

BALLET ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Katrina Olson

kolson@balletaz.org 602.3434.6517

Ballet Arizona's ROMEO & JULIET is the perfect date for Valentine's Day this February 14-17



*Ib Andersen's original choreography focuses on the passions of youth as
The Phoenix Symphony performs Prokofiev's powerful score*

Phoenix, AZ - Ballet Arizona presents Artistic Director's Ib Andersen's ROMEO & JULIET, February 14 - 17 at Symphony Hall with The Phoenix Symphony.

One of the most beloved love stories of all time, ROMEO & JULIET is the classic Shakespearean tragedy of two young lovers divided by the quarrels of their warring families. This epic production is a visual spectacle with sweeping grand ballrooms, daring sword-fights, and romantic gardens serving as the backdrop for the classic tragedy. Sergei Prokofiev's lush score will be performed by The Phoenix Symphony with the full corps of Ballet Arizona's dancers performing Artistic Director Ib Andersen's original choreography.

The result is a fresh performance that remains true to both the treasured story and the classical ballet.

"*Romeo & Juliet* is about passion and the power of young love. It takes your breath away." said Ib Andersen, Artistic Director for Ballet Arizona.

ROMEO & JULIET was first presented by Ballet Arizona in 2003 to resounding success with 4 sold out performances and rave reviews. When reviewing the new production The Arizona Republic proclaimed: "In praising Ballet Arizona's *Romeo & Juliet*, it is tough to know what to

laud first: the brilliant choreography of Ib Andersen or the matchless dancing -- and acting -- of the players."

Tickets to Ballet Arizona's production of *ROMEO & JULIET* start at \$26 and are on sale by calling 602) 381-0184 at www.balletaz.org or through Ticketmaster.

BALLET ARIZONA
ROMEO & JULIET
FACT SHEET

WHAT: *ROMEO & JULIET*

Choreography by Ib Andersen

Music by Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra conducted by Timothy Russell

SPONSORED BY: Macy's Foundation and SRP

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: Set in 16th century Verona, *Romeo & Juliet* chronicles Shakespeare's tale of two beautiful teenagers from families on opposing sides of a bitter feud. With its sweepingly regal ballroom scenes, vivacious swordplay and poignant pas de deux, Ballet Arizona's production is a feast for the eyes. With impassioned dance and bold theatrics, it's an ideal showcase for the company's newest stars.

WHEN: February 14 – 17, 2013

Thursday, Feb. 14th, 7:00 pm *Valentine's Day*

Friday, Feb. 15th, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Feb. 16th, 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 17th, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm

WHERE: Symphony Hall 75 North 2nd Street Phoenix, AZ 85004, in downtown Phoenix

TICKETS: Start at \$26 and are on sale by calling 602.381.1096, visiting balletaz.org and through Ticketmaster. Tickets are also available at Ballet Arizona Box Office at 3645 East Indian School Road Phoenix, AZ 85018 (Monday – Friday 9am – 5:30pm)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ROMEO & JULIET STUDENT MATINEE: THURSDAY, FEB. 14TH, 10:30 AM

Ballet Arizona Student Matinees invite students to experience professional dance productions, during the school day, at a very low cost. This one-hour performance of *Romeo & Juliet* will

Ballet Arizona 3645 East Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85018 (602)343-651 balletaz.org

feature excerpts from the ballet, open set changes, and a question-and-answer, “Meet the Dancers” session.

Contact Heather Pittenger at 602.343.6523 or hpittenger@balletaz.org for more information and to make reservations.

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.

###