International Artistic Directors.

“We encourage all interested artists to consider participating in this event with us,” said Bove and Long, “this Gala event represents a wholly unique opportunity for us to partner with top visual artists to present a wonderful evening for area art lovers of all types, and at the same time, benefit all of the artists involved.” “Such synergy within the arts community is rarely sought,” the women agreed. Space for the gala event is limited. Individuals are encouraged to contact Ballet Virginia International for tickets early.

Please visit www.BalletVirginia.org for gala information and season schedule.

