



Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Artistic Director Nicole Kelsch

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



"As artistic director, I get to help the next generation of dancers realize their artistic potential. I find that extremely fulfilling. I want to bring in new choreography while also bringing more classics into the repertoire. I want us more involved in the community and I am working on ways to make our shows more accessible so that cost is never a barrier to any member of the community who wants to enjoy dance."

- Nicole Kelsch



OUR MISSION

To provide Maryland with a fully professional ballet company and training academy that meets the aesthetic and recreational needs of Maryland through expressive movement.

Ballet Theatre of Maryland:

- ***Performs*** known and original classical and contemporary works of artistic integrity;
- ***Creates*** new eclectic works that express both American and Maryland culture;
- ***Educates*** by offering a complete dance training program and by providing community services that make ballet accessible to the underserved;
- ***Promotes*** the tradition of the classical form, and the continual evolution of dance as an art.

"Nicole Kelsch does a wonderful job restaging, creating beautiful symmetry in the duets and lovely movements among the solos and group dances. The performers navigate the stage and each other well, and even when not dancing, convey drama and emotion."

- Charles Green, DC Theater Arts



**BALLET THEATRE OF MARYLAND
CELEBRATES ITS 44TH ANNIVERSARY
IN THE 2022 - 2023 SEASON**

Originally named Ballet Theatre of Annapolis and founded in November 1978 as a private non-profit corporation governed by a twelve-person Board of Trustees, in 2000 the organization's name was changed to Ballet Theatre of Maryland, Inc. to fulfill a new mission: serving the whole State of Maryland. BTM has since been recognized as Maryland's premier professional ballet company by many distinctions and awards including by Governor's Proclamation, and has been elected to MSAC's Touring Arts Roster, the only ballet company in Maryland to qualify.

BTM's first Artistic Director was Danny Diamond; Director Edward Stewart soon took over and was designated as the official Founding Director, serving until 2003, whereupon Dianna Cuatto assumed the directorship.

In 2007 Cuatto won an Individual Artist Award by the Maryland State Arts Council and a Governor's Citation for her work, 'Excalibur'. In 2009 she won another Individual Artist Award from MSAC for 'Chichester Psalms', 'The Forgotten Path', and 'Annapolis Anthologies'. In October 2011, Cuatto became the recipient of the prestigious Annie Award and the first choreographer accepted into the National Pen Women's Organization. Now holding the title Artistic Director Emerita, Cuatto led the company until 2020.

Our current Director, Nicole Kelsch, was thereafter appointed by the Board of Trustees with unanimous approval. Kelsch has led BTM through an overwhelmingly successful though challenging first two years, continuing to create art for the people of Maryland, and is looking forward to guiding BTM in its next chapter.



"Demonstrating what a nimble dance company can do when faced with the limitations of a global pandemic..."

- MD Theater Guide

2021-2022 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



This season, Ballet Theatre of Maryland added the quintessential romantic ballet 'Giselle' to our repertoire and performed Dianna Cuatto's much beloved 'Nutcracker' for sold-out crowds. With performances of 'Momentum' we became the first Resident Company at Maryland Hall to perform in the Bowen Theater-- offering an intimate, dance-in-the-round experience as concert dance is rarely witnessed. And BTM closed the season with much celebrated performances of the comedic 'Coppelia'.



BTM continued our long-running Arts Integration Residency with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools working with local school children and culminating in a joint public performance incorporating the children dancers and professional company. BTM also conducted a week-long residency in Garrett County, teaching second graders about ballet, having them choreograph their own dances and performing them alongside BTM's professional dancers for their schoolmates.



BTM also took many opportunities to get out into the community and make our art publicly available. BTM offered performances at the Hammond Harwood House, at First Sunday Arts Festivals, two different programs at Dinner Under the Stars, and sent dancers to perform with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, and with the Gerdan Ensemble in a benefit concert for the people of Ukraine. BTM also offered free community movement classes around Annapolis.

BTM stakeholders conducted a 266 point assessment with regard to global diversity and inclusion benchmarks across fourteen categories which showed continued improvement and an aggregate rating of 'Proactive'.

"...showcasing the diverse traditions and innovations in dance, as well as the talents of the company."

- Charles Green, DC Theater Arts



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-2023

Ballet Theatre of Maryland has an ambitious coming season filled with classics and new works. BTM has commissioned noted choreographer Keith Lee, one of the first Black soloists to perform with the American Ballet Theatre, to create a new ballet, *'Hijinks and Lullabies'*, to premiere on the fall program, and is looking forward to having music played live for *'Les Sylphides'*, a sublime classic recognized as the first abstract ballet which will set by a graduate of the prestigious Vaganova Academy, as well as continuing to restore the works of Founding Artistic Director Edward Stewart to the BTM repertoire. With performances of Cuatto's *'Nutcracker'* and then *'Momentum'* featuring choreography by BTM dancers, and a new full length *'Don Quixote'* staged by our very own Artistic Director, Nicole Kelsch, there is truly much to look forward to on the stage.

BTM is proud to announce that membership continues to grow among our Season Subscribers, already surpassing last year—so sign up today to guarantee your seats at upcoming performances, and look for special Subscriber perks and discounts!

BTM will be conducting community dance and movement classes with the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis, Maryland Hall, GiGi's Playhouse, Boys and Girls Club, Jóvenes Artistas, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and is very proud to announce the launching of a newly certified Adaptive Dance Program for students with mental and physical disabilities.

BTM's Board is also taking the lessons learned during the pandemic to heart and as we grow is looking to establish a designated reserve fund and investments to ensure the long-term stability and sustainability of BTM and all our programming, and is creating a new strategic plan and vision for the continued future growth and development of BTM.



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Financial Activity	FY 2022	% Change from FY 2021
Revenue		
Earned		
Program	\$ 602,374	79.8%
Non-program	5,241	635.1%
Total Earned	607,615	80.9%
Contributed	464,283	-6.9%
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 1,071,898	28.4%
Expenses		
Program	\$ 762,317	32.3%
Fundraising	2,824	-95.1%
General & Administrative	167,027	67.1%
Total Expenses	\$ 932,168	27.0%
Net Unrestricted Activity	\$ 139,730	
Net Temporarily Restricted Activity	\$ 0	
Net Total Activity	\$ 139,730	

Season Subscribers for FY 2023	173	86%
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BTM Mainstage Public Attendance	FY 2022
Giselle	747
Nutcracker	4,777
Momentum	439
Coppelia	823
Paid Mainstage Public Attendance Total	6,600
Free Mainstage Public Attendance Total	186
Total Mainstage Public Attendance	6,786



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It would be impossible for Ballet Theatre of Maryland to operate without the support and assistance of our donors, sponsors, grantors, and patrons. The importance of the donor, whether a person, family, foundation, or corporation, cannot be stressed enough. The arts will always require support over and above ticket sales, as ticket sales only support about one third of the operating costs of a professional dance company.

The following is a list of BTM donors from the past year. We apologize for any unintended errors, omissions, or misspellings. We wish to recognize and thank our donors for their dedication, generosity, love, and faith in the art of ballet.

The Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, and the Small Business Administration provided grants for general operating funds, technical assistance, professional development, community outreach, and scholarships. Ballet Theatre of Maryland is grateful for their generous support of our organization and our mission.

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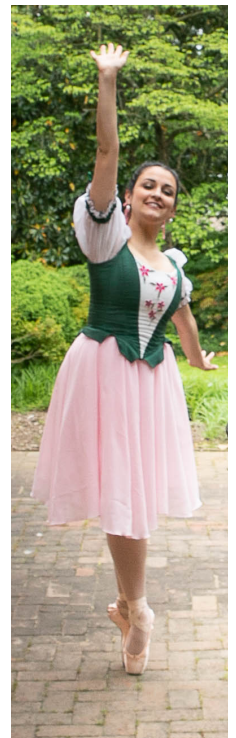
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wonderful audiences
and volunteers, we
extend our deepest
appreciation and
thanks.*

*- Ballet Theatre of
Maryland*

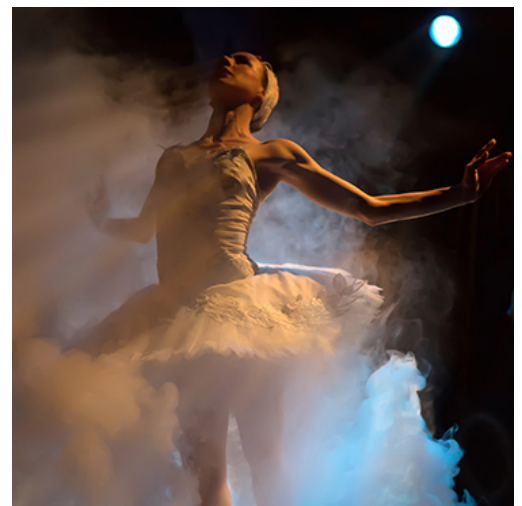




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