

Metropolitan Ballet

THEATRE & ACADEMY

INQUIRIES: Executive Director Paula Ross,
paula@mbtdance.org, 301-762-1757
WEBSITE: www.mbtdance.org

Metropolitan Ballet Theatre Announces *Becoming Sugar Plum*

Original fairytale ballet will enjoy world premiere in March 2016 in Rockville; tells how the Sugar Plum Fairy came to be.

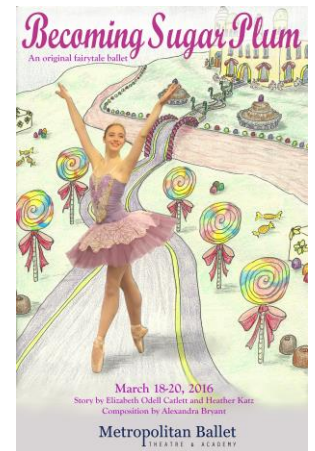
Gaithersburg, MD, November 21, 2015 – Metropolitan Ballet Theatre (MBT) is announcing an original, full-length ballet to continue its 27th annual production season. *Becoming Sugar Plum* is a new fairytale conceived by MBT Artistic Director Elizabeth Odell Catlett, who will choreograph and stage the ballet. Composer Alexandra Bryant has been commissioned by MBT to create the original musical composition for this ballet. A children's storybook will be published with the same title, written by Ms. Catlett and local writer Heather Katz. The book is scheduled to be available at MBT's performances of *The Nutcracker* in December.

"This ballet project is two years in the making, and it's exciting to see it coming to the stage. We've created original ballets before at MBT, but never with an original storyline, new characters, and an original musical score," says Ms. Catlett. "While not at all related to a holiday season, this storyline is really a prequel to *The Nutcracker*. It details how the Sugar Plum Fairy came to rule the Kingdom of Sweets."

"Before she ruled the Kingdom of Sweets as the Sugar Plum Fairy, she was the sweet Princess Plum from Fairyland. One mystical dream, one dangerous journey, and one very courageous dance leads the Princess to her destiny as an admired, kind ruler.

You'll meet the beautiful fairies from Fairyland, the unpleasant King Dross and creatures from the Bitter Land, and the worried prince from the Land of Sweets. It is brave Princess Plum's fate to bring these lands together."

*See her story unfold March 18-20, 2016 in *Becoming Sugar Plum*, an original fairytale ballet from Metropolitan Ballet Theatre.*



"Wholly new full-length ballets are rarely produced for a family audience, let alone in Montgomery County. We are thrilled that we can bring this to the stage and hope people enjoy it," comments MBT Executive Director Paula Ross. "Our Board of Directors has been incredibly supportive of our staff's work on this project. They know that a project like this does not come along often in ballet."

MBT performs at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, on the campus of Montgomery College in Rockville, MD. Tickets will be available in January 2016. The performances include professional dancers, as well as student dancers from MBT's Academy. For more information about *Becoming Sugar Plum* or Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, please visit www.mbtdance.org or call 301-762-1757.

Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, celebrating dance education and community outreach since 1989, is in its 27th performance season. MBT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts education organization, dedicated to providing arts opportunities for all through exceptional dance education, community outreach, and inspiring performances. MBT is supported in part by the Montgomery County Government and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and the Maryland State Arts Council. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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220 PERRY PARKWAY, SUITE 8, GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

301-762-1757 • www.mbtdance.org