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On October 18, 19, & 20, the Ballet Theatre of Maryland opens its 41st Season at the newly christened Michael E. Busch Center for the Performing Arts at Maryland Hall in Annapolis with **the creation of another new premiere ballet—*The Snow Queen***. Based on the famous Hans Christian Anderson fairytale, which is also the inspiration for Disney's blockbuster *Frozen*, *The Snow Queen* explores the icy cold aspects of our shadow selves and teaches us how to embrace them through the power of love and friendship in order to find healing and redemption.

The story begins with some evil mischief stirred up by the Frost Goblin King (Alexander Collen) who uses his scrying bowl to search the earth for the perfect candidate to become his Snow Queen. With snow and ice, he will be able to rule the world. His search reveals the young Princess Aleksia (Karissa Kralik or Lynne Bellinger) who is about to be crowned Queen of the Realm. She is possessed of raw magical power and is distraught that she must marry a neighboring prince to assume the crown, for she is in love with her best friend Gerda's brother Kai (Lindsey Bell and Chang-Hyun Seo). Gerda and Kai are the Tutor's children and have been trained to serve her Royal Protectors since they were born. The Goblin King is elated, because Aleksia's magic and sorrow will allow him to claim her with one of his darkened crystal shards. But he does not anticipate the power of Gerda and Kai's love and friendship for Aleksia as they set off on an epic journey to free her and the kingdom from the icy powers that have trapped everyone in an eternal blanket of winter. Mysterious trolls, an Enchantress, gypsies, fairies, magic, and humor combine to help Gerda and Kai battle the elements in a race to save the kingdom and liberate those they love from their deepest, darkest fears.

The performance on Friday, October 18, includes a Meet and Greet the Dancers immediately following the performance in the theater. On Saturday, October the 19th, you can purchase tickets to BTM's 41st Anniversary Grande Opening VIP Reception from 5:00 to 7:00, which includes a light buffet, wine, a raffle, a paddle raise, and an opportunity to talk to the dancers and choreographer about the ballet, their passions, and their lives. The performance follows this event. Tickets may be purchased as a package or separately. On Sunday, October 19th, you can attend the Ice Palace Tea Party one hour prior to the performance-free, with your Matinee Performance ticket. Kids and adults can come dressed as their favorite fairy tale character and sample treats, crafts, and

photographs with the dancers. For tickets go online @: www.marylandhall.org; or call 410-280-5640; For information, go online @: www.balletmaryland.org or call 410-263-8289.

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Ballet Theatre of Maryland, located in Annapolis, MD., is designated as the premier professional ballet company and school conservatory in the state of Maryland. The company is comprised of 16-18 professional dancers, 14 Apprentices and 11-12 Trainees. The Conservatory of Dance has an all professional faculty with teachers still current in the field-most with degrees in dance education and/or certifications from top training schools. Our school has locations in Annapolis at Maryland Hall and the Merritt Annex, BTM's Conservatory, offers a full curriculum of classes in ballet, jazz, modern, tap, partnering, conditioning and more. It also provides students opportunities to perform with the professional company in some of the professional productions with age appropriate challenges in many of our full-length story ballets. For information about BTM, visit us at www.balletmaryland.org or call 410-263-8289. For Maryland Hall tickets only, go online at www.mdhallarts.org or call 410-280-5640. Contact BTM for all other ticket information. For all other tickets, see above information.