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Ballet Arizona Announces Youth Auditions for “The Nutcracker” *Auditions for Aspiring Young Dancers to Be Held Sept. 7*

PHOENIX – Performing the role of young Clara or the Nutcracker Prince is a dream come true for many young ballet dancers. The Valley’s only professional ballet company, [Ballet Arizona](#), is excited to once again welcome aspiring youth performers to audition for the annual production of “The Nutcracker” on Sun., Sept. 7. Ballet Arizona’s beloved holiday production of “The Nutcracker” wouldn’t be possible without Arizona’s talented youngsters.

Auditions are open to children between the ages of nine and 18, as well as students in [The School of Ballet Arizona’s](#) Level Two classes. On Sept. 7, auditions will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ballet Arizona’s studio and are broken down by age and gender. Those auditioning may be asked to stay for the entire audition period, staggered in callback groups.

The organization requests that participants come dressed in classical ballet attire for the audition. Candidates will try out for roles including young Clara and the Nutcracker Prince, angels, soldiers, party kids and bonbons. Auditions are free for The School of Ballet Arizona and Arizona School for the Arts students. There is a \$15 fee for non-students.

“We are thrilled to welcome Arizona’s talented youth to audition and share the stage with our company dancers; many of whom danced in “The Nutcracker” as young performers themselves,” said Daniela Cardim, the artistic director of Ballet Arizona. “Around the world, dancers help bring the magic of the holidays to life through the beloved tradition of ‘The Nutcracker.’ It is a cherished opportunity and an important milestone for any aspiring ballet dancer.”

“The Nutcracker” is one of the most memorable holiday productions and Ballet Arizona performs its own unique version to captivate the audience in its storytelling. Ib Andersen’s “The Nutcracker” is a \$1.8 million production and considered one of the “three finest productions” by The New York Times Dance Critic, Alastair Macaulay. In addition to dancing beside professional Ballet Arizona dancers, youth performers will perform to live orchestral music by [The Phoenix Symphony](#).

Arizona’s youth will also have the opportunity to audition for and participate in another Ballet Arizona professional production during the 2025-2026 season. Details regarding youth audition dates and additional information for Ballet Arizona’s presentation of “ALICE (in Wonderland)” will be provided closer to the performance date. Ballet Arizona is scheduled to present the distinguished interpretation of “ALICE (in Wonderland),” choreographed by the acclaimed Septime Webre, from February 12-15, 2026.

Ballet Arizona’s studios are located at 2835 E. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85034. For audition times and details, visit balletaz.org/auditions/nutcracker-youth-auditions/. Tickets for “The Nutcracker” are on sale now at 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 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 39th season, the Valley's professional ballet company will present "The Sleeping Beauty," "The Nutcracker," "ALICE (in Wonderland)," "Cacti & Other Works," and "An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden." The School of Ballet Arizona, under the new direction of James Payne, 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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