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Ballet Arizona's Beloved 'Juan Gabriel' Returns This October

The Musical Legend Lives On With Ib Andersen's Vibrant Rendition

PHOENIX – This October, the incredible career of Juan Gabriel and his performance at the Palacio de Belles Artes in Mexico City will be honored through an impeccably choreographed ballet by Ballet Arizona's Artistic Director, Ib Andersen. <u>Ballet Arizona</u> proudly presents the return of *Juan Gabriel* from October 26 through 29 at Symphony Hall. Andersen will bring the music of Juan Gabriel, lovingly known to fans as 'Juanga,' to life in a ballet that is sure to capture the attention of every audience member.

This moving ballet will transport viewers back in time to Juanga's impassioned performance at Bellas Artes, utilizing colorful costumes and dynamic choreography. *Juan Gabriel* incorporates the musician's poetic lyrics and musical themes to bring a new appreciation to the emotional authenticity of this Mexican-born legend, reflecting the unique vibrancy of El Divo de Juarez.

In addition to stunning choreography and a beautiful musical score, Carla Fernández, a Mexico City-based designer and fashion house, masterfully designed costumes that preserve and revitalize the textile legacy of Indigenous and mestizo communities of Mexico. Fernández ensured sustainability and equity through manual production methods, demonstrating that fashion can be both innovative and progressive.

"It was an incredible experience to be able to incorporate Juan Gabriel's powerful performance at the Palacio de Belles Artes into a one-of-a-kind ballet," said Andersen. "I am so thrilled to bring this unforgettable production back to the Arizona stage this October. If you missed the world premiere of *Juan Gabriel* in 2022, we invite you to come enjoy the passion and artistry of Juan Gabriel in a new way."

Juan Gabriel is produced by Jacquie and Bennett Dorrance, longtime supporters of Ballet Arizona, known for their board service, volunteerism, and philanthropy in the Phoenix community. Ballet Arizona's opening night series sponsors are F. Francis and Dionne Najafi of Pivotal Foundation.

Ticket prices for *Juan Gabriel* start at \$35, with discounts offered for seniors, students, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602.381.1096 or visiting <u>balletaz.org</u>.

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 <u>balletaz.org</u>.

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