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Ballet Arizona Welcomes New Dancers and Staff for 2022-2023 Season

Seven New Dancers Join Ballet Arizona's Company and Studio Company Programs

PHOENIX – The Valley's only professional ballet company, Ballet Arizona, is thrilled to announce the growth of its Company and Studio Company dancers. The School of Ballet Arizona (SBAZ) is also excited to welcome Alecia Good-Boresow as the first studio company manager and upper division coordinator.

For its 2022-2023 season, five new and incredibly talented dancers have joined Ballet Arizona's Company, Luis Olivera, Cheyenne You, Erin Meranos, Trey Puckett and Leticia Endler. SBAZ has also added two up and coming dancers to its Studio Company- Georgia Stig and Gustavo Ventali.

Luis Olivera is originally from a small town in Montevideo, Uruguay. He started studying ballet at the National School of Dance (Sodre) in Montevideo at the age of 15. During his time there, he participated in *Coppelia*, *Don Quixote*, and *The Nutcracker* with Ballet Nacional Sodre. After winning a full scholarship for the summer intensive at Miami City Ballet School, Olivera trained there for four and a half years. He joined Ballet Arizona's Studio Company in 2021 where he performed in George Balanchine's *Slaughter in Tenth Avenue*, *Serenade*, *Bourree Fantasque*, Ib Andersen's *Round: Reimagined For A New Stage* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Cheyenne You has grown up dancing with The School of Ballet Arizona. She started at the age of five and has received feature roles in SBAZ and Company productions, such as Clara in *The Nutcracker* and Tall Swan in *Swan Lake*. After 11 years of training with The School, she joined the Studio Company for its 2021-2022 season. She has performed in several of the Company's productions including Sir Fredrick Ashton's *Les Patineurs*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Juan Gabriel*. She also starred in principal roles in SBAZ's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* as the Lilac Fairy and Carabosse.

Erin Meranos began her dance training at the age of five near her hometown in Eagle, Michigan. She accepted a full scholarship as a trainee with the Orlando Ballet School and later joined the Orlando Ballet Second Company in 2016. During her time, she performed in many of the company's productions, such as *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake* and Michael Pink's *Dracula*. In 2018, she joined San Diego Ballet as a company member, where she performed many lead roles and pas de deux's in Javier Velasco's choreographies.

Trey Puckett started dancing at the age of 10 in Spokane, Washington and trained at several small hometown studios before moving to the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet at 17. After graduation, they went to the Miami City Ballet to train in the Balanchine technique, where they performed *Firebird*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and George Balanchine's *Who Cares*. Puckett came to Ballet Arizona in the summer of 2021 and joined as a Studio Company dancer for the 2021-2022 season. They performed in George Balanchine's *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*,

Slaughter on 10th Avenue and *Serenade* with the Company, as well as *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Raymonda* with SBAZ.

Leticia Endler is originally from Anápolis, Goiás, Brazil. She studied at Ballet Zulma Emrich and joined the Cia Paulista de Dança after graduation. She joined Ballet Arizona's Studio Company for its 2021-2022 season, where she performed in *Les Patineurs*, *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Juan Gabriel* and *Round: Reimagined For A New Stage*. She also performed in George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Bourree Fantasque*, as well as in excerpts of *Raymonda* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Georgia Stig is from Sydney, Australia and began her training studying full time classical ballet under Lucina Dunn at the Tanya Pearson Academy in North Sydney. She then moved to Chicago and trained at the Joffrey Academy of Dance in their conservatory, trainee and second year trainee program. She has always been interested in joining Ballet Arizona's Company and is excited to be a part of the Studio Company this season.

Gustavo Ventali is from Brazil where he danced with the Petite Danse School of Dance in Rio de Janeiro. He traveled throughout Brazil representing the school in various competitions. Before he wanted to become a dancer, Ventali's big dream was to be a gymnast, but once he took his first class, he fell in love with the art form. He is now a member of Ballet Arizona's Studio Company for its 2022-2023 season.

Alecia Good-Boresow is SBAZ's first studio company manager and also the upper division coordinator. She began her ballet training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet at the age of five. From there, she went on to study at the School of American Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet. Good-Boresow danced professionally with the Kansas City Ballet while also serving as a rehearsal assistant. After retiring from the professional stage, she founded and directed the Kansas City Youth Ballet, formerly known as the MidWest Youth Ballet in 1997. Good-Boresow has taught ballet for over 35 years and is honored to be at Ballet Arizona to help shape students into the future generation of dancers.

For more information on Ballet Arizona and its upcoming production featuring its new Company and Studio Company dancers, please visit www.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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