

**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 *Ballet Under the Stars* performances, presented by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, will return Sept. 23-30 at four Valley locations. 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 promise an evening of fun suitable for all ages, as 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 *Juan Gabriel's* "Se Me Olvidó Otra Vez" and George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*.

*Ballet Under the Stars* invites 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.

"We are thrilled to kick off our 38<sup>th</sup> season with *Ballet Under the Stars*," said Artistic Director Ib Andersen. "This beloved annual tradition helps us give back to the Arizona community with a unique outdoor experience allowing friends and families to be immersed in the world of ballet."

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 *Ballet Under the Stars*. This educational program is provided to students' tuition free and is generously funded by Joan Benjamin and Laurence Cherkis.

**The performance schedule is:**

- Saturday, Sept. 23 at [Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park](#), 9802 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Ave Glendale, AZ 85302
- Thursday, Sept. 28 at [Fountain Park](#), 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
- Friday, Sept. 29 at [Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater](#), 10300 Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ 85338
- Saturday, Sept. 30 at [Steele Indian School Park](#), 300 E Indian School Rd Phoenix, AZ 85012

**All performances begin at 7 p.m.**

*Ballet Under the Stars* would not be possible without community sponsors including [The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation](#), [City of Phoenix Office of Arts + Culture](#), [Town of Fountain Hills](#), [City of Glendale](#), [Stoker Ostler](#), [APS](#), [Grand Canyon University](#), [Estrella](#), [Sticker Mule](#) and [Desert Diamond Casino](#).

To learn more information about this year's *Ballet Under the Stars* performances, please visit [balletaz.org](http://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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