

**Legacy for Dance
Spotlight:**
*Eugene Rueckoldt
and Delbert Harr*

Corporate Spotlight:
*Holiday Lights
Decorating and
Decorating On Demand*

**Donor
Spotlight:**
Anne & Fred Christensen

Q&A:
*Artistic Director
Ib Andersen*

TURNING POINTE

Your Impactful Contributions

How over 80,000 people
benefit each year





Your generosity inspires each and every dancer, teacher and student to do the best they can.

Welcome to the 2015-2016 season! It will be one of Ballet Arizona's finest ever, with new dancers enlivening the Company and our much-anticipated return to Desert Botanical Garden.

As *Turning Pointe* goes to print, we are in the middle of *Ballet Under the Stars*, our biggest outreach program, made possible only by your contributions. The quotes gathered from audience members by Executive Director David Tompkins remind us about the importance of these free performances.

Over Halloween weekend, the comic ballet *Coppélia* will make you laugh out loud. This ballet is full of mischief, mayhem, and light-hearted entertainment. It is a straightforward comedy. There is no deep hidden message. If you don't see it...then you must be sleeping!

You will meet our new dancers in *Coppélia*. On average, they earn a salary similar to that of the average Arizona preschool teacher. What do dancers do during the summer layoff to pay their bills? It won't surprise you that they are hard-working. What may surprise you is the unusual ways they find to make ends meet.

Our donor spotlight section highlights long-standing Prima Circle members Anne & Fred Christensen, and corporate sponsors Holiday Lights Decorating & Decorating On Demand.

I would like to take a moment and honor the late Eugene Rueckoldt and Delbert Harr, a couple who made a transformational bequest this year.

Another partnership your donations fund is the one between The School of Ballet Arizona and teacher Camden Lloyd, the founder of the ballet program at Osborn School District. We congratulate her four students who have been awarded full tuition scholarships this academic year.

Your generosity inspires each and every dancer, teacher and student to do the best they can. Thank you...and enjoy this issue of the *Turning Pointe*!

Gratefully,

Ib Andersen, Artistic Director

BEHIND THE SCENES with Ib Andersen

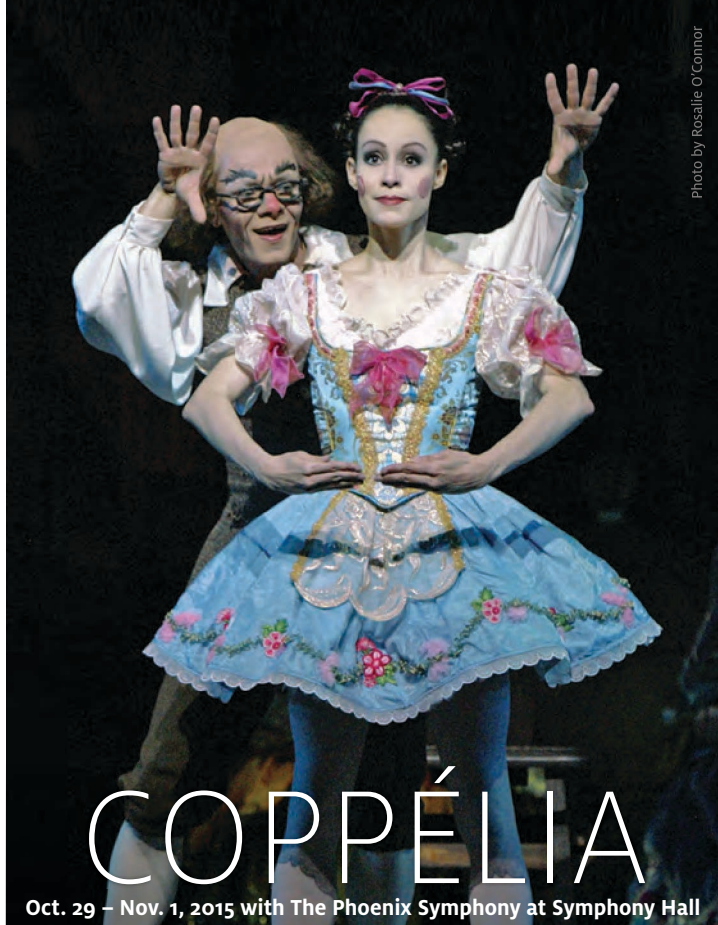
Q: As this report is going to print we are in the middle of *Ballet Under the Stars*. Since this is truly our biggest outreach program, can you share with our donors why it is important and why you make it part of your artistic vision for Ballet Arizona?

A: It's important on many different levels. I think we are the only Company in Arizona that performs a program like this on this scale. It is expensive, but giving back to the community is important to me because it means giving back to the very community that supports us, and allows us to exist. I like the fact that we are going out there and showing ourselves, and creating an interest for those people that may not have been exposed to this before. It's important is to give back to the community and to show people that we have a great ballet company in Phoenix.

And ... there might be one or two people out there, you never know, that this might trigger something in their life. I mean, that is why we do this period. To give people something they don't normally have in their life, and hopefully it will inspire them in some way.

Q: Did you make any changes to your choreography of *Pines of Rome* for Ballet Under the Stars after it had its world premiere last March?

A: No, I didn't really change much, but this time it is much clearer. The men this year are so talented. Often you don't really truly see what the ballet is about until it is staged for the 3rd time. Ballet is super fragile. It takes a long time to show all of the subtleties. Underneath all of this stuff is a great ballet, but you don't see it yet. But, I think that is how all new pieces are in the performing arts; it has to have the time to find its groove. Sometimes that can take a long time, and sometimes it doesn't ever happen, but in those cases that means maybe it was not a great work to begin with.



Q: Tell us about *Coppélia*.

A: We have not done *Coppélia* in a long time, so for many it will be a new ballet. We don't do that many full-length comedies. In fact, there actually aren't that many comedies in ballet. This will be a very light and funny piece with incredible music. I am choreographing this *Coppélia*, and I did the last one too. So far I have not made any changes, but as always with new dancers, I know I will change some things. For various reasons, with the dancers I have now versus the dancers I had then, I will need to calibrate to make the dancers we have look their best. Minute things, but those minute things make a big difference.

Musically, this piece is very different. Is it equal to *Swan Lake* or *Romeo & Juliet*? From a musical point of view, I would say "yes." A lot of people may disagree with me, but this music is so unique and there is very little of it out there. Delibes was a very influential composer to many, even Tchaikovsky. It's extraordinary. Delibes was commissioned to compose *Sylvia*, which is something I am also considering in one of our upcoming seasons.

Q: Would you consider playing the role of Dr. Coppélius?

A: I decided when I quit dancing that I don't want to be on stage again. Will that change when I hit 70? I doubt it. But you never know. Who knows?

Q: What is most exciting to you about so many new dancers this season?

A: Getting to know them. Figuring out who they are, how far they can go and what the possibilities are is exciting for me. Some of them I already know in 2 years will have a really tremendous impact on the Company. It will take that long. For others, it is more about right now. It takes time to make them come into their own. I need to have experience with them. It is always exciting to mold, especially when the talent is there.

BALLET ARIZONA 2015-2016 SEASON
UPCOMING DONOR EVENTS

October 29 – November 1

Coppélia at Symphony Hall | Prima Circle Intermission Receptions

October 30

Company Class Viewing On Stage

December 6

The Nutcracker Festival

December 10

Angel Night

December 11 – 27

The Nutcracker

January 22

Dance With Me – A Ballet Arizona Gala

January 29

Prima Circle Evening & Studio Spotlight Performance

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments or suggested articles about our new donor impact report to Director of Individual Giving Jami Kozemczak at jkozemczak@balletaz.org or call 602.343.6520.



Photo by Haute Photography

Donor Spotlight

Anne & Fred Christensen

Ballet AZ: You are such a longstanding supporter of the arts in Arizona. What inspired such generosity to the arts and specifically Ballet Arizona?

Anne: The arts have been a major part of both of our lives from the time we were children - with Fred in Salt Lake City and with me here in Phoenix. We watched our parents contribute to the arts. My ballet school had their recitals on the stage at the Fox Theatre (along with The Orpheum, the two nicest movie theaters in town in the 1940s). We have loved watching professional ballet grow here in Phoenix - from a small, struggling home town company to what is now Ballet Arizona - an internationally recognized and powerful company under Ib's direction.

Ballet AZ: Why do you give?

Anne and Fred: Selfishly, we want to attend the ballet and know it takes more than ticket sales. We also know Ballet Arizona contributes to making our community strong and vibrant and allows young people to experience and be inspired by ballet.

Ballet AZ: What ballets or contemporary works have inspired you the most?

Anne and Fred: Ib provides us with the perfect mix of classical and contemporary. There's magic in seeing the old come to life. And taking ballet outdoors to the Desert Botanical Garden and the contemporary performances of the troupe have been spectacular additions.

Ballet AZ: What are you most looking forward to this upcoming season?

Anne and Fred: Being thrilled each time we go to a performance.

Ballet AZ: Any other comments you might like to contribute?

Fred: There is truth in beauty and Ballet Arizona is, along with other virtues, beautiful. Yes, the Symphony brings a beautiful audio experience, and the Opera theatre with music, and then the ballet adds athleticism to the music and drama. It gives us pride in our community to know we value these esthetic productions. We are delighted to be a small part in support.

Corporate Spotlight

Holiday Lights Decorating and Decorating On Demand

When we first started seeing construction at the corner of our street, we were excited to have new neighbors. As it progressed, we found out that the new building was Ballet Arizona and we were thrilled.

Holidays Lights Decorating is located down the block from Ballet Arizona on 29th Street. We have an extremely visionary team of design experts that will help transform any business or residence into a one-of-a-kind holiday showpiece.

Each year we load our trucks to drive one short block to Ballet Arizona and illuminate them with Christmas décor. We have daughters who

love to dance so we feel fortunate that we can support such an incredible organization.

From Holiday Lights Decorating and Decorating On Demand, we hope you enjoy the decorations of the holiday season!

Come see us at:

310 S. 29th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Visit our web sites at:

holidaylightsdecorating.com
decoratingdemand.com



Legacy for Dance Spotlight

Eugene Rueckoldt and Delbert Harr

We would like to take a moment and honor two gentlemen – Eugene Rueckoldt and Delbert Harr – who made a transformational bequest this year to Ballet Arizona.

In 2003, the couple, who were together for 42 years, set up a charitable remainder trust and designated Ballet Arizona as the recipient of a percentage of the amount remaining after their deaths. Mr. Rueckoldt died in 2004. Mr. Harr died in February 2015, which is when Ballet Arizona learned of their incredible generosity.

Mr. Rueckoldt and Mr. Harr were longtime attendees of Ballet Arizona performances and Corps de Ballet members.

Ballet Arizona will recognize the pair with a plaque on *The Next Step* donor wall as well as being identified as sponsors in perpetuity of LGBT Night Out at the Ballet. We thank them for their foresight and altruism.

You, too, are invited to play a similar vital role in Ballet Arizona's future. Our *Legacy for Dance* society recognizes those who provide for Ballet Arizona through a gift in their will or estate plan. As a distinguished member of *Legacy for Dance*, you will perpetuate this phenomenal art form. Your gift to Ballet Arizona may also provide you with an immediate tax deduction, allow you to bypass capital gains taxes, and avoid taxes that your heirs might have to pay on your estate.

Ballet Arizona's Development staff is available to provide you with information about including charitable giving language in your overall estate plan. Prospective donors are urged to consult their personal tax and financial advisors concerning the specific consequences of making gifts to Ballet Arizona.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Tompkins

For the last 18 years, Ballet Arizona has presented free *Ballet Under the Stars* performances in 5 different cities across Maricopa County, to an audience of more than 13,000. It is part of our mission and it is our largest outreach program of the year. But rather than having me tell you why this program is so great for our community, I will let you hear it from our recent attendees. For some, it is an annual tradition. For others, it exposed them to an art form they had never seen before.

"I have been here every year ... I have lost count ... I haven't missed a performance, I love it. When I was a little kid I wanted to take dance lessons and I didn't have the opportunity because no one taught ballet. If I wouldn't have been a school teacher, I would have been a dancer and danced in Swan Lake." ~ Diane & Chuck, Sun City West

"I was very young when I saw my first ballet. I was in grade school. Now my granddaughter, who is 11, thinks it's the most beautiful thing she has ever seen. So this year I brought her and 2 of her friends to come see the performance. It is a family event. I have been coming every year for the past 5 years." ~ Diana, Tempe

"This is our 4th year. We like it because our daughter loves ballet. We love watching excellent dancing, seeing what she could eventually be doing. It's a total family event; you don't have to be silent and the kids can run around. It is a nice community outreach program that the ballet does. The girls love it." ~ Cathy, Phoenix

"This is my second time. We are both seven. We used to go to dance but don't go any more. We love ballerinas [insert twirls and pirouettes]." ~ Liliana and Bella, 7 years old

"This is our 2nd year attending and we are out celebrating our 4-year anniversary. How romantic is this! We think it is great." ~ Beverly and Hank, Sun City West

David Tompkins, Executive Director



Your Gift in Action:

PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Your contributions help Ballet Arizona touch the lives of over 80,000 people each year.

– Board Secretary David Thompson, Dickinson Wright

Education & Outreach

Adaptive Dance Students	14
Angel Night Audience	5,769
Ballet Under the Stars Audience	13,000
Class Act Audience	94
Class Warm Ups Participants	49
Dance for Parkinson's Students	7
Open Houses Attendees	500
Performance Hour Audience	669
Pre- and Post-Performance Discussions Attendees	260
Student Matinees Audience	7,755
Ticket Donation Program	256

TOTAL Education & Outreach . . . 28,373



THE SCHOOL OF BALLET ARIZONA

The School of Ballet Arizona is honored to congratulate four new students who have been awarded full tuition scholarships this academic year: two male and two female students ranging in age from 10-14, who came to us through the Osborn Ballet Program offered at the Osborn School District.

There is no official program for this, but it's amazing what can be achieved when you have three passionate individuals that believe in bringing the arts and ballet to ALL students in Arizona. These three individuals are The School of Ballet Arizona Director Carlos Valcárcel, Education & Outreach Manager Joseph Cavanaugh, and Camden Lloyd who is a teacher at Clarendon Elementary located in Central Phoenix. Through their dedication and commitment to making ballet training accessible for all, Ballet Arizona is working to change the lives of youth in Arizona. These students, who are all from Title I schools, have shown the desire, motivation and talent to dance, but it would have been close to impossible for them to attend The School of Ballet Arizona without the financial support awarded to them.

It may only be four students ... but it is the deep impact of this scholarship that makes our hearts swell with pride.

"We offered full scholarships to these students after they took an evaluation placement class and they shared their desire to improve their technique and be more involved with ballet as an art form," said School Director Carlos Valcárcel. "The students and their parents were very excited to be accepted into our School, after coming to us through our six-week Summer Intensive program. They were introduced to us by Camden Lloyd, and we have been trying to make it possible for her students to get advanced training at The School of Ballet Arizona. The transportation is the biggest challenge. Their parents have to be able to provide transportation to their after-school classes, which is not an easy hurdle."

Carlos then said, "What touched me the most was when I received a handwritten note from a father of one of the boys. He gushed and said, 'I cannot thank you enough for what you have done for my son.' I get mushy notes from moms all the time, but for a father to send me a thank you like this was very moving."

Camden Lloyd is a teacher of classical ballet, specializing in the training of young people in the Osborn School District. Her teaching combines artistry and strong technique in an informed cultural context. The Osborn Ballet Program began as a pilot 11 years ago, and Camden volunteered her time for the first three years before it evolved into her own 501(c)(3). The goal is to provide professional ballet training to those who do not have access.

"You have to understand that without these scholarships these students would never be able to attend the School," said Camden. "These are Title I schools in the Osborn District, and stats show now that 89% of students qualify for free or reduced lunches given their socioeconomic status. With these scholarship opportunities, their self-discipline, their reading scores, their level of interest and commitment all improve. It is opening doors and windows of possibility and showing how far they can really go. Two of my students are cast as the Prince/The Nutcracker this year too! That is amazing for these kids!"

"Camden and I have been trying for many years to bring our students together, and to get them to The School of Ballet Arizona," said Education & Outreach Manager Joseph Cavanaugh, "and this success is going to change the course of their lives."

GETTING TO KNOW THE DANCERS

What do I do to make ends meet?

On average, a ballet dancer's salary is very similar to the average Arizona preschool teacher's salary. To help support their passion for dancing and for surviving the 3-month summer layoff, our dancers take up extra jobs to help make ends meet.

Here are just a few ways.

"I make leotards, skirts and legwarmers, and sell them on my Etsy shop NaomDancewear."
~ Naomi Tanioka

"I teach ballet 3 times a week and clip lots of coupons!" ~ Sasha Vincett

"I work an 8 or 9-hour shift at Majerle's Sports Grill at least 4 days a week." ~ Bri George

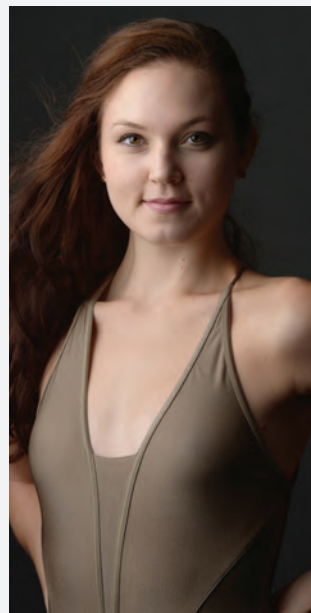
"I teach at least 3 days a week and I will be doing some Nutcracker guestings in December."
~ Annier Navarro

"I teach ballet 5 times a week at 3 different ballet schools." ~ Sarah Walborn

"Ideally I'd like to survive the summers by selling my art, but for now I teach for The School of Ballet Arizona and I also do some Nutcracker guestings and choreographing." ~ Nayon Iovino

COMPANY CONNECTION

Meet dancers Jessica and Helio



Jessica Phillips

Houston, Texas
Joined Ballet Arizona in 2010

What inspired you to become a professional dancer?

I started dancing when I was 8 after my mom took me to go see *The Nutcracker*. I had been playing sports but as we were watching I became so inspired, I turned to her and said, "I want to do that!" I've been dancing ever since!

At Ballet Arizona, which role has been your favorite?

The Jellyfish in *Le Carnaval des Animaux*. I just resonated with the character. You extend your body and try to be as long as possible. The role is all about being really fluid and feminine and I just connected with that.

What do you have in your dance bag?

I have the typical things: pointe shoes, toe tape, toe spacers, socks, water, flat shoes. I also carry essential

oils, which is more unusual. I have lavender, peppermint, and orange oil and use them depending on my mood. For example, I use lavender oil when I need to relax.

Do you have a pre-performance ritual?

I just do some affirmations depending on my role. I mentally affirm to myself that I can step into that role. If I'm performing in *Rubies*, I say, "I am fierce, I am giant." It makes me get mentally ready.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Meditation is huge for me these days. I love taking hikes and exploring different parts of Arizona, it's so diverse. There is a nice yoga community in North Phoenix where I like to take "sound healing" and Kundalini classes. I also love to cook! Lately, I've been getting into Ayurveda, which deals with eating and cooking with different spices and flavors. I also love finding coffee shops or live music on Sunday mornings at Copper Star.



Helio Lima

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Joined Ballet Arizona in 2015

What inspired you to become a professional dancer?

I started dancing when I was 9. I have always loved to dance. When I was in school I realized that I didn't focus on anything except for ballet. Even my parents noticed how it changed my attitude. I would come home from dance exhausted because I had used all my energy there. Having that dream made me a more responsible person.

What are you looking forward to this season at Ballet Arizona?

Working with Ib. He was an incredible dancer and he's such a great artist. I have never had this connection with a director before. Ib is all about working hard and that is all that matters.

What made you choose Ballet Arizona?

Honestly, I had heard about Ballet Arizona but I didn't really find it appealing at first. I didn't know Ib was the director. Then I heard from a friend that Ballet Arizona had some positions open, so I decided to audition. I realized the Company was very different; they act like family here, and they care about each other. People also treat you like a professional. It doesn't matter how old you are, you are always treated with respect. And when I realized that Ib was the Artistic Director I was even more excited.

Do you have a pre-performance ritual?

I do. It's very weird. So right when the performance starts I get as close as I can to the stage and then I knock the stage floor three times. I do the sign of the cross three times, I crack my knuckles and my neck, and then I knock the bottoms of my feet three times.

BALLET ARIZONA 2015-2016 SEASON
UPCOMING DONOR EVENTS

October 29 – November 1

Coppélia at Symphony Hall | Prima Circle Intermission Receptions

October 30

Company Class Viewing On Stage

December 6

The Nutcracker Festival

December 10

Angel Night

December 11 – 27

The Nutcracker

January 22

Dance With Me – A Ballet Arizona Gala

January 29

Prima Circle Evening & Studio Spotlight Performance

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments or suggestions to Director of Individual Giving Jami Kozemczak at jkozemczak@balletaz.org or call 602.343.6520.

BALLET
ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2835 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Phoenix, AZ
Permit No. 1858

FALL 2015

Photo by Brienne Bland



Your Impactful Contributions
How over 80,000 people benefit each year

BALLET ARIZONA DONOR IMPACT REPORT

TURNING POINTE

BALLET
ARIZONA
IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Legacy for Dance
Spotlight:
Eugene Rueckoldt
and Delbert Harr

Corporate Spotlight:
Holiday Lights
Decorating and
Decorating On Demand

Donor
Spotlight:
Anne & Fred Christensen

Q&A:
Artistic Director
Ib Andersen