

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Nutcracker Brings Holiday Magic with Enhanced Experiences *Ballet Arizona's Critically Acclaimed Performance Takes the Stage Dec. 8 through 24*

PHOENIX – Ring in the holiday season with the timeless family tradition of attending a live performance of *The Nutcracker*, performed by [Ballet Arizona](#) and choreographed by Artistic Director, Ib Andersen. From Dec. 8 through 24, *The Nutcracker* is sure to be a memorable family experience for all. For the second year in a row, Ballet Arizona will be adding an additional performance on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. for a total of 16 performances due to audience demand. Shows will take place in the afternoon and evening at Symphony Hall (75 N. 2nd St.) in Downtown Phoenix. All performances are accompanied by live music from [The Phoenix Symphony](#).

In 2013, *The New York Times*' senior dance critic Alastair Macaulay hailed Ib Andersen's *The Nutcracker* as "one of the three finest productions" of the nearly 20 versions he attended around the country. Ballet Arizona created the production in 2006 at a cost of \$1.8 million.

In honor of the 19th century tradition, *The Nutcracker* tells a mystical and enchanting tale of a young girl, Clara, who receives a wooden nutcracker on Christmas Eve. Through the magic of the season, Clara finds herself in a battle between the Nutcracker Prince and a frightful Mouse King. Along with the Nutcracker Prince, Clara embarks on a wondrous journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets to meet the magical Snow Queen and her snowflake dancers. Audiences of every age will immerse themselves in this enchanting landscape with many special effects to bring this one-of-a-kind live experience to life.

"*The Nutcracker* is one of my personal favorites that we get the honor of presenting each December for the Arizona community," said Andersen. "The classic tale of Clara and her Christmas Eve adventure is one that can't be missed. We invite you and your loved ones to come together this holiday season for an unforgettable experience."

Enhance your 2023 holiday experience by upgrading your evening at *The Nutcracker* with the Capture the Magic VIP Premier Package for \$125 per family of four. The premium tickets include:

- Early entry to the Symphony Hall lobby to shop and snap your keepsake photo with the Sugar Plum Fairy
- Hot chocolate for four from the lobby café
- Complimentary parking pass
- One pair of ballerina pointe shoes signed by one of the dancers
- One Ballet Arizona tote bag
- One voucher for a future Ballet Arizona class
- One \$20 Ballet Arizona gift card
- 15% off at *The Nutcracker* boutique in the lobby

Interesting facts from this season's *The Nutcracker* performances include:

- More than 100,000 Austrian Swarovski crystals make the spectacular Snow Scene sparkle.
- scenic elements including sets, lights, costumes and special effects require four tractor-trailers and two 24-foot trucks for transportation.
- The Mouse King stands at more than nine feet tall with his crown.
- More than 7,000 pounds of dry ice are used for the entire run of the production.
- During the run of *The Nutcracker*, Ballet Arizona's female dancers will use more than 300 pairs of pointe shoes. Pointe shoes are custom-made and cost more than \$100 per pair. Most pairs of shoes last one performance.
- The sleigh that Clara and the Prince ride in is built on a mobility scooter and one technician lays inside on their stomach and drives it around the stage.
- The production uses 25 different backdrops.

Ballet Arizona's opening night series sponsors are F. Francis and Dionne Najafi of Pivotal Foundation. Ballet Arizona's 2023-2024 season sponsor is Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Single tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling the Ballet Arizona box office at 602-381-1096. Group sales and season subscriptions are also available online. For more information, visit <https://balletaz.org/performance/the-nutcracker-2023/>.

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 22,000 children and families every year through its free and low-cost outreach programs. For more information, visit balletaz.org.

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