



Film Premiere of Raffaella: A New Fairytale Ballet

3:15-4:30 p.m. | Thursday, October 31 | Eck Visitors Center, Auditorium

Chair: John Nagy (University of Notre Dame)

Claire Kretzschmar (Choreographer of *Raffaella*)

Bio: Claire Kretzschmar is a choreographer, dancer, teacher, podcast host, former soloist with New York City Ballet (NYCB 2010-2022), and current Artistic Director of Ballet Hartford. This past summer, she choreographed *Raffaella: A New Fairytale Ballet*, which premiered at the Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend, Indiana. Ms. Kretzschmar co-hosts NYCB's podcast, "The Rosin Box" and is a co-founder of Arthouse2B, a Catholic arts organization in NYC that seeks to restore culture. She has a bachelor's degree in Communications from Fordham University and is the recipient of the 2017 Janice Levin Award and the 2015 Martin E. Segal Award for rising artists.

Abstract: *Raffaella* is a new fairytale ballet commissioned by the Stroik family, in memory of their daughter, Raffaella Stroik. Inspired by her life, this full-length ballet follows the lineage of classical ballets such as *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty* and seeks to embody Raffaella's motto, "Beauty will save the world." The film is made by Dancing Fox Pictures and will be followed by a brief discussion with the ballet's choreographer, Claire Kretzschmar.