

Metropolitan Ballet

THEATRE & ACADEMY

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Metropolitan Ballet Theatre Announces Celebrity Guests to Join Cast of *The Nutcracker*

Local arts leaders and supporters will portray "Mother Ginger" to support arts education in the community.

Gaithersburg, MD, November 20, 2017 – Metropolitan Ballet Theatre (MBT) has announced the involvement of several local arts and education leaders in its upcoming 29th annual production of *The Nutcracker*. These guests will each portray "Mother Ginger" in one of ten performances of the traditional ballet. All of the guests are lending their time and talent in support of the arts in our community.

The guest "Mother Gingers" at select performances are:

- Friday, Dec 1, 7:30pm: Gazelle Hashemian, BlueFlower, Arts Supporter at Holton Arms
- Saturday, Dec 2, 12pm & Dec 9, 4pm: Tony Spearman-Leach, Director, Montgomery Community Media
- Saturday, Dec 2, 4pm: Michael J. Bobbitt, Artistic Director, Adventure Theatre
- Friday, Dec 8, 7:30pm: Jacqueline Manger, Board of Directors, Adventure Theatre
- Sunday, Dec 10, 1pm: Eliot Pfanstiehl, CEO, Strathmore



"We are so grateful that these individuals are giving their time and energy to be part of our cast. This is MBT's 29th year producing *The Nutcracker*; we started the guest "Mother Gingers" program a few seasons ago to add new fun to the production and help us meet our mission of reaching further into the community to create new connections to the arts," said Elizabeth Catlett, MBT's Artistic Director. "This year's Mother Gingers celebrate the Arts & Education in our wonderful County!"

"Getting back onstage dancing is a dream come true. I am warming up my pointe shoes. My Mother Ginger may be a little spicier, as my full name is Mother Paprika Chili Ginger," joked Mr. Bobbitt.

As part of these local leaders' involvement, MBT also will offer a portion of ticket sales to their performances back to their arts organization or school to be used for any arts education programming.

All performances will be held at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, on the campus of Montgomery College in Rockville, MD. The performance includes professional dancers, as well as student dancers from MBT's Academy. Tickets start at \$19, group discounts are available. MBT also produces *The Nutcracker Suite*, a short-length version of the classic tale, which will be presented December 16-17 at MBT's Black Box Theater in Gaithersburg. For more information about *The Nutcracker* 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 29th 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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