



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Ballet Arizona's World Premiere of 'The Firebird' Takes the Stage Valentine's Day** *Ib Andersen's Latest Work Tells a Classic Tale Through a New Lens*

**PHOENIX** – The past and future collide in one spectacular production for [Ballet Arizona](#)'s performances of *The Firebird*, a completely new production from Artistic Director Ib Andersen, and *La Sylphide*, one of the world's oldest ballets. This juxtaposition of old and new comes to Symphony Hall Valentine's Day weekend, February 14-17, with live music by The Phoenix Symphony.

While the story of *The Firebird* stems from a classic Russian tale, Andersen's rendition reimagines the story using a futuristic lens that explores love, fantasy and escapism. *The Firebird* unfolds in an undefined setting, where the aesthetics of warriors, monsters and aliens combine to create an otherworldly experience unlike any other performance presented by Ballet Arizona.

The world premiere of *The Firebird* features original choreography by Andersen and couture costumes created by famed New York costume designer, Fabio Toblini. Ballet Arizona's resident lighting designer, Michael Korsch, creates the atmosphere for Andersen's vision, employing light and projections for a cinematic-like experience featuring a 120-foot panoramic screen that engulfs the stage. This visual spectacle is a vivid expression of Igor Stravinsky's masterful score performed by the Phoenix Symphony.

*La Sylphide*, presented alongside *The Firebird*, is one the most iconic romantic ballets, created in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tale of passion and elusive love features an alluring fairy and diabolical witch who wreak havoc on the life of a young Scotsman, James, who gives up everything for the love of a beautiful, but unattainable, woodland sprite.

*The Firebird* is produced by Barbara and Donald Ottosen, longtime supporters of Ballet Arizona known for their board service, volunteerism and philanthropy in the Phoenix community. *The Firebird* and *La Sylphide* are also sponsored in part by Salt River Project.

Ticket prices start at \$25, with discounts offered for seniors, college students, military, individuals aged 18-29, and groups of 10 or more. To ensure lowest ticket prices, buy exclusively through Ballet Arizona. Tickets and packages can be purchased by calling 602.381.1096 or visiting [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).

### **Ballet Arizona**

Ballet Arizona, in its 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 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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