



Ballet Theatre
of Maryland

Artistic Director Nicole Kelsch



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BTM Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Ballet Theatre of Maryland
801 Chase St., Annapolis, MD 21401

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btmmgr@balletmaryland.org
www.balletmaryland.org

Nicole Kelsch Artistic Director

Dianna Cuatto
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Edward Stewart
Founding Artistic Director

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Cover image photography by Joanne Salyer
Dancer Lauren Martinez



2025/2026 Season

Elevate your season with the Ballet Theatre of Maryland

This season, BTM brings you four extraordinary mainstage productions—each one a chance to be swept away by the power of live performance. From beloved classics to daring premieres, our stage will come alive with breathtaking storytelling, exquisite dancing, and the magic that only ballet can bring.

See it all with a season subscription! Subscribers enjoy exclusive benefits, the best seats in the house, and the joy of experiencing every production in this landmark season.

Giselle: October 17–19, 2025

The Nutcracker: December 13–21, 2025

Momentum: A Mixed Bill: February 13–14, 2026

La Esmeralda: April 24–25, 2026



Visit www.BalletMaryland.org or call 410-224-5644 for more information

For questions or concerns regarding accessibility, please contact our office at 410-224-5644.



Mission: Ballet Theatre of Maryland's mission is to provide Maryland with a fully professional ballet company and training academy that meets the aesthetic and recreational needs of Maryland through expressive movement.

A letter from the Artistic Director



Dear Friends of Ballet Theatre of Maryland,

Welcome to our 47th season at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. It is with immense pride, gratitude, and excitement that I share this year's program with you: *Giselle*, our new production of *The Nutcracker* featuring Maryland history, *Momentum: A Mixed Bill*, and *La Esmeralda*. Each of these works has been chosen with the strengths of our company and the experience for you, our audience, in mind.

This season is especially meaningful for me. *Giselle* holds a special place in our history — it was the first mainstage production we staged back in Maryland Hall after the pandemic. To bring it back now feels like coming home, again renewing a bond with this theater, this community, and all of you.

In December, we present an all-new *Nutcracker*, reimagined through the lens of our local history in and around Annapolis. Drawing from local landmarks, historical themes, and our city's storied past — from the Chesapeake harbor to the William Paca House to 19th-century Main Street — I hope this version will resonate not only as a holiday tradition, but as a celebration of place, memory, and shared identity.

In February, *Momentum* invites us into a space of discovery. This mixed bill is where classic meets contemporary, where emerging voices harmonize with familiar ones, and where we honor the spirit of innovation that keeps our art form alive and vital.

Then, in April, we close the season with *La Esmeralda*, which makes its professional premiere in Maryland. Adapted from Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, this ballet is full of spirit, heart, and daring — a story of courage, love, and transformation.

As you settle into your seats throughout our season, I hope you will lean into the contrasts: the haunting and the jubilant, the classical and the new, the local and the universal. Ballet is a dance of storytelling through motion and emotion, and each of these works gives us a different lens to see ourselves, our community, and each other.

I am grateful to our dancers, creative staff, sponsors, trustees, and volunteers — for your artistry, commitment, and enthusiasm. Even more, thank you to you, our audience, for believing in this company and sharing this journey. We look forward to dancing for you and with you this season.

With warmth and anticipation,

Nicole Kelsch

Nicole Kelsch
Artistic Director

Enjoy your experience with the Ballet Theatre of Maryland!



GRAB A DRINK AND SNACK

Light snacks are available for purchase in Guest Services. Non-alcoholic drinks and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase in the Earl Gallery.

Other than water, no food or beverages are allowed inside the main theater at anytime.



FEEL AT HOME

Restrooms are conveniently located on all floors. All female restrooms are located on the north wing and all male restrooms on the south wing of the building.



CAPTURE THE MEMORY

Capture the moment with the striking, larger-than-life banners displayed outside Maryland Hall. More photo opportunities await near the theater entrance, or join us in the first-floor lobby after the performance for a chance to meet and take photos with the dancers.



FIND THE PERFECT GIFT

Don't forget to check out the Ballet Theatre of Maryland boutique in the north wing on the second level. You'll find unique gifts for friends and family, or even a memento for yourself!



SUBSCRIBER PERKS

All Season Subscribers are invited to a complimentary champagne reception in the Martino Gallery during intermission. Here you can connect with fellow subscribers and get unique insights into our upcoming season!

This season, we invite subscribers to connect further with BTM by picking up your complimentary Season Passport in Guest Services! Season passports are a great souvenir for the entire season with exclusive information and interactive elements!

★ Season Passports are available for purchase in Guest Services for non-subscribers.



ACCESS FOR ALL

The elevator is located on the north wing of the building.

Wheelchair accessible restroom stalls are located on all floors of MDH.

Wheelchair accessible removable seating is located in the parterre and balcony. Mobility aids such as walkers, canes, etc, can be given to ushers to place in the back during the performance.



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

We celebrate coming together to enjoy live performance. To ensure everyone has the best experience, please refrain from talking or whispering during the show. Help keep an unobstructed view by arriving on time and being seated before the performance starts.

Applause is welcome! Dancers love to know when you are enjoying their performance when you feel moved to do so.



IMPORTANT POLICIES

Part of the joy of coming to the ballet is disconnecting from the outside world. Please silence and stow your mobile devices before the performance, as their lights and sounds can be a distraction to the performers and fellow patrons.

It's tempting to take a picture/video to share with friends or to post on social media, but audio and visual recordings of any kind are not allowed during the performance.

Please sit only in your assigned seat. Ushers are available at all theater entrances to help you find your ticketed seat.

Smoking is not permitted on Maryland Hall property.

In the event of an emergency, please alert the staff. MDH is equipped with standard First Aid supplies. For medical emergencies, contact 911 right away and then alert staff.

All lost items will be placed outside the theater doors on the second floor or held onto by the ushers in their office. Please ask an MDH volunteer usher or contact BTM's office.



GUEST SERVICES/BOX OFFICE

Located in the North Wing of MDH

Open 45 minutes before each performance and during intermission

EARL GALLERY

Located in the North Wing of MDH

Open 1 hour before each performance and during intermission

MARTINO GALLERY

Located in the North Wing of MDH

Open during intermission for Season Subscribers only



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The Nutcracker

with new choreography by Artistic Director, Nicole Kelsch

Set in 19th-century Annapolis, our reimagined production of The Nutcracker offers a fresh and meaningful take on the beloved holiday classic - one that honors Maryland's rich cultural heritage and storied past.

More than just a holiday spectacle, this Nutcracker invites audiences of all ages to discover a deeper connection to Maryland's history through the magic of movement, music, and imagination. It is a celebration of who we are, where we've come from, and the timeless power of storytelling to keep history alive in our hearts.

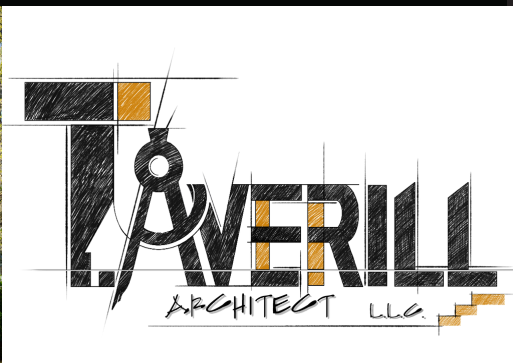
Tickets are available now at
www.BalletMaryland.org



Become part of the new classic!

Sponsor the set, costumes, scenery, outreach and education, and AV.

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www.taarchitect.com



GISELLE

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

Choreographer: Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot;
staged by Nicole Kelsch

Composer: Adolphe Adam

Production and set design: Aaron Bauer

Costume design: Caroline Anderson, Karissa Kralik,
Karen Kralik, and Clara Molina

Lighting design: Stacie Johnson-Leske

World Premiere (complete ballet): June 28, 1841
Paris Opera Ballet, Theatre de l'Academie Royale de Musique;
Paris, France

Ballet Theatre of Maryland Premiere (staged by Nicole Kelsch):
October 22, 2021
Maryland Hall; Annapolis, Maryland



The Giselle Quiz

How much do you really know? Scan the
QR code to test your *Giselle* knowledge.

This performance is made possible in part through grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. Ballet Theatre of Maryland is a resident company of Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. To receive more information about our educational school programs throughout the state, contact our office at 410-224-5644 or visit our website's community engagement page.



THE STORY OF GISELLE

ACT ONE

A MEDIEVAL RHINELAND VILLAGE

As villagers prepare to celebrate the grape harvest, Giselle has fallen in love with who she believes is another villager named Loys. Unbeknownst to her, he is actually Albrecht, Duke of Silesia. With the help of his squire, Wilfred, Albrecht hides his true identity. He and Giselle love to flirt and dance together, but a village boy named Hilarion is jealous of Albrecht. Giselle's mother, Berthe, reminds her she must be careful of her weak heart.

Wilfred warns Albrecht that members of the nobility are approaching the village, and Albrecht hurries away without his sword. The Duke of Courland and his daughter Bathilde arrive to rest from the rigors of the hunt. Giselle and Berthe host them, and Bathilde is so charmed by Giselle that she offers her the gift of a necklace. The two nobles disappear into Giselle's cottage as the villagers celebrate with a grape stomping dance. Hilarion interrupts Giselle to show Albrecht's sword. To prove Albrecht is lying, Hilarion blows the Duke's hunting horn.

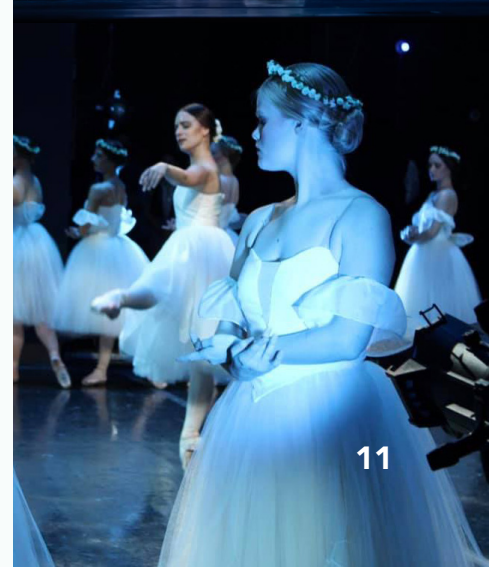
Drawn by the familiar sound, Bathilde and the Duke step outside. Giselle realizes not only that Albrecht is a nobleman, but that he is betrothed to Bathilde! Overwrought by emotion, Giselle goes mad. It proves too much for her heart to bear. When Giselle collapses, Berthe pushes Albrecht aside. Surrounded by villagers, Giselle passes away.

ACT TWO

A FOREST CLEARING

Hilarion mourns at Giselle's grave, but is frightened away by Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis. She and her sisterhood of vengeful spirits were once young women betrayed by their lovers. They roam the forest at night and force any young men they encounter to dance to their deaths. Myrtha and her wilis awaken Giselle from her grave before retreating into the forest. Albrecht arrives to lay flowers on Giselle's grave and encounters Giselle's spirit. He begs for forgiveness.

Elsewhere, Myrtha and the wilis prey upon Hilarion by dancing him to exhaustion and drowning him in a nearby lake. They turn to Albrecht, whose pleas for mercy are met by Myrtha's cold refusal. When Albrecht grows weary, Giselle dances in his stead. The wilis prepare Albrecht for his final punishment, but it is too late: Giselle has delayed for so long that church bells now signal the break of dawn. The wilis return to their graves, leaving Giselle and Albrecht behind. By refusing the wilis' bitterness, Giselle has freed her spirit from their curse. Bidding Albrecht farewell, Giselle returns to her grave for an eternity of rest.



CAST

Friday, October 17 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM

ACT 1

Giselle	Victoria Sanzotera
Albrecht	Diego Sosa
Hilarion	Aaron Bauer
Wilfred	Alexander Collen
Bathilde	Rowan Treece
The Duke	Paul Lytle
Peasant Pas de Deux	Karissa Kralik and Michael West Jr.
Giselle's Mother, Berthe	Catherine Welch
Giselle's Friends	Jenna Fritts, Hannah Hanson, Cassandra Hope, Erin Jenkins, Sarah Jung, Lauren Martinez, Clara Molina, Julia Walden
Villagers	Brooke Altman, Danielle Daniel, Gabrielle DeJong, Ellie Goods, Alyssa Hyman, Emma Lane, Emery Newton, Alyssa Nichols, Kiley Paules, Amber Sanders, Laura Snodgrass, Emily Wacker Torrence Brickman, Maegan Fewell, Bridget Gildersleeve, Jillian Graff, Mimi Hardin, Taylour Turk Alexander Collen, Isaac Martinez, Brayden Page, Michael West Jr.

~INTERMISSION~

15 MINUTES

ACT 2

Myrtha	Cindy Case
Moyna	Amanda Cobb
Zulma	Marjorie O'Hearne
Wilis	Lauren Anderson, Destiny Billot, Jenna Fritts, Karen Fleming, Elinor Fucile, Mimi Hardin, Cassandra Hope, Alyssa Hyman, Madeline Jones, Mia Koshansky, Brenna Mazzara, Clara Molina, Rachael Spicer, Rowan Treece, Rachel Visosky, Julia Walden, Victoria Walpole, Catherine Welch

CAST

Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 PM

ACT 1

Giselle	Lauren Martinez
Albrecht	Alexander Collen
Hilarion	Paul Lytle
Wilfred	Diego Sosa
Bathilde	Amanda Cobb
The Duke	Aaron Bauer
Peasant Pas de Deux	Brenna Mazzara and Isaac Martinez
Giselle's Mother, Berthe	Cindy Case
Giselle's Friends	Lauren Anderson, Karen Fleming, Mimi Hardin, Marjorie O'Hearne, Victoria Sanzotera, Rowan Treece, Rachel Visosky, Catherine Welch
Villagers	Brooke Altman, Destiny Billot, Danielle Daniel, Jenna Fritts, Elinor Fucile, Alyssa Hyman, Madeline Jones, Mia Koshansky, Laura Snodgrass, Rachael Spicer, Emily Wacker, Victoria Walpole Torrence Brickman, Maegan Fewell, Bridget Gildersleeve, Jillian Graff, Cassandra Hope, Taylour Turk Isaac Martinez, Brayden Page, Diego Sosa, Michael West Jr.

~INTERMISSION~

15 MINUTES

ACT 2

Myrtha	Sarah Jung
Moyna	Hannah Hanson
Zulma	Erin Jenkins
Wilis	Lauren Anderson, Gabrielle DeJong, Karen Fleming, Ellie Goods, Alyssa Hyman, Karissa Kralik, Emma Lane, Clara Molina, Emery Newton, Alyssa Nichols, Kiley Paules, Amber Sanders, Rachael Spicer, Rowan Treece, Rachel Visosky, Julia Walden, Victoria Walpole, Catherine Welch

Ballet Theatre of Maryland Company Dancers

The dancers of the Ballet Theatre of Maryland bring artistry, athleticism, and passion to the stage, creating a rich and dynamic experience for audiences. Our artists come from across the country and around the world, united by their commitment to the art of dance.

To learn more about the dancers and to read their biographies, visit www.BalletMaryland.com/Dancers or scan the QR code.



PRINCIPALS



Alexander Collen
Joined the Company as a
Principal in 2011



Karissa Kralik
Joined the Company 2016
Promoted to Principal 2021
Sponsored by Ronald Cummings-Kralik



Isaac Martinez
Joined the Company 2019
Promoted to Principal 2024



Lauren Martinez
Joined the Company 2019
Promoted to Principal 2021



Victoria Sanzotera
Joined the Company 2017
Promoted to Principal 2023



Diego Sosa
Joined the Company 2015
Promoted to Principal 2016

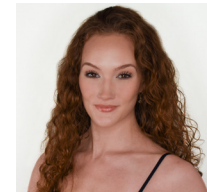
SOLOISTS



Aaron Bauer
Joined the Company 2013
Promoted to Soloist 2014



Cindy Case
Joined the Company 2019
Promoted to Soloist 2021



Sarah Jung
Joined the Company 2018
Promoted to Soloist 2023



Paul Lytle
Joined the Company as a
Soloist 2025



Brenna Mazzara
Joined the Company 2019
Promoted to Soloist 2025



Brayden Page
Joined the Company as a
Soloist 2025



Michael West Jr.
Joined the Company 2021
Promoted to Soloist 2022

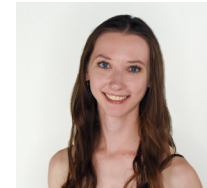
DEMI-SOLOISTS



Amanda Cobb
Joined the Company 2020*



Jenna Fritts
Joined the Company 2022
Sponsored by Herbert Yee



Hannah Hanson
Joined the Company 2020



Mimi Hardin
Joined the Company 2022*



Cassandra Hope
Joined the Company 2020



Erin Jenkins
Joined the Company 2023



Clara Molina
Joined the Company 2020*
Sponsored by Anthony Roberts



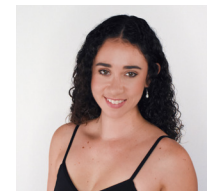
Marjorie O'Hearne
Joined the Company 2018



Rowan Treece
Joined the Company 2020



Julia Walden
Joined the Company 2022
Sponsored by Donald Namm



Catherine Welch
Joined the Company 2019*

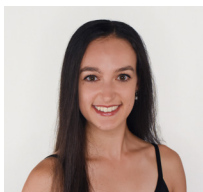
CORPS DE BALLET



Lauren Anderson
Joined the Company 2024*



Destiny Billot
Joined the Company 2020



Karen Fleming
Joined the Company 2022*



Elinor Fucile
Joined the Company 2024



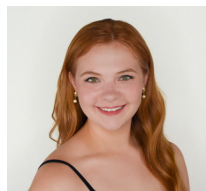
Ellie Goods
Joined the Company 2024*
Sponsored by Tyler Ewing



Alyssa Hyman
Joined the Company 2024*
† Sponsorship listed below



Madeline Jones
Joined the Company 2021*



Mia Koshansky
Joined the Company 2020



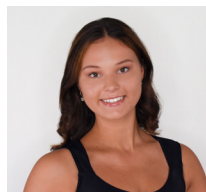
Emma Lane
Joined the Company 2022*



Rachael Spicer
Joined the Company 2022*
Sponsored by Donald Namm



Rachel Visosky
Joined the Company 2024*



Victoria Walpole
Joined the Company 2023*

APPRENTICES



Emery Newton
Joined the Company 2025*



Alyssa Nichols
Joined the Company 2025*



Kyley Paules
Joined the Company 2025*



Amber Sanders
Joined the Company 2025*

TRAINEES*

Brooke Altman, Hannah Brickey, Torrence Brickman, Danielle Daniel, Gabrielle DeJong, Maegan Fewell, Bridget Gildersleeve, Jillian Graff, Laura Snodgrass, Taylour Turk, Lucinda Valdez, and Emily Wacker

*denotes dancers who trained in the BTM Conservatory of Dance

† Alyssa Hyman Sponsors: Theresa Brown, Eugene F. Deems Jr., Patricia Petrou, & Barry and Olga Scher

Be the Spark Behind the Spotlight!



Your gift makes a difference!

When you give to the Ballet Theatre of Maryland, you do more than make a donation—you keep our dancers thriving and our stages alive. Whether through planned giving, monthly donations, Conservatory scholarships, production costuming, the shoe fund, or sponsoring a dancer, your support helps share the magic of ballet today and inspires the next generation.



Scan here to learn more about how you can support the ballet, or call 410-224-5644

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Offering classes for ages 3 – Adult
www.BalletMaryland.org/Conservatory

PARTNERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

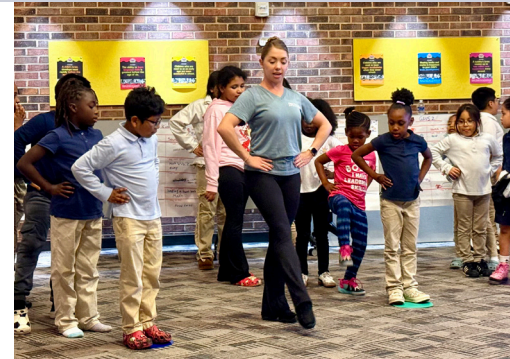
GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE ANNAPOLIS

BTM is a proud partner of GiGi's Playhouse Annapolis, our local Down Syndrome Achievement Center. BTM offers weekly adult ballet classes and monthly creative movement classes for children at the Playhouse. Since 2022, BTM has grown their dance class offerings at GiGi's, brought live, professional performances to the Playhouse, and welcomed students into the Conservatory's first ever adaptive dance program.



SEEDS 4 SUCCESS

Beginning in 2025, BTM piloted their first dance program with Seeds 4 Success. Serving over 20 students each week, BTM is proud to use dance to support their mission to provide children from low-income communities with the skills and support to achieve success in school and life and looks forward to this season's upcoming programs.



CASEY CARES

After many years of partnering with Casey Cares to provide uplifting performances for critically ill children and their families at numerous ballets, BTM has since added workshop opportunities for Casey Cares families. Many of the children are limited to participate in activities due to their illness or treatment, and BTM aims to share the joy of dance with them on stage and in the studio.



Anne Arundel County Public Library • Anne Arundel County Public Schools Annapolis
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Bayshore Medical Group
Ryan D. Shakley, DC

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FX Physical Therapy
Rob Harris, PT, DPT

Anmarie B. Touloumis, Certified Pilates
Technique

Johns Hopkins Rehabilitation Clinic for
Performing Arts

Leigh A. Roberts, DPT, OCS
Monique DeLuca, PT, DPT

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Garrett J. Lynch, MD

The Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Center
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Dianne S. Lebedeff, DPM
Wayne Knoll, DPM

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Melissa Lineburg

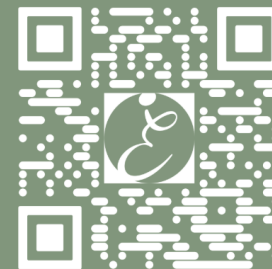


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Hear from our donors on the lasting impact of supporting the ballet



Dr. Albert Del Negro and Patrisha Creevy
Former BTM Board members and current Legacy Society Donors

"Exposure to the arts in our society today is critically important, not only for the present, but for future generations. Without the contributions the arts in general and ballet in particular make to our society, our social values will suffer, and our children will miss the inspiring gifts to their souls that this dance form provides. As custodians of our social growth and development, we cannot turn our backs on any established art form. The arts are, after all, the linchpin of our societal values. We must provide the financial underpinning for the ballet so that future generations can experience the spiritual and intellectual gifts it offers. This provides us with the mandate to secure the ballet's enduring financial future."

Join BTM's Legacy Society and help secure the future of professional dance in Maryland. By including BTM in your will, estate plans, or through gifts such as life insurance, retirement assets, appreciated stock, or real estate, you ensure our history, vision, and artistry continue to thrive for generations.



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