

Ballet Embody

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For immediate release

August 4th, 2022

EXPANDED MARYLAND-THEMED NUTCRACKER BALLET

Ballet Embody Premieres their Expanded Holiday Classic with a “Maryland Twist”

Ballet Embody, Maryland’s professional contemporary ballet company, announces the expansion of *The Maryland Nutcracker* this December at Carroll Community College Theater in Westminster, Maryland. On December 10th and 11th, two performances of this beloved holiday tradition will spotlight professional artists and pre-professional students dancing to classical Nutcracker music, while adding new and original themes with the help of Maryland icons and traditions. *The Maryland Nutcracker* premiered in December, 2021 and this year’s production expansion will feature additional dances, costumes, and a larger cast of dancers.

Baltimore native and Ballet Embody’s artistic director Emily Runkle states, “Maryland pride is a very strong, real, and quirky thing, and our area should have a Nutcracker ballet that reflects that. We are excited to bring this to Carroll County for the second time and anticipate it will become a holiday tradition for years to come.” The performances feature an expansion of the Act 1 party scene played by additional supporting cast members and a familiar beloved Maryland poet. The snow scene and Act 2 of the Nutcracker ballet present Maryland icons dancing the divertissement roles, such as Maryland crabs and Oriole birds, as well as an interpretation of Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Raven* poem set to what is often referred to as the “Coffee” or “Arabian” dance.



Ballet Embody was founded in 2019 by Emily Runkle and Melissa Lineburg. Their inaugural performance in 2019, *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, featured four different Poe stories, highlighting the company’s unique personality of narrative contemporary ballet. Since their conception, the Company has produced five feature length original ballets, including their most recent work *Weekend at Marley Manor: A Murder Mystery Ballet*. Ballet Embody employs 8-12 professional dancers each season and aims to provide unique and thrilling ballet narratives as well as quality technique and artistry to Maryland audience members.