

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ballet Arizona's Season of Love and Romance opens with *Giselle***



*Photo by Rosalie O'Connor*

### ***Classical ballet from the Romantic era set in the Rhineland November 1 – 4 in Symphony Hall***

**(Phoenix, Ariz.)** Otherworldly spirits, breathtaking delicacy and ethereal ballet open the season as Ballet Arizona performs the romantic masterpiece, *Giselle* November 1-4, 2012 at Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony.

First presented in Paris in 1841, *Giselle* is one of the most beloved ballets in the repertoire due to its spectacle, romantic story and glorious, classical dance. The title role of *Giselle* requires intense demands on technical perfection, grace and acting skills from the dancers. *Giselle* is particularly challenging, as the ballerina must portray the innocence and youth of a peasant girl who falls in love; then must depict deep melancholy as she dies from a broken heart and joins the spirits of the underworld.

Alternating in the title role of *Giselle*, are prima ballerinas Natalia Magnicaballi, Tzu-Chia Huang and Kokoro Umemoto, who will be making her debut with Ballet Arizona.

**“This kind of detailed acting and character building is rare in ballet today, and what really sets this production [*Giselle*] apart is the clarity of its storytelling.” – Helene Kaplan, *Dance View Times***

Accompanying Ballet Arizona’s corps of 34 dancers will be the Phoenix Symphony performing Adolphe Adam’s poetic score. *Giselle*’s choreography, created by the master Marius Petipa will be overseen and staged by Ballet Arizona’s Artistic Director Ib Andersen.

Ballet Arizona’s production of *Giselle* is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield and BMO Harris.

## **PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION**

### **GISELLE**

Choreographer: Marius Petipa after Jean Coralli & Jules Perrot

Composer: Adolphe Adam

Staged by Ib Andersen

With The Phoenix Symphony

November 1 – 4, 2012

Symphony Hall

75 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Phoenix, AZ

**Thursday Nov. 1 at 7:00 pm**

**Friday Nov. 2 at 7:30 pm**

**Saturday Nov. 3 at 2 and 7:30 pm**

**Sunday Nov 4. at 1 and 5:30 pm**

**Description:** Staged by Ib Andersen, with choreography by the French Master, Marius Petipa, *Giselle* is a journey into a beautiful world of love, ghosts, and mystery. With a soulful score performed by the Phoenix Symphony *Giselle* offers both the promise of young love and then the tragedy of it slipping away.

**Tickets** start at \$26. Discounts for students, seniors and groups of 10 or more are available.

Tickets may be purchased through the Ballet Arizona Box Office or Ticketmaster.

Ballet Arizona Box Office: (602) 381-1096 or [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org)

Ticketmaster: 1 (800) 982-2787 or [ticketmaster.com/baz](http://ticketmaster.com/baz)

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### ***Giselle* Student Matinee – Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 pm**

Ballet Arizona Student Matinees invite students to experience professional dance productions, during the school day, at a very low cost. At a Student Matinee Students will experience:

- 45–50 minute version of one of our regular-season productions, suitable for students at all ages.
- A question-and-answer, “Meet the Dancers” session before the performance.

Contact Brenda Bernardi at (602)343-6537 or [bbernardi@balletaz.org](mailto:bbernardi@balletaz.org) to make reservations.

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## BALLERINA BIOGRAPHIES

### **Natalia Magnicaballi**

Natalia is a graduate of Teatro Colón of Buenos Aires. She became a principal dancer at the age of 19 with Julio Bocca's Ballet Argentino. She has been a principal dancer with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet since 1999, and joined Ballet Arizona in 2002. In Europe she joined the 2000–01 season of the Italian company Aterballetto. Her classical repertoire includes lead roles in *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Raymonda*, *Carmen*, *Paquita*, *La Sylphide*, and *Giselle*. She has toured and performed in the main houses and arena theatres on five continents, including the Paris Opera Garnier and the Mariinsky Theatre. Natalia represented Ballet Arizona at the XIV International Ballet Festival of Miami, was one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch," and named the "Best Dancer in Arizona" by The Arizona Republic.

### **Tzu-Chia Huang**

Tzu-Chia trained at the School of Imperial Eleven Ballet in Taiwan under the direction of Yung-Cheng Huang. With Imperial Eleven Ballet, Tzu-Chia danced featured roles in *La Bayadère*, *Esmeralda*, and *The Dying Swan*. She continued her professional training at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet; while in Pennsylvania, Tzu-Chia performed featured roles in *The Nutcracker* and *Le Corsaire*. Tzu-Chia joined Ballet Arizona in 2005, and has since originated featured roles in Ib Andersen's *Preludes and Fugues*, *Play*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *1052* and also *Diversions*, which was performed at the Kennedy Center in 2010. Tzu-Chia has also been featured in *Les Sylphides*, Christopher Wheeldon's *Polyphonia*, and Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section*. Tzu-Chia's George Balanchine repertoire includes leading roles in *Divertimento No. 15*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, *La Sonnambula*, *Apollo*, and *La Valse*. Tzu-Chia has danced principal roles in *Raymonda*, Andersen's *Swan Lake*, and as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Tzu-Chia's received critical acclaim for her interpretation of the siren in Balanchine's *Prodigal Son* by The New York Times in June 2010.

### **Kokoro Umemoto**

New to Ballet Arizona, Kokoro Umemoto makes her debut with the title role of Giselle. Most recently a soloist with the Bucharest National Opera Ballet Company, the young Japanese ballerina is a graduate of the Royal Ballet School in London and has studied at the Shanghai National Ballet School and the Central School of Ballet in London. She has appeared at the Prague State Opera Ballet and the Atlantic Ballet Theater of Canada. A laureate of several international awards, Ms. Umemoto has received the AICD International Ballet Award (2003), the silver medal in the Tokyo All Japan Ballet Competition (2004) the bronze medal in the 2005 edition of the same competition, the first prize in the Nara Ballet Competition and the first prize in the Nagoya All Japan Ballet Competition (2006). Last year she was featured in Elle Magazine.

### **About Ballet Arizona:**

**Ballet Arizona**, in its 33rd season, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Ib Andersen—a former Principal Dancer with The New York City Ballet and The Royal Danish Ballet—Ballet Arizona follows his lead to the future of dance in Arizona. The School of Ballet Arizona, under the direction of Carlos Valcárcel, promotes access to the art form of ballet through dance education, with a focus on excellence in the form, directing each student to a life-long love of dance. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 25,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs.

## **BALLET ARIZONA'S 2012-13 SEASON**

### **GISELLE**

**November 1 – 4, 2012**

Ballet Arizona 3645 East Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85018 (602) 343-6517 balletaz.org

**At Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony**

Choreographer: Marius Petipa after Jean Coralli & Jules Perrot

Composer: Adolphe Adam

**THE NUTCRACKER**

**December 7 – 24, 2012**

**At Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony**

Choreographer: Ib Andersen

Composer: Peter Tchaikovsky

**ROMEO & JULIET**

**February 14 – 17, 2013**

**At Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony**

Choreographer: Ib Andersen

Composer: Sergei Prokofiev

**DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**

**March 28 – 31, 2013**

**At Orpheum Theatre**

**ALL BALANCHINE**

**May 2 – 5, 2013**

**At Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony**

Season ticket packages of 3 and 4 ballets are on sale at [www.balletaz.org](http://www.balletaz.org).

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