

BALLET ARIZONA 2020-2021 SEASON UPCOMING DONOR EVENTS

BALLET
ARIZONA
IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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BALLET ARIZONA DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Corporate Spotlight:
*Goodmans Interior
Structures*

Donor Spotlight:
Prima Circle Members

**Letter From the
Executive Director:**
Samantha Turner

Q&A:
*Artistic Director
Ib Andersen*

On-going

(All Prima Circle Members)
In-Studio Rehearsal Viewings

September 22

(\$125 & Up)
Season Welcome Happy Hour

October 9

(All Prima Circle Members)
Inspire Digital Panel

October 14

(Open to the public)
Ballet Arizona Book Club: *Life in Motion* by Misty Copeland

October 19-23

(\$500 & Up)
Digital Studio Rehearsal Viewing

Ballet Arizona presents

INSPIRE

Oct. 14 – Nov. 15, 2020
at Dorrance Theatre

Inspire will showcase the vast talents of Ballet Arizona's dancers. From the Arizona premiere of August Bournonville's challenging, classical work *Pas de Sept*, to the ingenuity of Alejandro Cerrudo's *Pacopepepluto* and the anticipation of an exciting new work from Ib Andersen, there is truly something for everyone.

Tickets:

balletaz.org | 602.381.1096

Ballet Arizona dancers in *Serenade*. Choreography by George Balanchine ©The George Balanchine Trust. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.



TURNING POINTE

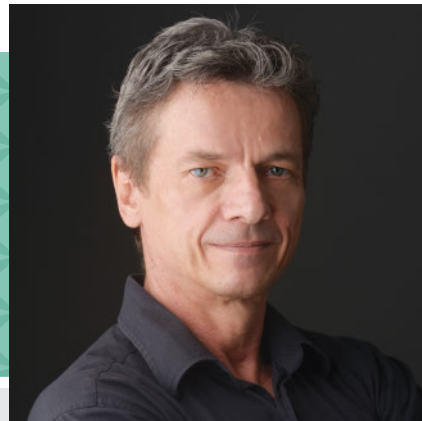


We are back!

Your support has been
overwhelming and inspiring.

Ballet Arizona dancers. Photo by Tzu-Chia Huang.

FALL 2020



Because of you, dance in the Valley will continue to thrive for future generations.

As we venture into this strange, new reality, I must first start by saying “thank you”. Our world seems forever changed since we last met at *A Midsummer’s Night Dream* this past season. However, you have remained a constant source of joy for us all. Your support and passion for this company gives our dancers and staff hope for what the future of Ballet Arizona holds.

As you already know, our fall 2020 season is quite different from what we had originally planned. Although we are unable to open the doors to Orpheum Theatre and Symphony Hall, we can’t wait to bring the lights up in our very own Dorrance Theatre. Our first production, *Inspire*, will showcase the vast talents of our dancers. From the Arizona premiere of August Bournonville’s challenging, classical work *Pas de Sept*, to the ingenuity of Alejandro Cerrudo’s *Pacopepepluto*, there is truly something for everyone. I look forward to sharing what is sure to be one of our most diverse productions with all of you.

In this issue, Executive Director, Samantha Turner, talks about where we are as a company, the many challenges we continue to face, and our plan to build a bridge to our future. My right-hand, Rehearsal Director and School Director, Maria Simonetti, discusses her vision for The School of Ballet Arizona, and what we have been able to accomplish during these unprecedented times. Longtime arts advocate, Adam Goodman, of local company, Goodmans Interior Structures, shares why arts and culture institutions play a vital part in shaping the character of every community.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Turning Pointe*, as we celebrate each and every one of you, who make up our Ballet Arizona family. It is because of you that our company has become a cultural jewel in the desert. It is because of you that we are able to honor the traditions of classical ballet and create innovative new works. It is because of you, dance in the Valley will continue to thrive for future generations.

Gratefully,

Ib Andersen, Artistic Director

BEHIND THE SCENES with Ib Andersen

Q: How are the dancers doing?

A: They are ecstatic to be back in the studios. Prior to that they were on summer vacation. We have been very fortunate to receive some major gifts and the PPP loan that allowed us to keep the dancers fully employed through the end of their contract in May, even with the canceled performances. That was an absolute must for me – making sure they were covered. We were even able to have them back in class for three weeks in May before their contracts ended. The good news is that they have not been totally isolated for five months. We do have the alternative season in place for the fall, so the scale of the productions will be smaller than at Symphony Hall, but we are fortunate in keeping all of the dancers employed on their original contracts for the season. Other ballet companies are not faring as well, and many around the country have laid off their dancers until 2021. I’m very proud of what we are doing because I don’t think many companies have that luxury. Keeping the company together was a must for us and our donors made that possible.

Q: Tell us a little bit about the fall program *Inspire*, what was your vision behind it, how are you adapting rehearsals, your choreography, your art, in this new world?

A: Now that the dancers are back in the studios, we will see what happens. So far, so good. All summer we worked hard to implement the strictest health protocols to keep everyone safe. I feel confident that we are doing all of the right things. The dancers have been adapting well, taking classes every day with masks and social distancing. The hardest thing for me is remembering to keep the protocol. The mask is not the challenge, but usually I am very physical in rehearsals, especially if I am choreographing and I am partnering. Social distancing is a little strange – when you are used to doing the opposite. It has been nice getting back into things so that we all could get back to some kind of normalcy.

For the fall program in Dorrance Theatre, I named it *Inspire* because that is how I want people to feel – inspired, uplifted and

moved. I don’t want anything remotely close to all of the things they are seeing on television right now. Bad news and more bad news. I want people to have a bit of respite from all of that.

It should be simply about dance. You know, if you feel down the slightest bit, just start dancing a little bit every day. It immediately picks you up – not to say that I am dancing every day at home – but it truly does make you very happy. You should try it! We all kind of need a lift right now – a mental breather and some positive motivation.

We will be performing *Pas de Sept* – which is new for the company. It was a dance made for one of August Bournonville’s greatest ballets called *Folktale*. There is a wedding scene at the end – this dance is the entertainment during that celebration. It is one of his hardest ballets for four women and three men. If we can pull it off – it is like technical fireworks. It is about celebrating life. We will also have Alejandro Cerrudo’s piece, *Pacopepepluto*, which features three male solos and a Balanchine work that can be socially distanced for the dancers.

The piece I am choreographing is already changing from my original vision because there are many dancers that feel comfortable dancing together. I learned that many have been socializing together all summer or are roommates so I have a much greater ability for partnering. I thought, if this is going to be all solos then I have to figure out a way to get great variety to keep it interesting for the audience so they don’t fall asleep. I now have options of using 3-4 people together opposed to just one. Choreography during Covid is like solving a big puzzle!

Q: What role do you think the arts play in people’s lives during times like these?

A: For me personally, art is the reason why I’m alive. If I didn’t have that... I don’t know what I would do. It gives you inspiration, uplifts you and opens your mind to creativity. It is important for us to get out of our rut and our daily routine to see something unusual. The arts should be about celebrating all that humanity is able to do – and that is quite extraordinary. For me it is food in every way, without it why would you want to live? Art is celebrating the human spirit in so many different ways; it can be found in food, architecture, painting, theatre. We need to find the things to celebrate our humanity and I believe that is through art.

KEEPING UP WITH THE DANCERS

Exciting events to celebrate from the past few months

Married couples, Jillian Barrell and Naylor Iovino (below), and Arianni Martin and Alejandro Mendez (right) announced they are each expecting!



Alison Remmers and Alberto Morales Perez got engaged!



Colleen Buckley got married and became Colleen Hoopes! Wishing a world of happiness to her and her husband, Christopher.

Corporate Spotlight

Adam Goodman on behalf of Goodmans Interior Structures

Why is Goodmans Interior Structures passionate about Ballet Arizona?

Ballet Arizona is an outstanding dance company with world-class talent on and off stage. Not enough Phoenixians appreciate how lucky we are to have such a high level of artistry, right in our backyard.

I find that our staff is initially attracted to ballet as a visual art. We are in the business of design, so the interplay of colors, materials, shapes and lighting is very natural for us.

But ballet has the added element of movement, and that is something we are not accustomed to designing with. The beautiful costumes are animated by incredibly graceful, elegant, athletic, intentional and powerful movements. For us, it's like discovering a fourth dimension!

Why are the arts important in Arizona and for the community?

Arts and culture institutions are fundamental to any community's essence. They shape a community's character and represent its ambitions. At its best, art reflects society at a point in time and teaches us something about our nature. Art shows us the spectrum of the human experience, from our heroics to our folly. Without art to push and pull us, life would be static, unimproved, unfulfilled and unenriched.

Why is corporate support vital?

As an employer, I support the arts so it can be available to enrich the lives of our employees. Art challenges them to use new muscles and inspires them to think differently. It is also important for a company to connect with its customers beyond just a transactional level. Art is a unique platform for deeper and more meaningful customer engagement.

What are some creative ways Goodmans Interior Structures has supported Ballet Arizona?

One year we held our spring picnic at Ballet Arizona. It was amazing! We bought out the theater so all of our employees and their families could enjoy a performance. For many people it was their first time experiencing the ballet. It is incredibly gratifying to share a new art form with someone, to open their eyes to something so beautiful that they never knew about. After the performance, we had a full picnic in the lobby, with hot dogs, games and even a dunk tank. The dancers came out and mingled with our employees and their families. It was exciting for us to have easy, friendly access to such talented performers. Imagine socializing with the Phoenix Suns immediately after a game – it was that kind of thrill! I am grateful to the development team at Ballet Arizona for their creativity to help us find a way to support them using money that was already in the budget for a different purpose. We killed Odette and Odile with one stone!



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Samantha Turner

I can't tell you what a pleasure it is to write this message for Turning Pointe, the first since all of our lives changed in so many ways. The fact that we are still here, and making plans for the future, is because of you!

The outpouring of support from you during this time has been overwhelming and inspiring. As buildings were closed and performances cancelled, your hearts opened, revealing a depth of generosity beyond expectations. As a result, dancers could keep working and stay in shape with remote classes, faculty kept students moving forward in their training while at home, and staff found new ways to stay in touch with you and the rest of our community. And everyone became experts at video meeting technology.

In July, we announced the next step in this strange journey we are all taking – an alternative fall season adapted to the current circumstances. We are thrilled that we will start performing again in October, and hope that you've made arrangements to join us in the Dorrance Theatre or through a streamed video performance. Thanks to the expertise of health and safety consultants associated with Barrow Neurological Institute and Arizona State University's College of Health Solutions, we've made certain the protocols in place will help protect all of our employees, students and patrons as we come together.

As we wait to see what the spring will bring, plans for our 2021-2022 season are in the making. We know we can get there because you are helping us build a bridge over this difficult time. There are many

challenges ahead as we cross that bridge to the future, and we are grateful for the help you are providing for that journey. Without the ability to perform at Symphony Hall and Orpheum Theatre, Ballet Arizona will have less than half of the revenue we would normally see in a season. While we've cut our budget by more than \$2.5 million, the expenses necessary to maintain operations still exceed incoming revenue. The *Be Our Bridge – Covid-19 Recovery and Relief Fund* is designed to close that gap.

More than ever, your gifts are what keep dancers dancing, faculty teaching, and our staff reaching out to serve the community. If you haven't yet joined the *Be Our Bridge* campaign, please make your gift or pledge today, along with your annual gift of support. To stay on the stage, the ballet needs the additional help in this extraordinary year.

In the midst of this year's challenges, we've been able to explore new ways to connect with you and bring ballet to the community. We hope you'll join us for some of these new opportunities – the Ballet Arizona Book Club, Movement Moments, and, of course, new performances that you can watch from home.

Thank you for being there for us in this moment. We will continue to find ways to be with you.

Gratefully,

Samantha Turner, Executive Director

Donor Spotlight

Prima Circle Anniversaries

On behalf of everyone here at Ballet Arizona, we want to take a moment and celebrate the following donors who have been a part of our Prima Circle family for the past 10 years. As Prima Circle members, you have played a vital role in creating the artistic excellence we see on stage and throughout our community each and every season.

Thank you for your dedication and passion for the ballet!

Anonymous

Judy Ackerman & Richard Epstein

Leona S. Aiken & Stephen G. West

Makenna & Mike Albrecht

Caralee Allsworth

Ellen Andres-Schneider & Ralph M. Andres

Gwynne J. Autrey

Joan & Charles Berry

Dale & Marshall Block

Oonagh & John Boppart

Carol & Arthur Brandon

Nancy & Joe Braucher

Kay & Rhett* Butler

David Carson

Jill Christenholz

Anne & Fred Christensen

Betsy & Brian Curley

JoAnne Doll

Jacque & Bennett Dorrance

Mary & Jeff Ehret

Judith & John Ellerman

Stasche & Nelson Ewing

Terry & Barbara Fenzl

Davina Glaser

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Mimi & David* Horwitz

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Anne Taylor Kunkel

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Carol & Randy Schilling

Dan & Sandi* Schneider

Gary & Jan Septon

Evelyn G. & Daniel J. Simon

Theodore R. Stephan

Nancy Swanson

Lois Tatelman

Sharon & David Thompson

Pat & Phil Turberg

Gretchen & Dick Wilson

Dr. Judith G. Wolf

Pat & Barry Yellen

*Deceased

The people BALLET ARIZONA





Working in philanthropy has the wonderful benefit of getting to see the best of humanity.

You have told us that we matter to you and to our community through your overwhelming generosity. You have shown us how important the arts are to you personally through your words of support and encouragement. Working in philanthropy has the wonderful benefit of getting to see the best of humanity. We serve as the conduit for your passion and connect you to the things you love most. Our staff derives so much joy and inspiration from our beautiful ballet company, but over these past six months I can honestly say that we have been more inspired by you.

Our fundraising team has been reduced to tears of joy and gratitude during our conversations with all of you. Your generosity has been unbelievable during our most fragile and stressful time. You have asked the questions: How is everyone doing? How are you managing? Are the dancers alright? What can we do to help?

Throughout this crisis, we began capturing all of the wonderful messages that we receive on a daily basis. We collected them to

share with the dancers and staff so that they were able to feel equally as inspired by our donors. Before summer break, we handed this compilation of quotes (6 full pages) to the dancers and said to them, "whenever you start feeling stress or despair, we want you to take out these quotes from our donors, so that you can see how much you mean to them." A little light summer reading! Ballet Arizona brings joy, inspiration, and beauty to our community and to our patrons; but what we really learned is that our donors are the ones that bring joy, inspiration, and beauty to our community.

Throughout this issue, we share images of the people touched by your support, and quotes from your peers offering encouragement and hope for us all.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Jami Kozemczak, *Director of Development*

WE NEED THE ARTS, AND THE ARTS NEED US!

– Sharon & David Thompson

I have loved ballet ever since I was very small. Every production I see of Ballet Arizona fills me with joy and I want to support this company.

– Emily Moxley

Have been a subscriber for nearly 20 years and watched the company mature to a world class group. Keep up the fantastic work!

– Stephen Sapareto

Ballet Arizona has given me great joy and literally saved my mental health.

– Edgar Williams

I believe that every child should be exposed to and enjoy all of the fine arts. It enriches their lives and brightens their minds!

– William H. Birkner



I celebrate the arts. They are the drive for humankind and the reflection of its progress. Dance celebrates all we are and all that we can be.

– Roy Zaborowski



The arts are more important than ever right now. They are a source of beauty, comfort, and inspiration during this unprecedented time!

– Patricia Bonk

Ballet Arizona is the premiere ballet company in the southwest and we are blessed to have them here in the valley.

– Nelson Ewing

Extraordinary dancers and community classes. Supporting you during this time of class and performance restriction.

– Susan Eaton

The arts are the medium that moves society and culture to greater heights. Develop a fond appreciation for the arts today and enjoy lifelong.

– Christian George

My heart goes out to all the dancers and all at Ballet Arizona as we face an unknown future. Thank you for your beautiful dancing.

– Deirdre Krenz

PHOENIX THRIVES WITH DANCERS.

– John Wright

The ballet has always taken my breath away. In good times and bad I wish to support the talented dancers and the company that keeps it all running!

– Penelope Abad

I am so proud of what Ballet Arizona is doing for this community and want to see them continue to thrive! The performing arts give us life!

– Dyan Wolf

You make our lives richer and more meaningful by bringing us the beauty of dance.

– Colleen & Bruce Hallberg

THE SCHOOL OF BALLET ARIZONA

Under the direction of Maria Simonetti

Last fall, The School of Ballet Arizona (SBAZ) announced its new director, a familiar face, Maria Simonetti. She joined the company as the rehearsal director in 1997, a role she continues in to this day, and has been an integral part of making Ballet Arizona what it is today.

Upon taking on the role as school director, it has been Simonetti's hope to build common ground between the school and the professional company so they are more connected. Looking back at her first year, there have been a few moments that have really stood out in seeing that vision come true.

First, was her oversight over the School's production of *Cinderella*. Taking on that production from the beginning, she was able to see how the students learned and tackled Ib's challenging choreography, something she found beautiful to watch. "Since I have stepped in," Maria says, "and even in an interim role, the school has been performing the same ballets that the company does, of course with small modifications, but basically following the company's model and Ib's choreography." This is something she hopes will continue because

it will show students how difficult ballet is, while preparing them for when they are needed to step into the company's corps de ballet, because they already know the steps!

The second, was *Napoli* and the dads who took part in the performances. "It was so much fun to connect with more people who are involved with SBAZ," said Maria. "I really get to know who they are and what they are like as people." Even better, is what has come after *Napoli*. Enjoying their time on stage, their newfound comradery turned into the first ever dad's committee called, Barre Men. Although their first fundraiser has been paused due to the pandemic, Simonetti looks forward to what they will bring to the school.

Like our professional company, The School of Ballet Arizona has faced a number of challenges in the face of COVID-19, from the cancellation of our Spring Performances to all of our classes moving remote over Zoom. However, under Simonetti's direction, there have been some triumphs as well. Determined to continue with our planned summer intensive, SBAZ was one of the few schools in the country that

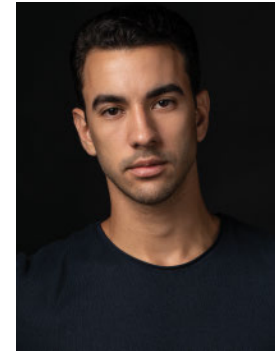
was able to hold in-person classes. Following the guidance of health and safety officials, along with our incredible production staff and teachers ensuring all studios and spaces received multiple daily cleanings, students were able to return to the studios after many weeks of dancing in their kitchens, living rooms, and bedrooms!

This fall, classes began on Zoom but we now have students back in the studio and we are taking everything day-by-day. As for the future, Simonetti's focus is on the students and reinvigorating their love for ballet. "The beginning part of the school year will look different. We won't have any performances like years past, it will be a focus on getting them back into class and working on their technique," says Maria. "Dance obviously has a physical aspect to it that makes you feel good, period! It challenges so much more than the body though, and that's important. Doing the intensive, I saw how excited the students were to be back together and I want The School of Ballet Arizona to be a place that continues to bring these kids joy."



Artistic Director, Ib Andersen in rehearsal with The School of Ballet Arizona students.

COMPANY CONNECTION *Meet dancers Luis and Tiffany*



Luis Corrales

Hometown: Havana, Cuba
Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019

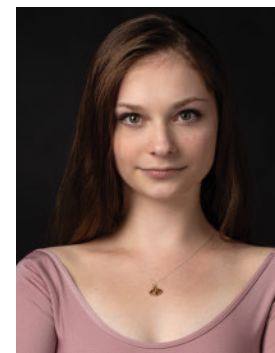
What inspired you to become a dancer?

My mom says I was born a dancer. Every time music played my feet would start moving automatically. I remember that I used to get on top of my grandma's dining table and give a dance show for everyone in the room. My parents prepared me and took me to the Cuban National Ballet

School audition and that's how everything started. It was difficult for me to understand the rigorous ballet technique at the beginning, but once I did, it became my everything.

What is your dream role to perform?

William Forsythe's, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*. I've always been a big fan of Forsythe's choreography. But this piece especially, it's the sharp and electric score that he uses and the extravagant way in which each movement unfolds. It electrifies me every time I see it.



Tiffany Chatfield

Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia
Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019

What inspired you to become a dancer?

As a young student, I thought my dance classes were a great way to express myself and spend time with friends. It wasn't until I left my home studio to train at The HARID Conservatory that I realized my passion for ballet

in particular. I remember coming home from the summer intensive, and begging my mom to let me study there year-round. The constant attention to detail and the beauty of putting your heart into each movement is really why I wanted to continue on at a professional level.

What is your favorite ballet?

One of my favorite ballets is Christopher Wheeldon's, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* because it has a great balance of classical ballet and humorous themes for the audience to enjoy. The costumes and sets for this ballet mimic the bizarre style that Disney used in the animated film. Christopher Wheeldon's ballets, *After the Rain* and *This Bitter Earth* are two other honorable mentions.

How are you keeping busy and staying in shape while at home?

I'm trying to keep myself busy with school, I'm studying to become an Interior Designer. Im also taking ballet barre every day and working out every other day to keep my body in shape.

What is your favorite place you have traveled to?

Cuba is my favorite place to visit since I stopped living there 7 years ago. In addition to the fact that I love visiting my family, Cuba is a country that has it all – amazing beaches, special cities and best of all – its people.

Do you have any hidden talents?

Besides being a pop star in my shower, I'm trying to learn photography.

Any current TV show/movie/book obsessions?

So many TV shows!!! But right now *Good Girls*, *Elite*, and *Money Heist* on Netflix are the ones that got me hooked. I also can't wait for the new season of *Euphoria* on HBO.

How are you keeping busy and staying in shape while at home?

I've been keeping my lifestyle focused on my career in ballet. Doing strengthening exercises and online ballet classes, as well as eating a well-balanced diet, are important in maintaining a toned physique. Within my workout routine, I've been taking time to make goals for Ballet Arizona's 2020-2021 season. I still have downtime throughout the day, which I fill by painting, keeping up with chores around my apartment, or watching videos that inspire me as an artist.

Any current TV show/movie/book obsessions?

I haven't started any new shows, because Netflix hasn't had a lot that interests me recently, but I enjoy watching Disney/Pixar movies when I have nothing else going on. *Coco* is a movie that I'll never get sick of.

If you could be any animal in the world, what would you be?

If I could be any animal, I would probably be a red fox. They're so cute and agile. I also just think it's cool that they look like they're wearing socks all the time.

Who is your go to musical artist?

I listen to Tame Impala when I'm painting or just wanting some music to aid in a chill, but upbeat vibe. It puts me in a good mood.