

BALLET ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Katrina Olson

(602) 343-6517

kolson@balletaz.org

Ballet Arizona's *Ballet Under the Stars* Receives Significant Municipal and Local Support



Class Act, Photo by Rosalie O'Connor

Phoenix, AZ – This September 20 – 29, Ballet Arizona presents the 15th annual Ballet Under the Stars. This ever popular sunset performance series is free and open to the public at six different valley locations. *Ballet Under The Stars* is made possible this season because of generous support from Arizona Lottery, APS, NEA Art Works, City of Glendale Arts Commission, City of Goodyear, City of Tempe, Estrella by Newland Communities, Fountain Hills Community Foundation, KBAQ and KJZZ, Recreation Centers of Sun City West, The Arizona Republic, The Steele Foundation, Town of Fountain Hills, US Airways, US Bank, and Walmart Distribution Center #703.

Ballet Under the Stars allows Arizona communities to enjoy a professional ballet performance in a unique outdoor setting complete with stage, lighting, costumes and beautiful Arizona weather. "Instead of attendees sitting quietly in rows of seats in Symphony Hall, they can bring a blanket or a lawn chair and relax under the nighttime

sky while watching a fully staged performance,” says Richard Nilsen, *The Arizona Republic*.



Ballet Arizona in *Serenade*, photo by Rosalie O'Connor

“*Ballet Under the Stars* takes Ballet Arizona out of the studio and out of the theater. With the addition of the Class Act Residency that I coordinate, this program removes the barriers to engaging, relevant ballet performances and is truly a point of pride for the communities and corporations that host us,” says Brenda Bernardi, Manager of Human Resources & Volunteer Services.

Ballet Arizona will offer a varied evening of dance with something for everyone. On the perform is the first movement from Ib Andersen’s *Sueños*, George Balanchine’s *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, and a sneak peek of Balanchine’s *Serenade*, which will be performed in its entirety later this season in May 2013.

In addition *Ballet Under the Stars* will feature a presentation of **Class Act**, one of Ballet Arizona’s Education and Outreach programs. Class Act is a project combining the talents and expertise of the professional dancers of Ballet Arizona with the youthful ideas and creative energies of school-age children.

This September, participating schools include McDowell Mountain Elementary School, Clarendon Elementary School, Broadmore Kidzone, Don Mensendick Elementary School, and Evergreen Elementary Afterschool Program. Class Act ignites the children’s creative spirit and positively increases their exposure to the performing arts.

WHAT: Ballet Arizona presents *Ballet Under the Stars*

Sueños, First Movement

Choreographer: Ib Andersen

Music: Giacomo Rossini – *The Thieving Magpie Overture*

Serenade

Choreographer: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust
Music: Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky (1880) (Serenade in C Major for String Orchestra)

Stravinsky Violin Concerto

Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust
Music: Igor Stravinsky

WHEN: September 20 – 29, 2012

SCHEDULE: All performances begin at 7:00PM and last approximately one hour.

Thursday, September 20, 2012 at Fountain Park, Fountain Hills
Friday, September 21, 2012 at Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe
Saturday, September 22, 2012 at Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater, Goodyear
Sunday, September 23, 2012 at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park, Glendale
Thursday, September 27, 2012 at Beardsley Park, Sun City West
Friday, September 28, 2012 at Paul Mason Sports Complex, Casa Grande
Saturday September 29, 2012 at Steele Indian School Park, Phoenix

DETAILS: balletaz.org (602)381-0184

Ballet Under the Stars 2012 is generously supported by:

Arizona Lottery, APS, NEA Art Works, City of Glendale Arts Commission, City of Goodyear, City of Tempe, Estrella by Newland Communities, Fountain Hills Community Foundation, KBAQ and KJZZ, Recreation Centers of Sun City West, The Arizona Republic, The Steele Foundation, Town of Fountain Hills, US Airways, US Bank, Walmart Distribution Center #703

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.

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