

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Ballet Arizona Announces 2024-2025 Season

*Nationally Recognized Ballet Company to Present Array of Classic and Powerful Works*

**PHOENIX** – [Ballet Arizona](#), the Valley’s only professional ballet company, promises to excite and inspire audiences with a blend of classical and contemporary ballets during the upcoming 2024-2025 season. During its 39th season, Ballet Arizona will feature the U.S. premiere of *Frida*, a ballet depicting the life story of the famous painter, Frida Kahlo, the beloved ballet tale, *Swan Lake*, and many audience favorites, including *The Nutcracker*.

“We are thrilled to present our 2024-2025 season featuring a highly anticipated U.S. premiere and several iconic ballet classics,” said Ib Andersen. “This season will elevate the ballets we know and love with performances that promise to entertain and transport audiences into a world of fiction and history.”

The new season will kick off with the classic ballet tale of *Swan Lake* from Oct. 24 through 27 at Symphony Hall. Ballet Arizona and The Phoenix Symphony will present the influential story shaped by Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s breathtaking score. *Swan Lake* is a passionate, romantic tragedy that depicts the heartache and woe of two doomed lovers and the evil forces that come between them.

From Dec. 6 through 24, Ballet Arizona’s beloved production of *The Nutcracker* will return to Symphony Hall with its heartwarming performance that will be sure to get you rejoicing in the spirit of the holidays. Live music from The Phoenix Symphony will help bring the enchantment and splendor of *The Nutcracker* to life, alongside Ib Andersen’s dazzling choreography. Ballet Arizona’s production has been named “among the top three in the country” by The New York Times.

Ballet Arizona will present the U.S. premiere of *Frida*, an extraordinary ballet honoring one of the most impactful artists of the twentieth century, at Symphony Hall from Feb. 13 through 16, 2025. With musical accompaniment from The Phoenix Symphony, Ballet Arizona will perform a powerful retelling of Frida Kahlo’s life story choreographed by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. The Mexican painter’s motifs, paintings and dreams are reimaged through dance and woven with her story.

Featuring a selection of diverse works from some of the most masterful choreographers of our time, Ballet Arizona’s newest contemporary program, *Spring Mix*, will take stage at the Orpheum Theatre from March 27 through 30, 2025. This production will feature Christopher Wheeldon’s *Within the Golden Hour* and other short but dynamic ballets.

The *All Balanchine* program will present three ballets by renowned choreographer George Balanchine. The lineup includes *Western Symphony*, *Scotch Symphony* and *Walpurgisnacht* from May 1 through 4, 2025 at Symphony Hall.

Ballet Arizona will conclude the 2024-2025 season with *Eroica* during its annual tradition of ‘An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden’ from May 14 through 31, 2025. Surrounded by the matchless Desert Botanical Garden landscape with the setting sun as a backdrop, Arizonans can expect the unexpected with this evolving ballet that tests your emotional boundaries.

Ballet Arizona would like to thank its Opening Night Series sponsor F. Francis & Dionne Najafi of Pivotal Foundation.

## **BALLET ARIZONA’S 2024-2025 SEASON**

### ***SWAN LAKE***

Oct. 24 -27

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Of all the great classics, *Swan Lake* remains the quintessential ballet of all time. A passionate romantic tragedy, this influential ballet story is shaped by Tchaikovsky’s breathtaking score. It depicts the heartache and woe of two doomed lovers and the evil forces that come between them.

### ***THE NUTCRACKER***

Dec. 6-24

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography: Ib Andersen

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Ballet Arizona returns to Symphony Hall in grand fashion with this holiday classic. Celebrate the joy and wonder of the season with Ib Andersen’s *The Nutcracker* as Tchaikovsky’s cherished score is masterfully performed by The Phoenix Symphony. Follow Clara’s wintry adventures as she battles mischievous mice and charms the Sugar Plum Fairy. Whether this is your first *Nutcracker* or your 101st, this heartwarming tradition never fails to enchant and draw smiles from all!

### ***FRIDA***

Feb. 13-16, 2025

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

Music: Peter Salem – Frida (2020)

The poignant, painful, and magical world of the celebrated Mexican painter comes to life through Annabelle Lopez Ochoa’s stunning choreography. Audiences will see Kahlo’s motifs, paintings, and dreams reimagined through dance and woven with her story. Don’t miss this extraordinary ballet honoring one of the most impactful artists of the twentieth century. Frida is produced in part by Jacquie and Bennett Dorrance and Bob Benson.

### ***SPRING MIX***

March 27-30, 2025  
Orpheum Theatre

A program of contemporary ballets kicks off the spring ballet season. *Spring Mix* celebrates masterful and diverse choreography with works from both emerging and celebrated choreographers. Christopher Wheeldon's *Within the Golden Hour* is just one of the incredible works featured in an evening of three short but dynamic ballets, similar to a collection of short stories.

### ***ALL BALANCHINE***

May 1-4, 2025  
Symphony Hall  
Choreography: George Balanchine

#### *Western Symphony*

A striking example of Balanchine's fascination with American themes, this classical ballet is set on a rugged Old West street populated by cowboys and dance hall girls.

#### *Scotch Symphony*

A scenic escapade in the Scottish Highlands, this charming Balanchine ballet features brisk footwork and a wistfully romantic pas de deux. This ballet is set to Symphony No. 3, Op. 56, composed by Felix Mendelssohn.

#### *Walpurgisnacht*

Twenty-four dancers soar in this brilliant, virtuosic dance of joyful revelry. *Walpurgisnacht* takes its inspiration from a traditional celebration the eve before May Day.

### ***EROICA***

May 14-31, 2025  
Desert Botanical Garden  
Choreography: Ib Andersen  
Tuesday through Saturdays, 8pm nightly

Surrounded by the magnificent desert landscape with the setting sun as its backdrop, *Eroica* makes an exciting return to the *An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden* stage. Expect the unexpected as this ballet evolves, takes chances and challenges your emotional boundaries in the desert that we call our home.

To learn more information about Ballet Arizona and its upcoming season, visit [www.balletaz.org](http://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 22,000 children and families every year through its free and low-cost outreach programs. For more information, visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).

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