



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2018

Contact: Alison Rose
602-300-3433
alison@48westagency.com

The School of Ballet Arizona announces audition dates; presentations of *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote*

PHOENIX, AZ, (July 13, 2018) – Ballet Arizona announces the official auditions for students interested in training with the School of Ballet Arizona (SBAZ), the only ballet training program in the state associated with a professional ballet company. Prospective students age four and older are invited to participate in open auditions scheduled for **Saturday, July 21, 2018**, and **Saturday, August 11, 2018**. Classes begin August 13, 2018.

SBAZ programs feature live piano accompaniment, internationally-recognized faculty, and high standards of training in the same facility as the Ballet Arizona professional company. "SBAZ offers students a level of training and performance opportunities that are not widely available elsewhere," said Anthony Jones, Ballet Arizona's School Director, who assumed leadership of the school earlier this year. "There is a new energy and buzz echoing through the studios and halls at the school, and I am excited to take the SBAZ to new heights of ballet excellence," added Jones.

The upcoming school year sets the bar high while offering students ages 4-20 the exclusive chance to perform in the school's full-length productions of *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote* scheduled for the 2018-19 school year, as well as the year-end performance at the Orpheum Theatre. "The opportunity to perform in a full-length production is not commonly available in other ballet training programs," Jones said. "Students also have the opportunity to perform in Ballet Arizona's professional productions that include a youth cast."

All classes at the SBAZ, including Children's, Lower and Upper Division programs, and Pre-Professional programs, offer a unique syllabus and is designed to bring consistency based on traditional classical ballet. The syllabus is taught in all divisions of the school, and is followed by every faculty member.

For information and to register for one of these dates, go to school section of balletaz.org and click School Year.

Students of the school will perform *Swan Lake* at Dorrance Theatre November 15-18. Mr. Jones will set the iconic romantic ballet, to feature the entire SBAZ roster with multiple different casts. The show will feature all levels, allowing audiences to see the growth and diversity between age groups as students progress through their training. April 5-8, 2019 the SBAZ performs *Don Quixote*, a work which is consistently ranked as one of the most important pieces of fiction ever created. These performances will be full-length, and showcase the older students on the verge of professional careers featuring the Upper Division and Studio Company dancers.

Ballet Arizona and the School of Ballet Arizona

Ballet Arizona, approaching 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 leadership of School Director Anthony Jones, 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. Please visit www.balletaz.org for more information.