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The School of Ballet Arizona Fall Enrollment Now Open

Internationally Renowned Classical Training Program Available to Ballet Students Nationally

PHOENIX – The School of <u>Ballet Arizona</u> is now enrolling students in a graded program for children to young adults. Open auditions are Saturday, August 14 and classes begin Monday, August 23 for pre-ballet, pointe, modern and men's classes. These classes follow a comprehensive syllabus that has been developed to maintain the fundamental aspects of classical ballet technique and offer the highest quality training at every level, in every program, as well as performance opportunities unlike any other offered across the Valley.

"It is our passion to continue to uplift the next generation of professional dancers with a focus on training the whole dancer through wellness and conditioning curriculums, as well as main stage performance opportunities" said School Director, Maria Simonetti. "The School of Ballet Arizona has proven time and time again the importance of community and movement in all forms. We are thankful for the ability to carry on this uplifting opportunity to dancers of all ages."

The School of Ballet Arizona is available to dancers of all levels through three different programs: the children's division, lower division, and professional program. The children's division is for ages four and up, with no prior experience required. This level offers an introduction to the art of ballet by promoting the exploration of creativity and expression through movement. The lower division (ages eight and up) is divided into four levels and the syllabus is created to begin formal training in traditional classical ballet.

For the professional programs, students must possess the determination to commit to a serious ballet program and may have the opportunity to perform alongside Ballet Arizona's professional dancers as part of their training. Performing opportunities with Ballet Arizona include *The Nutcracker* as well as other main stage productions in collaboration with Arizona's top talent, including Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras.

For adults who used to dance and would like to get back into the studio to ballet novices, The School of Ballet Arizona also offers open classes for adult students of all experience levels. Parents can take classes in the same state-of-the-art studios where their children train and enjoy the same high level instruction.

The internationally ranked facility provides dancers with the highest quality training and equipment. Classes feature live piano accompaniment throughout the seven studios while the facility boasts locker rooms, a parent lounge and a student study area, allowing students to focus and expand their training in this stimulating environment.

To audition and for more information, visit https://balletaz.org/school-year/.

Ballet Arizona

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Ballet Arizona, approaching its 36th 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 direction of Maria Simonetti, 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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