

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **School of Ballet Arizona Launches ‘Read, Dance, Play!’ to Keep Kids Engaged** *Free Interactive Workshop Gets Kids Moving and Creating via Zoom*

**PHOENIX** – While many extracurricular activities for elementary age children have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The School of [Ballet Arizona](http://www.balletaz.org) will keep kids engaged with a soon-to-launch, free interactive workshop that will get little bodies moving and creative juices flowing.

“Read, Dance, Play” allows children ages 5-7 to listen and/or read along with a book of the month as they use movement to interpret and understand the story’s events and themes. Taught by School of Ballet Arizona Division Faculty Member, Rebecca Needhammer, these monthly interactive Zoom sessions allow kids to practice their listening, thinking and communication skills through words and movement.

“Please join us for a wonderful virtual opportunity for your young child to read along, dance and engage creatively with School of Ballet Arizona faculty,” Needhammer said. “We will take a contemporary children's book and explore how it relates to us by using dance, music, and even props and costumes.”

Class spots are expected to fill up quick and registration is required. To sign your child up for “Read, Dance, Play!,” visit [www.balletaz.org/read-dance-play](http://www.balletaz.org/read-dance-play). Books are not provided but will be read aloud. If you would like to have your child follow along, links to purchase each book are available at the “Read, Dance, Play” landing page.

### **Book and class schedule:**

- “Ballet Cat: The Totally Secret Secret” by Bob Shea  
*Saturday, January 23 – 1-1:30 p.m.*
- “The Bad Seed” by Pete Oswald  
*Saturday, February 20 – 1-1:30 p.m.*
- “Dance is for Everyone” by Andrea Zuil  
*Saturday, March 20 – Time to be announced – Visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org) for updates*

# BALLET ARIZONA

IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- “A Concert in the Park” by Kazuaki Yamada  
*Saturday, April 17 – Time to be announced – Visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org) for updates*
- “Boys Dance!” by John Robert Allman  
*Saturday, May 15 – Time to be announced – Visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org) for updates*

## **About Ballet Arizona**

Ballet Arizona 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 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. For more information, visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).

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