



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 9, 2018**

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## **‘The Nutcracker’ Brings Magic to the Holidays with Enhanced Experiences** *Ballet Arizona’s Critically Acclaimed Performance Takes Center Stage Dec. 13-24*

**PHOENIX** – Get ready for visions of sugar plums, mouse kings and sparkling Swarovski crystals. [Ballet Arizona](#) is proud to announce its 33rd year of *The Nutcracker* performances, choreographed by renowned Artistic Director Ib Andersen. *The Nutcracker* will run from December 13-24 for a total of 14 performances, with afternoon and evening shows at Symphony Hall in downtown Phoenix. All performances are accompanied with live music by The Phoenix Symphony.

**In 2013, *The New York Times*’ senior dance critic Alastair Macaulay hailed Ib Andersen’s *The Nutcracker* “one of the three finest productions” of the nearly 20 versions he attended around the country.** Ballet Arizona, the Valley’s only professional ballet company, created the production in 2006 at a cost of \$1.8 million.

The beloved ballet tells the story of a little girl named Clara who is given a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. She encounters the frightful Mouse King before embarking on a wondrous journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Young and old alike will experience the many special effects, including the Christmas tree that "grows" to 40 feet, 200 pounds of "snow" falling during the snow scene and the firing of cannons onstage.

**New for 2018, enhance your holiday experience by upgrading your evening at *The Nutcracker*:**

- **Capture the Magic | VIP Premier Package**

Receive the Golden Ticket VIP access pass when you purchase four premium tickets to *The Nutcracker*, including:

- Complimentary photo with the Sugar Plum Fairy
- Complimentary parking pass
- VIP early admission
- Free hot chocolate
- An autographed pair of ballerina pointe shoes
- 2018 Ballet Arizona tote bag
- \$20 savings toward a future Ballet Arizona performance

- **Family Fun Nights | Share the Wonder Package**

During select *The Nutcracker* performances, participate in holiday family fun, including:

- A storybook reading of “The Nutcracker” 45 minutes before performance time
- Mini ballet classes for children
- Coloring book stations
- Face painting, and much more!

- **‘Tis the Season Holiday Package**

A great holiday gift idea for arts lover in your life! For \$125, experience three of the Valley’s premier arts events, including:

- Ballet Arizona’s *The Nutcracker*
- Desert Botanical Garden’s Las Noches de las Luminarias featuring Electric Desert: A Light and Sound Experience by Klip Collective
- Phoenix Theatre’s *Elf: The Musical*

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**Some interesting facts from this season's *The Nutcracker* performances include:**

- There are 260 costumes in *The Nutcracker*, requiring more than 6,500 yards of fabric. A tutu alone takes 12 yards of material and 60 hours to produce.
- More than 100,000 Austrian Swarovski crystals make the spectacular Snow Scene sparkle.
- *The Nutcracker* scenic elements including sets, lights, costumes and special effects require four tractor trailers and two 24-foot trucks.
- The Mouse King is more than 9 feet tall with his crown.
- During the run of *The Nutcracker*, Ballet Arizona's female dancers will use more than 300 pairs of pointe shoes. Pointe shoes are custom made and cost more than \$100 per pair. Most pairs of shoes last one performance.
- Costume department personnel will wash approximately 125 loads of laundry during the run of *The Nutcracker*.
- The production uses 25 different backdrops.

Ticket prices for *The Nutcracker* start at \$25, with discounts offered for seniors, students, military and groups. To ensure lowest ticket prices and purchase enhanced experiences, 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, now 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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