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NEWS RELEASE

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THE SANDLER CENTER FOUNDATION AND RICHMOND BALLET ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT TITLE 1 SCHOOLS IN HAMPTON ROADS

Virginia Beach, VA (February 22, 2017)- The Sandler Center Foundation and Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, are proud to announce a partnership to bring Richmond Ballet's *Educational Lecture Demonstration* performances to Title 1 schools in the Hampton Roads area April 5 through April 7. This high-quality, interactive program introduces students to ballet through storytelling and dance.

For the past ten years the Sandler Center Foundation, a non-profit organization whose vision is to establish the Sandler Center as the creative home for the arts in Hampton Roads, has been working to bring world-class arts to students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience arts education. Richmond Ballet's *Lecture Demonstrations* strives to allow students the opportunity to interact and engage with professional dancers and to experience what it is like to be an artist. One of the defining goals of Richmond Ballet's program is to bring the language of dance into Virginia schools.

"We are delighted to create a partnership between The Sandler Center Foundation and the Richmond Ballet around an issue as important as arts education within the school system," explains Executive Director Lisa Baehre. "We are thrilled to assist the Richmond Ballet in the expansion of their education outreach programs to the Hampton Roads area."

The reimagined story ballet performances will take place April 5th through April 7th and will be an adaptation of Shakespeare's popular tale of love and mischief, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. On April 5th there will be two performances at the Spectra Venue Managed Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, one at 10am and one at noon.

Richmond Ballet will then travel April 6 and 7 to perform within local Hampton Roads schools.

"Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, is honored to partner with The Sandler Center Foundation to bring our innovative *Lecture Demonstration* series to students in the Hampton Roads area. We are excited to share our mission of awakening and uplifting the human spirit through dance with this program. We are very grateful for the generous support of The Sandler Center Foundation and we look forward to more exciting opportunities in the future." Brett Bonda, Managing Director, Richmond Ballet.

This partnership allows both the Sandler Center Foundation and the Richmond Ballet the opportunity to stretch beyond their general reach, and allows the Sandler Center Foundation to take their ACCESS the ARTS program on the road and into schools for the first time. For more information on the Sandler Center Foundation and their ACCESS the ARTS program please visit www.sandlercenter.org/access-the-arts

About the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts opened on Nov. 3, 2007, and is professionally managed by Spectra Venue Management (spectraexperiences.com), formerly Global Spectrum. With its soaring glass façade revealing the magnificent lobby, the grand staircase and glittering chandelier, Sandler Center beckons patrons from its location in the heart of Virginia Beach Town Center.

About the Sandler Center Foundation

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to support and sustain the Sandler Center and its programs.

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