

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amber Godbehere**Phone:** 602-321-0492**Email:** Amber@evolveprandmarketing.com

Ballet Arizona Presents Ballet Under the Stars

Ballet Arizona's Tradition of Free Performances Returns to Select Locations

PHOENIX – Ballet Arizona's annual tradition of *Ballet Under the Stars*, presented by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, continues this Sept. 8 to 11 at four Valley locations. Promising an evening of fun suitable for the entire family, guests bring chairs, blankets and picnics to experience the beauty of dance in outdoor parks across the county. The evening features a fully-staged live performance by the professional company dancers of Ballet Arizona, including several exciting contemporary and classical ballet excerpts.

Free and open to the public, *Ballet Under the Stars* is the perfect show for the entire family and a great way to introduce ballet to young people for the first time. These performances allow Arizonans to experience dance in their community in a unique outdoor setting complete with a professional stage, lighting, and costumes. Indulge in local food trucks with space for picnicking and for aspiring young dancers to move along with the performance.

"*Ballet Under the Stars* is one of our favorite annual traditions, and we're proud to be able to present it again to the community this year," said Artistic Director Ib Andersen. "These performances are an exceptional gathering and celebration of art that allows all people to be immersed in the world of ballet."

Ballet Under the Stars would not be possible without community sponsors including [The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation](#), [City of Phoenix Office of Arts + Culture](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), [Fountain Hills Community Services](#), [Glendale Arizona](#), [Stoker Ostler](#), [APS](#), [Grand Canyon University](#), [City of Goodyear](#), and [Desert Diamond Casino](#). This year, Ballet Arizona is proud to announce the tenth anniversary partnership with [Estrella Goodyear](#) for this annual event.

Ballet Under the Stars also showcases world premiere performances choreographed by local school students through the Class Act program. Each year, Ballet Arizona's professional dancers provide a three-week dance training class for students in four different elementary schools across the Valley. The culminating highlight of their work is delivered as a performance as part of the Ballet Under the Stars program. This education program is provided to students' tuition free and is generously funded by Joan Benjamin and Laurence Cherkis.

The performance schedule is:

- Thursday, Sept. 8 at Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
- Friday, Sept. 9 at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park, 9802 N. 59th Ave Glendale, AZ 85302
- Saturday, Sept. 10 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Rd Phoenix, AZ 85012
- Sunday, Sept. 11 at Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater, 10300 Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ 85338

All performances begin at 7 p.m.

To learn more information about this year's Ballet Under the Stars performances, please visit balletaz.org.

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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