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Contact: Melody Pierce Phone: 602-292-1880

**Email:** melody@evolveprandmarketing.com

## **Ballet Under the Stars Announces Return**

Ballet Arizona Tradition of Free Performances Resumes at Select Locations Across the Valley

**PHOENIX** – <u>Ballet Arizona</u> welcomes back the 24-year tradition of free outdoor ballet performances for all community members from September 29 through October 2 at venues across the Valley, including a thrilling return to the city of Glendale. At *Ballet Under the Stars* guests can enjoy dance in a personal and unique outdoor setting complete with professional staging, lighting and costumes, complimented by the incredible Arizona fall weather.

This annual tradition brings together ballet fans and novices for a free professional ballet performance in communities around the Valley and is often someone's first introduction to the art of ballet. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and to sit back and enjoy a varied program, ranging from classical to contemporary.

"Ballet Under the Stars is an exceptional gathering and celebration of art for community members throughout Arizona," said Artistic Director Ib Andersen. "These performances allow all people to be immersed in the world of ballet and can often ignite the spark for a love of ballet. Our dancers work incredibly hard and it's always a joy to share these moments of beauty and dedication with our community and we are so thankful for the support of so many that make this event possible."

Ballet Under the Stars wouldn't be possible without community sponsors including: <u>City of Goodyear</u>, <u>APS</u>, <u>Estrella by Newland Communities</u>, <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>, <u>Grand Canyon University</u>, <u>Shamrock Farms</u>, <u>City of Phoenix</u>, <u>Town of Fountain Hills</u>, <u>City of Glendale</u> and <u>Stoker Ostler BMO</u>.

## The performance schedule is:

- Wednesday, September 29 at Fountain Park, 12925 N Saguaro Blvd, Fountain Hills
- Thursday, September 30 at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park Area, 9802 North 59th Ave., Glendale
- Friday, October 1 at Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater, 10300 S. Estrella Pkwy., Goodyear
- Saturday, October 2 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix

## All performances begin at 7 p.m.

For more information about Ballet Under the Stars, visit balletaz.org.



IB ANDERSEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## **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.