

# THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

October 23 – 26, 2025

with The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall



Ballet Arizona dancers in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Photo by Alexander Iziliaev.

Opening night series sponsor



F. Francis &  
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Sponsored in part by



*Choreography by Marius Petipa with additional choreography by Daniela Cardim*

*Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky*

*The Phoenix Symphony conducted by Matthew Kasper*

*Lighting Design by Michael Korsch*

*Scenery and Costume Design by David Walker*

*Scenery and Costumes courtesy of Boston Ballet*

Please see insert for casting.

## PRIMA CIRCLE MEMBERS

Please join us during the first intermission for the Prima Circle Reception in the lobby.

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# *The Sleeping Beauty Synopsis*

## **Prologue**

The King and Queen herald the birth of his daughter Aurora with a christening ceremony, and invite the fairies of the kingdom to bestow their gifts of beauty, grace, song, temperament and generosity upon the infant Princess. Catalabutte, the Master of Ceremonies, checks the invitation list to ensure that all is in order. In the midst of the celebration, the arrival of the evil fairy Carabosse interrupts the festivities. Angry because she has not been invited, Carabosse delivers a curse upon the tiny princess: she will grow up to be beautiful, but one day will prick her finger and die. The Lilac Fairy intervenes, promising that the princess will not die, but will sleep until awakened by a Prince's kiss of true love.

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PAUSE

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## **Act I**

It is Aurora's 16th birthday party. Her father informs her that she must select one of four visiting princes as her husband. Aurora dances with the princes, each of whom offers her a rose and declares his love.

In the midst of the festivities, Aurora is presented with a spindle from a stranger and, taking the present, pricks her finger. As Aurora collapses, the stranger reveals herself as Carabosse to the King and vanishes in triumph. The Lilac Fairy reminds the King that Aurora only slumbers, and casts a spell over the entire court to put them to sleep.

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INTERMISSION

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## **Act II**

One hundred years later, Prince Désiré is hunting in the forest with his friends. As the hunt moves on the Prince is left alone. To his amazement, the Lilac Fairy appears and conjures a vision of Princess Aurora. Enchanted by the vision, Prince Désiré begs the Lilac Fairy to lead him to Aurora.

As the Prince makes his way to the castle, he is confronted by Carabosse and the Lilac Fairy drives her away. Désiré sees the sleeping Aurora and awakens her with a kiss. True love prevails, and Princess Aurora accepts Prince Désiré's hand in marriage with the approval of the kingdom.

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PAUSE

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## **Act III**

The court is celebrating the wedding of Princess Aurora and Prince Désiré. Characters from other fairy tales have joined to dance at the magnificent celebration. With the blessing of the Lilac Fairy, and their love sealed with a kiss, the new royal couple lives happily ever after.

# About *The Sleeping Beauty*

## **History of *The Sleeping Beauty***

*The Sleeping Beauty* first premiered at the Marinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1890 and in 2010 by Ballet Arizona. It is considered by many to be one of the greatest classical ballets of all time. Based on Charles Perrault's *La Belle au bois dormant*, the ballet incorporates other fairy tale characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Puss in Boots and Blue Bird. Although several versions exist, most ballet companies stage the ballet according to the choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov from their St. Petersburg performance of 1890. *The Sleeping Beauty* is one of the longest classical ballets still performed; danced in a prologue, three acts, and an apotheosis, the original production is nearly three hours long and is always shortened.

## **The Music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (May 7, 1840 – November 6, 1893) was a Russian composer of the Romantic era. Although not a member of the group of nationalistic composers usually known in English-speaking countries as The Mighty Five, his music has come to be known and loved for its distinctly Russian character as well as its rich harmonies and stirring melodies. His works, however, were much more western than his Russian contemporaries as he effectively used both nationalistic folk melodies and international elements. Musically precocious, he began piano lessons at the age of five. In 1866, he was appointed professor of theory and harmony at the Moscow Conservatory, established that year. He held the post until approximately 1878. Tchaikovsky is perhaps most well known for his ballets. (1875–1876): *Swan Lake*, Op. 20. Tchaikovsky's first ballet was first performed (with some omissions) at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1877. (1888–1889): *The Sleeping Beauty*, Op. 66. Tchaikovsky considered this work one of his best. Its first performance was in 1890 at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, Russia. (1891–1892): *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71. Tchaikovsky himself was less satisfied with this, his last ballet. It was only in his last years, with his last two ballets, that his contemporaries came to really appreciate his qualities as ballet music composer.



Ballet Arizona dancers in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Photo by Alexander Iziliaev.



## Meet the Dancers

*Demitra Bereveskos, Ballet Arizona dancer*

### **When did you start dancing?**

I started taking ballet classes at the age of seven.

### **How long have you been with Ballet Arizona and what do you enjoy about dancing with the company?**

I have been with Ballet Arizona for seven seasons. When I joined the company, I was in awe of the talent and diverse capabilities of the dancers. It was inspiring as a young professional to be able to learn from the other artists in the company and study the virtuosity of translating music into physical energy and storytelling. After seven seasons, I continue to draw inspiration from the amazing artists that I get to call my colleagues, and I love getting to share the stage with them and share this art form with our audience.

### **What part of the 25/26 season are you most excited about?**

I am looking forward to *The Sleeping Beauty*. Classical ballets like *The Sleeping Beauty* come with their own histories. There is a prestigious lineage of dancers that have danced the roles in this ballet, and it is exciting to be given the opportunity to carry that mantle.

### **What is your favorite ballet to perform?**

Of the ballets I have done, it is a tie between Myrtha from *Giselle* and the Waltz Girl in George Balanchine's *Serenade*. I had so much fun on stage in those roles.

For more information about Demitra and all of our dancers, visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).



Demitra Bereveskos in *Frida*. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

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## Company

**Brooke Bendick**

Columbus, Ohio | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Balletmet, Houston Ballet, City Ballet of San Diego

**Demitra Bereveskos**

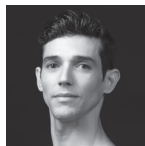
Indianapolis, Indiana | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019

Training: Valentina Kozlava Dance Conservatory of New York, Canada's National Ballet School, Royal Ballet School, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Lindsay Camden**

Houston, Texas | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023

Training: American Academy of Dance, Vitacca Vocational School for Dance, Ballet Arizona Studio Company

**Serafin Castro**

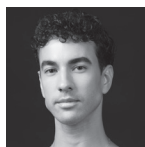
Villa Clara, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2018

Training: Cuban National Ballet School  
Other Companies: National Ballet of Cuba, Ballet of Monterrey

**Alli Chester**

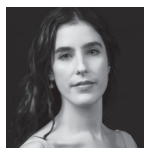
Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021

Training: Houston Ballet Academy Professional Program, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Luis Corrales**

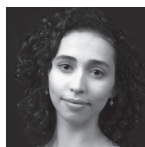
Havana, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019

Training: Cuban National Ballet School  
Other Companies: Ballet San Antonio, Ecuador National Ballet, Ballet Laura Alonso

**Sarah Diniz**

Maracay, Venezuela | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020

Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Orlando Ballet School, Ballet Etudes, The Joffrey Ballet Academy, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School

**Leticia Endler**

Anápolis, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

Training: Ballet Zulma Emrich, Cia Paulista de Dança, The School of Ballet Arizona Studio Company

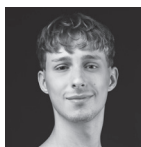


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## Company *continued*

**Rachel Gehr**

Westfield, Indiana | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020  
Training: Indiana University Jacobs School of Music,  
Central Indiana Academy of Dance

**Marco Giuriato**

Budapest, Hungary | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023  
Training: Hungarian Dance University, Vaganova Ballet Academy,  
Miami City Ballet School

**Veronica Hanson**

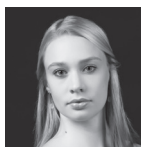
Annandale, New Jersey | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025  
Training: Hunterdon Hills Ballet, The School of American Ballet

**Genevieve Heron**

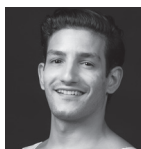
Oxfordshire, England | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2024  
Training: Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst School for Dance.  
Other Companies: New English Ballet Theatre, Northern Ballet, Royal  
Swedish Ballet, English National Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet

**Jordan Islas**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2024  
Training: The School of Ballet Arizona, Clarendon Former Ballet Program

**Eastlyn Jensen**

Ridgefield, Connecticut | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2019  
Training: The Studio at Ballet Etudes, American Ballet Theatre School,  
The School of American Ballet, Chautauqua Institution, Houston Ballet,  
Ballet West, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Helio Lima**

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2015  
Training: Ballet Petite Dance School of Dance, New Zealand School of Dance  
Other Companies: Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro,  
Royal New Zealand Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Boston Ballet

**Katherine Loxtercamp**

Bemidji, Minnesota | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016  
Training: Reif Center, Maryland Youth Ballet,  
The School of Ballet Arizona

**Atsunari Matsuyama**

Yamaguchi, Japan | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020

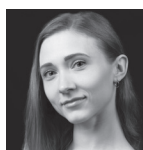
Training: San Francisco Ballet School, The School of Ballet Arizona

**Katelyn May**

Lake Oswego, Oregon | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021

Training: Houston Ballet II, June Taylor's School of Dance Ballet II

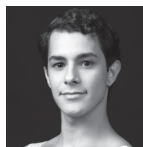
Other Companies: Houston Ballet, Sarasota Ballet

**Erin Mesaros**

Eagle, Michigan | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

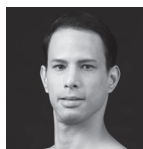
Training: Orlando Ballet School

Other Companies: Orlando Ballet Second Company, San Diego Ballet

**Luis Olivera**

Montevideo, Uruguay | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022

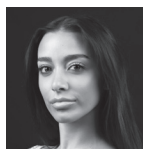
Training: National School of Dance (Sodre), Miami City Ballet School

**Randy Pacheco**

Camagüey, Cuba | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2015

Training: National School of the Arts - Vincentia de la Torre

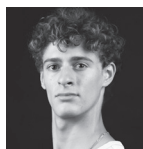
Other Companies: Ballet de Camagüey, Youth Ballet of Jalisco

**Madison Penney**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025

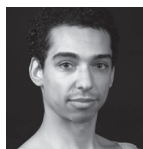
Training: Master Ballet Academy, The Royal Ballet School

Other Companies: Birmingham Royal Ballet, Atlanta Ballet

**Braden Pollack**

Chatham, New Jersey | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2025

Training: School of American Ballet

**Ethan Price**

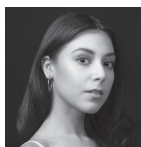
Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016

Training: The School of Ballet Arizona

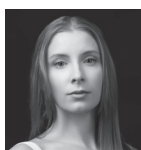
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*Company* continued**Trey Puckett**

Spokane, Washington | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022  
Training: Spokane Ballet Studio, Dance Center of Spokane,  
Moses Lake Dance Academy, Huntsville Ballet Company, Central  
Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Miami City Ballet School

**Natalie Ramirez**

Riverside, California | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2020  
Training: Boston Ballet School, The School of Ballet Arizona,  
Pacific Northwest Ballet, The School of American Ballet

**Alison Remmers**

Sudbury, Massachusetts | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2014  
Training: Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Princeton Ballet,  
Pacific Northwest Ballet, San Francisco Ballet  
Other Companies: Pacific Northwest Ballet

**Erick Rojas**

Mexico City, Mexico | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023  
Training: DanceFit Impulso al Talento, Miami City Ballet School

**Ricardo Santos**

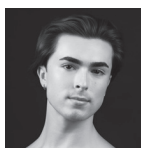
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2016  
Training: Conservatorio Brasileiro de Danca, The Australian Ballet School  
Other Companies: Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro, Joffrey Ballet,  
Boston Ballet

**Isabella Seo**

Los Angeles, California | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021  
Training: Pittsburgh Ballet Theater Graduation Program,  
The Marat Daukayev School of Ballet

**McKenzie Thomas**

Colorado Springs, Colorado | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2023  
Training: Samuel Ballet School, Master Ballet Academy  
Other Companies: Orlando Ballet

**Greg Trechel**

Albany, New York | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2024  
Training: Northeast Ballet School, Miami City Ballet School,  
The School of Ballet Arizonas Studio Company




**Gabriel Wright**

Dallas, Oregon | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2021  
 Training: Pacific Northwest Ballet Professional Division,  
 Colburn Dance Academy, American Ballet Academy


**Cheyenne You**

Phoenix, Arizona | Joined Ballet Arizona: 2022  
 Training: The School of Ballet Arizona

*Ballet Arizona's production of **The Sleeping Beauty** is sponsored in part by:*



**MAYO CLINIC**


**Welcome to *The Sleeping Beauty* performed by Ballet Arizona!**

Dancing is an artistic endeavor, but it also requires great physical skill and puts physical demands on the body. There is a tremendous amount of training involved in preparing for a performance. The stress and intensity of that performance require whole-body conditioning to reduce the risk of injury. The Ballet Arizona dancer's effortless performances are backed by focus, endurance, and unparalleled athleticism. We recognize their dedication and excellent training as they provide world-class entertainment for all of us to enjoy.

*Dr. Anikar Chhabra joined Mayo Clinic in 2015. He is Professor, Associate-Chair of Clinical Practice in Orthopedics, and the Chair of Sports Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Dr. Chhabra was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority by the Governor.*

## Studio Company



Photo by Ron Brewer.

The Studio Company performs alongside the professional company and presents its own works independently. Acting as a bridge between school and professional life, the Studio Company provides an opportunity for students of the highest rank to pursue a career in dance. Members are selected by audition only and hail from all over the world. An indispensable and important part of their training is understudying and appearing regularly on stage with Ballet Arizona and in Studio Company productions.

**Photo:** *Front Row (from left to right):* Emerson Butler, BriAnna Binzak, Nahomi Alafita, Abigail Carpenter, Scarlett Fulton, Laurel Ho *Back Row (from left to right):* Dakota Blake, Dasha Derkach, Emma Taylor, Juliana Utzinger, Noah Finnigan, Elizabeth Millard, Gabriella Agnew- Huertas, Madeleine Smith

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#### **HR Generalist**

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## Director Biographies



### *Daniela Cardim*

*Artistic Director*

Daniela began her career at Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro in 1994, becoming a soloist in 1995. She joined the Dutch National Ballet in 1999, performing key roles in ballets such as *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She started choreographing as a young dancer and quickly gained recognition with works for the Dutch National Ballet like *Three Movements for Cello & Piano* and *Zahir*. She was selected for the New York Choreographic Institute in 2008 and was named a

“New Name to Watch” by *Dance Europe Magazine* in 2015. She has created works for companies including Birmingham Royal Ballet, West Australian Ballet, New English Ballet Theatre, Dutch National Ballet - main and junior companies, São Paulo Dance Company and Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro. Cardim has also taught, mentored and choreographed at institutions like The Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst Ballet School and English National Ballet. After retiring as a dancer in 2010, she earned a first-class honors degree in arts management from London South Bank University. She has held various leadership roles at the New English Ballet Theatre and was named artistic director of Ballet Arizona in 2024.



### *Jami Kozemczak*

*Executive Director*

Jami Kozemczak was appointed Executive Director for Ballet Arizona in May 2022, after having served as the Director of Development since 2015. Kozemczak works to advance the organization through a people-centered leadership model that focuses on building culture, expanding programs, and increasing revenue generation. During her tenure, the organization has successfully implemented a culture of philanthropy that permeates throughout the organization. She has secured more than \$50 million in contributed

revenue during her time at Ballet Arizona, and increased earned revenue by 53% since her first year as Executive Director.

Kozemczak has 16 years of experience in arts non-profit management which includes fundraising, strategic planning, public relations, communications, donor relations, and marketing. Beginning her career as a marketing professional, she quickly transitioned to fundraising after discovering her true vocation was connecting donors to their passion. Jami holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Arizona State University. Jami's volunteer work centers on mentorship; she served on the AFP Professional Mentoring Program Committee for 7 years and has a passion for helping individuals invest in themselves and their future.

## About Us

**Ballet Arizona**, in its 39th season, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Daniela Cardim—a former dancer with Dutch National Ballet and the Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro—Ballet Arizona follows her lead to the future of dance in Arizona. The School of Ballet Arizona promotes access to the art of ballet through dance education, focusing on form and by directing each student to a life-long love of dance. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 25,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs.

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\*\*In Memoriam

## Artistic Staff



**Maria Simonetti**, *Rehearsal Director*

Ms. Simonetti, a Buenos Aires native, trained at Teatro Colón and danced with La Joven Guardia of Ballet Nacional de Cuba before assisting Laura Alonso as stage director for Cuballet. She taught at several institutions, including the Magda Aunon School of Ballet and Pittsburgh's Point Park College, before becoming ballet mistress at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 1995. While assisting choreographer Daniel Ezralow, she contributed to various productions, including *Mandala* and choreography for Pope John Paul II's International Youth Day. She has staged works for the Bratislava Dance Theatre and the National Ballet of Greece. In 1997, she became rehearsal director for Ballet Arizona while still working as a visiting artist, returning to Hubbard Street Dance Chicago each summer. Recently, she collaborated with Ib Andersen on *Romeo & Juliet* for Kansas City Ballet's 50th-anniversary season and served as a guest teacher for Nederlands Dans Theater.



**Lisbet Companioni**, *Ballet Mistress*

A native of Camagüey, Cuba, Lisbet Companioni began her career in ballet as a member of Ballet de Camagüey under the direction of its co-founder, Fernando Alonso. Her repertoire as a dancer includes *Don Quixote*, *Dracula*, *La Bayadère*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Napoli*, and *The Three Musketeers*. In 2001 Companioni joined Ballet Arizona as a dancer and originated featured roles in Ib Andersen's *2B*, *Elevations*, *Mosaik* and *Play*. Her modern repertoire includes soloist roles in Twyla Tharp's *Sinatra Suite*, *The Golden Section* and *Company B*. Her interest in Balanchine ballets grew as she added George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Apollo*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Serenade*, and *Theme and Variations* to her repertory. Companioni has always had a passion for teaching and coaching dancers, and is also a faculty member at The School of Ballet Arizona. Companioni retired from the stage in 2008 to become Ballet Arizona's Ballet Mistress



**David Kensing**, *Ballet Master*

A Minnesota native and former Principal Dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet, David Kensing performed numerous leading classical, contemporary and modern dance roles by renowned choreographers. Mr. Kensing has toured the US and Europe, independently and as a PA Ballet dancer, and has been featured domestically and internationally in both company produced and independent productions. Mr. Kensing holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Stephens College, and a Master of Fine Arts from The University of Arizona. In addition to his ballet master duties, he is a faculty member at The School of Ballet Arizona.




**Michael Korsch, *Lighting and Projection Design***

Michael Korsch is a lighting, projection and scenic designer based in Philadelphia, PA, where he earned his BA in theatre from Temple University. He has worked with numerous directors and choreographers, creating hundreds of visual designs for dance, theatre and other live performances throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, as well as New Zealand.

Michael has been the resident lighting designer for Complexions Contemporary Ballet since 1998, and Ballet Arizona since 2001. In addition, Michael has created designs for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Backhausdance, BalletMet, Ballet Nice Méditerranée, Ballet West, BalletX, Carolina Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Cleveland Play House, Czech National Ballet, DanceBrazil, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Disney Creative Entertainment, English National Ballet, FELA! The Concert, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MOMIX, Oakland Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Staatsballett Berlin, and Washington Ballet among others.


**Matthew Kasper, *Conductor***

Matthew Kasper currently serves as Resident Conductor of The Phoenix Symphony, Principal Conductor of Ballet Arizona, and Artistic and General Director of Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras. In 2018, during his sixth season with The Phoenix Symphony, he was promoted from Assistant to Resident Conductor. He is a recipient of the 2020

Solti Foundation US Career Assistance Award. He has conducted extensively in the United States, Europe and Asia, with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Tucson Symphony, Opera National de Lorraine and the Orchestre Symphonique et Lyrique de Nancy, among others. Matthew is a former member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra. He holds degrees in violin performance from the Aaron Copland School of Music and the Chicago College of Performing Arts. Matthew also holds a Masters degree in Orchestral Conducting from the Aaron Copland School of Music.

## Additional Artistic Staff

**Director of Production**

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Zachary Cooper

**Assistant Technical**
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Jessica Muñoz

**Stage Manager**

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**Assistant Stage Manager**

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**Additional stagehands  
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## The School of Ballet Arizona

As Ballet Arizona's official training school, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of dancers. Our School offers comprehensive ballet education in a supportive and inspiring environment for students of all ages and skill levels, from beginner to pre-professional. Our curriculum, which emphasizes classical ballet technique, artistry, and performance opportunities, is guided by experienced faculty who bring professional expertise to the studio. We are dedicated to excellence and individual growth, fostering a love for dance while preparing students for a future in the arts or beyond.

A comprehensive syllabus has been developed to maintain the fundamental aspects of classical ballet technique and offers the highest quality training at every level, in every program, through:

- Internationally-renowned faculty
- Live piano accompaniment for all ballet classes
- A unique connection to Ballet Arizona as Arizona's official Ballet Company
- Access to the finest dance facility in the Southwest

Ballet Arizona's state-of-the-art facility allows generous capacity for The School of Ballet Arizona to offer education and dance training programs effectively. With seven studios and locker rooms, students can focus and expand their training in this stimulating environment.

In addition to dance training, The School of Ballet Arizona offers open classes for students ages 14 & up. This program is a great way to experience dance training, stay in shape, and have fun. Classes available for all levels.



**Scan the QR code  
to learn more.**



School of Ballet Arizona dancers. Photo by Tzu Chia Huang.



## *James Payne*

*School Director*

James Payne began his ballet training in Phoenix, Arizona with Nina Marlow, Michel Fokine's great niece. He performed with Ballet West (1989-1994) and Houston Ballet (1994-2001). With over 35 years experience in ballet, he has excelled in both classical and contemporary roles, including soloist and principal roles in major classics by Balanchine, Forsythe, and Kylian.

After retiring from performing, Payne served as Houston Ballet's company manager, co-founded a student company and school in Texas, and choreographed five full-length and numerous one-act ballets. He has held roles including Philadelphia Ballet's School Director, Houston Ballet Academy faculty, and board member of the American Guild of Musical Artists. Currently, he is a Master Teacher, judge for YAGP, and repetiteur for Trey McIntyre, staging his ballets worldwide.

## *School Faculty and Staff*

### ***School Manager***

Jasmine Nunn

### ***School Administrator***

Tyler Hooten

### ***Upper Division Coordinator & Studio Company Manager***

Alecia Good-Boresow

### ***Upper Division Student Liaison***

Gillmer Duran

### ***Principal Faculty***

Luis Martinez

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Fabiana Poulis

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THE SCHOOL OF BALLET ARIZONA PRESENTS

# FALL SHOWCASE

November 14 – 16, 2025 at Dorrance Theatre



The School of Ballet Arizona Students.  
Photos by Rosalie O'Connor.

Learn More at [balletaz.org](https://balletaz.org)

THE SCHOOL OF  
**BALLET**  
ARIZONA

# OPEN CLASSES FOR ADULTS

***Enjoy the benefits of quality dance  
training in The School of Ballet  
Arizona's remarkable studios***

Open to adults of all ages and teens age 14 and up, this program is a great way to experience dance training, stay in shape and have fun! Classes in ballet, Horton technique and more are offered for true beginners through advanced.



**Named Best Drop-in  
Adult Ballet Class by  
Phoenix New Times**

Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

For more information visit **balletaz.org**  
or call **602.381.0188**

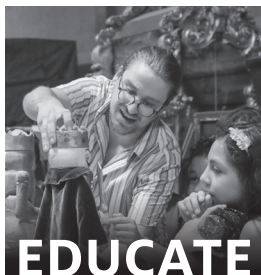
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## Giving Back

### Community Engagement

For over 30 years, Ballet Arizona has served Arizona communities based on the belief that the magic of a single performance has the ability to change lives. Ballet Arizona offers a wide variety of Community Engagement programs that seek to educate communities about this transformative power of dance. Through our work we strive to empower individuals to engage more deeply with the art form and eliminate the barriers to participation that prevent people from experiencing dance.



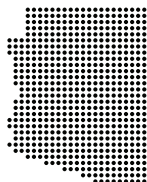
**EDUCATE**



**INSPIRE**



**IMPACT**



**25,662  
ARIZONA  
RESIDENTS  
SERVED**

**15 PROGRAMS**

Lifelong Learning  
Programs for Teachers & Schools  
Community Programs  
Behind-the-Scenes Programs

**Schools served in 67 zip codes**



**645  
HOURS**  
spent engaging  
with the community



**\$30,300**  
in scholarship money awarded







Dance for Parkinson's Disease students after class.

## At Ballet Arizona, we offer programs for all members of the community:

### Programs for Teachers and Schools

- Class Act
- Classroom Visits
- DanceAZ
- Driven to Dance
- Performance Hour Field Trips
- Student Matinee Performances

### Creative Aging Programs

- Creative Aging through Dance
- Dance for Parkinson's Disease

### Community Programs

- Adaptive Dance
- Community Angel Nights
- Ballet Under the Stars
- Native American Hoop Dance
- Speaking Engagements and Presentations

### Behind the Scenes Programs

- Performance Chats
- Studio Spotlight

### Community Engagement Teaching Artists:

Eva Bighorse, Debbie Braganza, Sky Duncan, Jonie Henriksson, Angela Patrice, Michelle Reissig, Cecilia Smith

*"Ballet Arizona welcomes children and their parents to be part of the world of ballet in such an easy way. They come to our communities and leave the door open; letting everyone know that they can participate if they want. It's very subtle and very powerful."*

– BAZ Partner



For more information about our Community Engagement programs, visit our website at [balletaz.org/community-engagement](http://balletaz.org/community-engagement) or scan the QR code.

We want to thank our  
Official Community  
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THE DIANE & BRUCE HALLE  
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Partnership for Change

# ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS



Photo by Megan Braganza.

## DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

*Find renewed strength, confidence, and hope!*

Ballet Arizona offers free dance classes to help individuals and their caregivers manage the physical and emotional symptoms associated with Parkinson's Disease or movement and balance disorders.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Debbie Braganza

## ADAPTIVE DANCE

*Share the love of dance and foster creativity!*

The Adaptive Dance Program is designed for students ages 5–22 to create a class environment that is sensitive to the needs of students with diverse cognitive, physical and developmental needs while nurturing their self-expression and developing their movement, social, and rhythmic skills. Ages for each level are recommendations, each student will be evaluated for final placement.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michelle Reissig



Photo by Nikiana Medansky.

For more class information and to register, visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).

**BALLET**  
ARIZONA

2835 E. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85034  
[bazeducation@balletaz.org](mailto:bazeducation@balletaz.org) | 602.343.6508

*Join us for*

# PERFORMANCE CHATS

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**Admission is FREE with your ticket!**

---

## **Pre-Performance Chat**

Begins 45 minutes before the performance  
on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and  
Sunday matinee.

## **Post-Performance Chat**

Begins immediately following the  
Saturday 2 pm performance.

Each chat is 15 minutes long.  
See an usher on where to attend!

Sponsored by



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# Leave a Legacy

The **Legacy for Dance** program recognized those who provide for Ballet Arizona through a gift in their estate plan. A legacy gift may enable you to support Ballet Arizona, secure the financial needs of your loved ones, and provide you with tax benefits. Legacy gifts of all sizes help us meet our current goals and plan further into the future.

**Through our partnership with FreeWill, you have access to a secure, online tool to create or update your will at no cost. In just 20 minutes, you can:**

- Protect your loved ones
- Designate guardians for children or pets
- Appoint trusted individuals for healthcare and financial decisions
- Gain peace of mind knowing your plans are in place

Visit **[balletaz.org/legacy\\_giving](https://balletaz.org/legacy_giving)** to learn more about FreeWill and our Legacy for Dance program recognizing those who provide for Ballet Arizona through a gift in their estate plan.

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## Have questions?

Contact Steven Henderson, Director of Philanthropy,  
at **602.343.6520** or **[shenderson@balletaz.org](mailto:shenderson@balletaz.org)**



# ***Investing in our future***

Ballet Arizona and The School of Ballet Arizona offer a variety of merit and/or need-based scholarships. Beyond furthering education, and in some cases breaking down financial barriers, scholarships are an investment in people, our school, and the advancement of ballet.

## **THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS SCHOLARS**

---

This endowed scholarship supports a portion of tuition for four to five students annually.

## **THE DAVID HALLBERG SCHOLARSHIP FOR BOYS**

---

This scholarship is awarded to one or more boys ages 13 and up who demonstrate a passion for ballet.

## **THE TED STEPHAN SCHOLARSHIP**

---

Established by a generous bequest from ballet lover and supporter, Ted Stephan, this endowed scholarship is merit-based and awarded each year. His lifelong passion for dance will now live on through future generations.



Photos by Rosalie O'Connor and Tzu-Chia Huang.

To learn more about how you can support our scholarship programs, contact Director of Philanthropy, Steven Henderson at **602.343.6520** or **shenderson@balletaz.org**.

For more information on how to apply for scholarships, please contact  
The School of Ballet Arizona at **school@balletaz.org**.





# The Ballet Barre

Ballet Barre is a dynamic group of young professionals who support Ballet Arizona through membership, volunteerism and their love of dance. **Membership begins at only \$30 annually!** Members enjoy exclusive benefits, including Ballet Barre Night receptions at Saturday evening Symphony Hall performances, and a behind-the-scenes view of the company.

---

Scan the QR code to join today and see our calendar of events!  
For more information email [balletbarre@balletaz.org](mailto:balletbarre@balletaz.org)

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*Ballet Arizona recognizes with deep appreciation contributors to The Next Step campaign, gifts received through September 24, 2025.*

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*We are grateful to these donors who have made Ballet Arizona a component of their estate plans.*

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