

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2025

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Ballet Arizona Announces 2025-2026 Season

Nationally Recognized Ballet Company to Present Array of Classical and Contemporary Works

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#), the renowned ballet company in the Valley, is set to captivate and inspire audiences with a mix of classical and contemporary ballets throughout its 2025-2026 season. Celebrating its 39th season, the company will bring treasured fairytales to life and present the U.S. premiere of “Reset,” choreographed by Ballet Arizona’s new Artistic Director, Daniela Cardim.

“We are excited to unveil our 2025-2026 season,” said Cardim. “Each ballet was carefully chosen to highlight the breadth of what the artform can do: from quintessential classics to ballets that push boundaries, there is truly something for every audience member no matter where they are on their ballet journey. We hope you will join us this season for an incredible diversity of programs.”

The new season will kick off with “**The Sleeping Beauty**” from Oct. 23 through 26th at Symphony Hall. Audiences will step into a world of romance, wonder, and grandeur in this retelling of the timeless tale. Featuring a live performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s iconic score by [The Phoenix Symphony](#), audiences of all ages will be spellbound by Princess Aurora’s journey, from her cursed slumber to her true love’s kiss as love triumphs over evil.

From Dec. 12 through 27th, 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 and has celebrated sold out performances over the last three years.

Ballet Arizona will present the extraordinary interpretation of “**ALICE (in Wonderland)**” by acclaimed choreographer Septime Webre from Feb. 12 through 15th, 2026. The beloved classic by Lewis Carroll will come to life at Symphony Hall with live music performed by The Phoenix Symphony. This breathtaking production will blend ballet and contemporary dance for a whimsical journey that will delight audiences of every age.

Arizonans can experience three short but dynamic ballets, similar to a collection of short stories during “**Cacti & Other Works**” at Orpheum Theatre. From March 19 through 22nd, 2026, Ballet Arizona will present *Apollo*, choreographed by George Balanchine, *Concertante*, choreographed by Hans van Manen, and *Cacti*, choreographed by Alexander Ekman.

Ballet Arizona will conclude its 2025-2026 season with “**An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden.**” This annual production is back and better than ever before as this audience favorite

will now feature two ballet experiences for a double-feature event. From May 13 through June 6, 2026, Ballet Arizona will present “Concerto Six Twenty-Two,” created by acclaimed American choreographer Lar Lubovitch, and the U.S. premiere of “Reset,” choreographed by Cardim.

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

BALLET ARIZONA’s 2025-2026 Season

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Oct. 23-26, 2025

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography after Marius Petipa. Adaptation and additional choreography by Daniela Cardim.

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

“The Sleeping Beauty” invites audiences into a world of romance, wonder, and grandeur in this retelling of the timeless tale. Featuring a live performance of Tchaikovsky’s iconic score by The Phoenix Symphony, “The Sleeping Beauty” is a breathtaking display of the pinnacle of classical ballet. Audiences of all ages will be spellbound by Princess Aurora’s journey, from her cursed slumber to her true love’s kiss as love triumphs over evil.

THE NUTCRACKER

Dec. 12-27, 2025

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!

ALICE (IN WONDERLAND)

Feb. 12-15, 2026

With The Phoenix Symphony at Symphony Hall

Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce

Immerse yourself in Lewis Carroll’s beloved classic like you’ve never experienced! In this extraordinary interpretation by acclaimed choreographer Septime Webre, “ALICE (in Wonderland)” blends ballet and contemporary dance for a whimsical journey that will delight audiences of every age. From breathtaking sets to striking costumes, vibrant music to unmatched athleticism, “ALICE (in Wonderland)” is nothing short of spectacular -- in every sense of the word. Join Alice and all of your favorite characters in Wonderland this February!

CACTI & OTHER WORKS

March 19-22, 2026

Orpheum Theatre

Apollo

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Igor Stravinsky – Apollon Musagète

The ballet that garnered celebrated choreographer George Balanchine international recognition, this 1928 classic returns to the stage at Ballet Arizona.

Concertante

Choreography: Hans van Manen

Music: Frank Martin – Petite Symphonie Concertante

Internationally celebrated as one of the grand masters of contemporary ballet, Hans van Manen’s distinctive style is epitomized in *Concertante*. Blending refined simplicity, tension, structure, and musicality in its portrayal of human relationships.

Cacti

Choreography: Alexander Ekman

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, & Franz Schubert (arrangement "Death and the Maiden" by Andy Stein)

A gleeful parody of the artform’s greater excesses, *Cacti* is an affectionate, cutting and often hilarious deconstruction of the pretensions of dance. Dancers run, fall, writhe, and try to escape their invisible prisons – with a few cacti along the way. But what does it all mean?

AN EVENING AT DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

May 13 - May 30, 2026

Desert Botanical Garden

By popular demand, *An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden* is back and better than ever before! Surrounded by the magnificent desert landscape with the setting sun as its backdrop, this audience favorite now features two ballet experiences as a double-feature event. This stunning display of artistry won’t be one to miss!

Concerto Six Twenty-Two

Choreography: Lar Lubovitch

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622

A celebration of masterpieces in both dance and music come together in this joyful ballet. Inspired by Mozart’s jubilant score, Lar Lubovitch’s *Concerto Six Twenty-Two* is a delight from beginning to end – featuring blissful quartets, duets, and solos that rejoice in lighthearted ease. A perfect fit for “An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden”! Don’t miss this masterwork by one of the most notable American choreographers in its debut at the Garden.

Reset – U.S. Premiere
Choreography: Daniela Cardim
Music: Gabriel Prokofiev

In this U.S. premiere, Ballet Arizona’s Artistic Director Daniela Cardim’s *Reset* features themes of modern, urban life punctuated by human interactions, evolving from conflict to resolution. Framed by Gabriel Prokofiev’s electrifying score, *Reset* features a fusion of classical and electronic music, enveloping the dance in a unique contemporary sound. This captivating ballet will surely bring the season to an exhilarating close.

To learn more information about Ballet Arizona and its upcoming season, visit www.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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