

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ballet Arizona Welcomes Back Free Community Book Club *Virtual Club Begins August 18 and Runs Through April 2022*

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#) launches its 2021-2022 virtual book club on August 18, 2021, with the mission of building community and appreciation for the incredible art form of dance. The club meets once per quarter via Zoom and there are four books in total.

“We are so excited to welcome back this engaging and educational club,” said Alexandra Papazian, Ballet Arizona’s Education and Community Engagement Manager. “Experiencing this art in all of its different forms and reading about ballet and individual stories brings a greater appreciation and excitement to our season.”

Book Club One: George Balanchine: *The Ballet Maker* by Robert Gottlieb

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Written by the gifted author, editor, and dance critic Robert Gottlieb, George Balanchine describes the life and art of the celebrated, revolutionary ballet choreographer. Here is a necessary and singular look at the life of one of the great figures of the 20th Century: the dynamic Balanchine, founder of The New York City Ballet, collaborator of Stravinsky, and inspiration to countless fans over the course of his long and storied career. George Balanchine is another engaging entry in the HarperCollins’ “Eminent Lives” series of biographies by distinguished authors on canonical figures.

Book Club Two: Maria Tallchief: *America’s Prima Ballerina* by Maria Tallchief and Larry Kaplan

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

A fascinating self-portrait of the fairy-tale life of a woman who understood that a committed talent could transform the world around her. “Maria Tallchief and American ballet came of age in the same moment.... Her story will always be the story of ballet conquering America. It was and is an American romance.”-Arlene Croce, The New Yorker

Book Club Three: *Bunheads* by Sophie Flack

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

A vibrant and absorbing novel about the competitive world of professional ballet, written by a former New York City Ballet dancer. As a dancer with the ultra-prestigious Manhattan Ballet company, nineteen-year-old Hannah Ward juggles intense rehearsals, dazzling performances, and complicated

backstage relationships. But when she meets a spontaneous and irresistibly cute musician named Jacob, her universe begins to change. Don't miss this behind-the-scenes look at the life of a young professional ballet dancer, written by an insider who lived it all.

Book Club Four: *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* by Michaela DePrince and Elaine DePrince

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Michaela DePrince was known as girl Number 27 at the orphanage, where she was abandoned at a young age and tormented as a “devil child” for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life. At the age of four, Michaela was adopted by an American family, who encouraged her love of dancing and enrolled her in classes. She went on to study at the Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at the American Ballet Theatre and at the age of seventeen Michaela performed with the Dance Theatre of Harlem professional company. At eighteen she joined the Dutch National Junior Company as a second-year member and apprentice to the main company. Now at the age of twenty-five, Michaela is ranked as a soloist at Dutch National Ballet. She has appeared in the ballet documentary *First Position*, as well as on *Dancing with the Stars*, *Good Morning America*, and *Nightline*. In this engaging, moving, and unforgettable memoir, Michaela shares her dramatic journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars.

Pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom meeting information. To register, read more and for links to purchase the books, visit balletaz.org/ballet-arizona-book-club/.

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.

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