

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2024

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Ballet Arizona Presents “Ballet Under the Stars”

Ballet Arizona’s Family-Favorite Evening of Free Performances Returns to the Valley

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#)’s annual *Ballet Under the Stars* performances, presented by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, returns Sept. 19-28 at six Valley locations. For the first time, *Ballet Under the Stars* expands to Chandler and Peoria with its free public performances. *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.

This year’s *Ballet Under the Stars* will include excerpts from both contemporary and classic ballets. Audiences will get to experience the tango-inspired *Piazzolla Caldera* by celebrated choreographer Paul Taylor, a striking duet from Christopher Wheeldon’s *Within the Golden Hour*, as well as an excerpt from Ib Andersen’s *Swan Lake* – which will grace the stage in full later this fall.

Since its inception in 1997, these performances provide an evening of fun for Arizonans of all ages. Guests bring chairs, blankets and picnics to experience the beauty of dance in outdoor parks across the county. Ballet Arizona invites Arizonans to delight in a spectacular evening showcasing excerpts from a range of ballets, offering a vibrant portrayal of the art form’s diversity.

Attracting 9,000 viewers annually, Ballet Arizona welcomes Arizonans to experience dance in their community in a unique outdoor setting complete with a professional stage, lighting and costumes. Event goers can indulge in local food trucks and enjoy ample space for picnicking and for aspiring young dancers to move along with the performance.

“We are thrilled to open the 2024-2025 season with an extraordinary program like *Ballet Under the Stars*,” said Artistic Director, Daniela Cardim. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Arizonans to discover the magic of ballet under the open sky together with their loved ones – right in their own neighborhood. *Ballet Under the Stars* is a favorite for thousands of Arizonans each year, and I am very much looking forward to experiencing it for the first time myself in my new community.”

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 and teaching artists 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:

- Thursday, Sept. 19 at Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguardo Blvd Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

- Friday, Sept. 20 at Chandler Park, 178 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler, AZ 85225
- Saturday, Sept. 21 at [Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater](#), 10300 Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ 85338
- Thursday, Sept. 26 at Centennial Plaza Park, 9875 N. 85th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345
- Friday, Sept. 27 at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park, 9802 N. 59th Ave Glendale, AZ 85302
- Saturday, Sept. 28 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Rd Phoenix, AZ 85012

All performances begin at 7 p.m. and are free of charge.

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

To learn more information about this year's *Ballet Under the Stars* performances, please visit balletaz.org.

Ballet Arizona

Since 1986, Ballet Arizona has been dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the new artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Daniela Cardim - a former soloist with the Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro and Dutch National Ballet - Ballet Arizona is excited to follow her lead to the future of dance in Arizona. During its 38th season, the Valley's professional ballet company will present *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, the U.S. premiere of *Frida*, *Spring Mix*, *All Balanchine* and *Eroica*. The School of Ballet Arizona, under the direction of Maria Simonetti, 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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