



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ballet Arizona Sets Stage for 31st Season

*Nationally Recognized Ballet Company Revitalizes Traditional Works,
Returns to Desert Botanical Garden*

PHOENIX, (May 2, 2016) – [Ballet Arizona](http://www.balletarizona.com) continues to excite and inspire audiences with its artistic blend of classical and contemporary dance. Now approaching the 2016-2017 season, nationally recognized Artistic Director, Ib Andersen, promises not to disappoint. Ballet Arizona is Phoenix's only professional company, highlighted by The New York Times as among the best in the nation. The Phoenix Symphony will join Ballet Arizona for two performances, enriching the experience with live music and providing patrons the opportunity to enjoy two of the Valley's premier arts organizations simultaneously.

The new Ballet Arizona season will begin with the exotic production, *La Bayadère*. A heartbreaking tale of love and treachery, the elaborate set and lush costumes will transport you into a fantasy of princesses, warriors and mesmerizing golden idol.

Of course, the holidays wouldn't be complete without a seasonal classic of *The Nutcracker*, the \$1.8 production created by Ib Andersen as Arizona's own. In December, over 150 dancers will come together on the stage of Phoenix Symphony Hall to bring the enchantment and splendor of *The Nutcracker* to life. Ballet Arizona is the only professional company in Phoenix, delighting audiences with a production that The New York Times has named one of the three best in the country.

In February, the company will perform the beloved *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the most recognized and fabled tragedies of all time. Shakespeare's story of the forbidden, star-crossed lovers is beautifully complemented with the choreography of Ib Andersen and the company of dancers from around the world.

In Ballet Arizona's production of *Today's Masters*, a collection of ballets from contemporary choreographers are featured in a tantalizing menu of modern ballet that stimulates and redefines the ordinary. Including the works of Ballet Arizona's very own Ib Andersen, this spring program will highlight the company's growing display of excellence.

The annual *All Balanchine* program, a crowd favorite, is back again this year with Ballet Arizona performing George Balanchine's masterpieces, *Western Symphony* and *Square Dance*. Both performances highlight American Folk music in a large, joyous ballet production. Andersen is only one of a handful of artists around the world who has been trusted to present Balanchine's works of art.

Back by popular demand, *An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden* will finish the 2016-2017 season in May and June. Staged in the Desert Botanical Garden's Event Plaza, the production provides stunning environment for Andersen's innovative choreography.

Evolve PR and Marketing
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BALLET ARIZONA'S 2016 – 2017 SEASON

[LA BAYADÈRE](#)

October 27 – 30, 2016

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography: Ib Andersen

Music: Léon Minkus

Set against the rich backdrop of India, *La Bayadère* tells the heartbreaking tale of a temple dancer and a young warrior kept apart in life and united only in death. The lovers are wrenched apart by twists of fate and doomed by uncontrollable vengeance. With lavish set designs which conjure up exotic locales, this ballet will transport you to a world of noble warriors, cruel princesses, and beautiful temple dancers.

All performances take place at Symphony Hall.

[THE NUTCRACKER](#)

December 9 – 24, 2016

Choreography: Ib Andersen

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The magic of the holidays comes alive with Ballet Arizona's classic *The Nutcracker*. Surrender to the grand sweep of Tchaikovsky's score and the wonders of childhood. Join Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they embark on a thrilling adventure of dancing toys, mischievous mice, waltzing flowers, and sparkling snowflakes. Ballet Arizona rings in the season with Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker*, creating memories to cherish forever.

All performances take place at Symphony Hall.

[ROMEO AND JULIET](#)

February 9 – 12, 2017

With the Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography: Ib Andersen

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

A romance that's sure to set your heart astir, the most famous love story of all time is performed just in time for Valentine's Day. Set in 16th century Verona, *Romeo & Juliet* chronicles Shakespeare's tale of two passionate teenagers from great families on opposing sides of a bitter feud. With its sweepingly regal ballroom scenes, vivacious swordplay and poignant pas de deux, Ib Andersen's production is a feast for the eyes and ears.

All performances take place at Symphony Hall.

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TODAY'S MASTER'S

March 23 – 26, 2017

At Orpheum Theatre

Choreography: Various

Music: Several Composers

Spring begins with a program of contemporary ballets that represent the continuing development of the art form and its artists. The performance features choreography that pushes the boundaries of classical ballet, including the works by Ballet Arizona's Ib Andersen.

All performances take place at Orpheum Theatre.

ALL BALANCHINE

May 11 – 14, 2017

At Symphony Hall

Choreography: George Balanchine

An evening of works by the father of American Ballet, George Balanchine. Ib Andersen is one of a handful of artists worldwide authorized by The Balanchine Trust to stage Balanchine's masterpieces.

Western Symphony – Arranged by Hershey Kay, the folk music in this joyous ballet is based on traditional western songs. This large, ensemble work features cowboys and dance hall girls with the backdrop of an old-west saloon.

Square Dance – A Ballet Arizona premiere that combines the spirit and verve of an American folk dance with the precision and techniques of classical ballet.

All performances take place at Symphony Hall.

AN EVENING AT DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

May 23 – June 10, 2017 | Tuesdays through Saturdays | 8 p.m. nightly

At Desert Botanical Garden

Choreography: Ib Andersen

Ballet Arizona returns to the Desert Botanical Garden for an enchanting evening that embraces the desert as a stunning backdrop for the choreography of Ballet Arizona's Ib Andersen. Andersen's vision for dance in the desert continues to evolve, take chances, and challenge our emotional boundaries. In 2017, expect the unexpected as Ballet Arizona continues its series in the Garden to present a sensory experience unlike any other.

TICKETS FOR ALL PERFORMANCES: \$15 - \$164, discounts for seniors, students, military and groups. Ballet Arizona Box Office: (602) 381-1096 or visit balletaz.org. PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

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[SPRING PERFORMANCE 2017](#)

May 27 – 28, 2017

At Orpheum Theatre

Get a glimpse of the progression in ballet training, from beginning students to advanced-level students on the verge of professional careers.

The Spring Performance demonstrates the School's remarkable accomplishments throughout the year and gives audiences the rare opportunity to experience a performance by the next generation of Ballet Arizona. Students will perform works choreographed for professional companies and ballets specially created for them to showcase their amazing talent and training.

All performances take place at Orpheum Theatre.

[STUDIO SPOTLIGHT 2017](#)

Various Dates

At Dorrance Theatre

You're invited to an intimate rehearsal featuring Ib Andersen and the dancers of Ballet Arizona. Step inside the studio at Ballet Arizona's intimate Dorrance Theatre and experience a behind-the-scenes look at each upcoming production. This is the closest you will ever be to the work without being on the stage! Each one-hour gathering includes time for a Q&A discussion.

La Bayadère | Friday, October 14, 2016, at 7 p.m.

Romeo & Juliet | Friday, January 27, 2017, at 7 p.m.

Today's Masters | Friday, March 10, 2017, at 7 p.m.

All Balanchine | Friday, April 28, 2017, at 7 p.m.

All performances take place at Dorrance Theatre at 2835 E. Washington St., Phoenix, Arizona 85034.

Ballet Arizona

Ballet Arizona, in its 31st 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 35,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs.

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