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For immediate release

WEEKEND AT MARLEY MANOR: A MURDER MYSTERY BALLET

Ballet Embody Premeires Original Murder Mystery Contemporary Ballet

Ballet Embody, Maryland's professional contemporary ballet company announces the premiere of their new ballet *Weekend at Marley Manor : A Murder Mystery Ballet* this May at The Carroll Community College theater Saturday May 21st at 7pm and Sunday May 22nd at 2pm. Performances will feature professional artists and pre-professional students dancing in a 1920s era "whodunnit" style story, set to a mix of classical music and jazz & pop hits.

Baltimore native and Ballet Embody's artistic director Emily Runkle states "this ballet takes the concept of a full-length story ballet and adds a twist of suspense. Our new work explores archetypal characters common to 'whodunnit' type stories while leaving the audience at the edge of their seats." Through company conversation it was decided to incorporate an element of interactive murder mystery games. As the dancers perform, only the dancer who drew the "It was me" straw will know who the murderer was, leaving this key plot point a surprise to the other dancers and the audience.

The performances will feature large group classical ballet pieces, Charleston-esque social dances, and will invite the audience to follow along with the cast for the final murderous reveal! This show is family friendly.

Ballet Embody was founded in 2019 by Emily Runkle and Melissa Lineburg, and has since premiered three original narrative based shows. Their inaugural performance *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe* (2019) featured four different Poe stories, highlighting the company's unique aspect of narrative contemporary ballet. Ballet Embody premiered *The Maryland Nutcracker* (December 2021), a holiday classic with a Maryland twist. Ballet Embody has a professional company of 8-12 dancers and a student company and creates comprehensible ballet narratives as well as provides quality technique and artistry to Maryland audience members.

