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“The Sleeping Beauty” Brings True Love’s Kiss to the Stage *Ballet Arizona Presents Ballet Classic Oct. 23 - 26*

PHOENIX – Step into a world of romance, wonder, and grandeur as [Ballet Arizona](#) kicks off its 2025-2026 season with “The Sleeping Beauty” Oct. 23 – 26 at Symphony Hall, with live musical accompaniment from [The Phoenix Symphony](#). Based on the original choreography by Marius Petipa with additional choreography by Ballet Arizona Artistic Director Daniela Cardim, “The Sleeping Beauty” will be her first full length production with the company.

Gleaming with vivid color and spilling over with fairies, princes and storybook charm, “The Sleeping Beauty” unfolds like a rose. Set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic score, this celebrated classic will sweep you off your feet and cast a spell of delight.

“The Sleeping Beauty” is a mesmerizing treat with stunning costumes and dazzling sets that transport the audience to a magical kingdom. The enchanting story is brought to life by Princess Aurora, bewitched by the evil Carabosse and placed into a 100-year protective sleep by the Lilac Fairy, to be awakened only by true love’s kiss.

Rising talents Isabella Seo and Leticia Endler, who awed audiences as Odette/Odile in last year's performance of “Swan Lake,” will also be dancing the principal role of Princess Aurora for the first time. Aurora's love interest, Prince Desiré (Prince Charming), will be performed by audience-favorite dancers Helio Lima, Gabriel Wright, Ricardo Santos and Arizona native Ethan Price.

“It is a profound honor and joy to bring ‘The Sleeping Beauty’ to life with Ballet Arizona,” said Cardim. “This ballet is a radiant celebration of hope, magic, and the transformative power of love. We have woven together tradition and fresh vision to create an experience that will enchant audiences of all ages, inviting every heart to dream and believe in fairy tales once more.”

“The Sleeping Beauty” will include the final on-stage performance of company dancer, Katelyn May Kirchhofer, who is set to retire after the concluding performance on Sun., Oct. 26 at 5:30 p.m. She will perform the role of Princess Aurora during her last performance with Ballet Arizona. Kirchhofer joined Ballet Arizona in 2021 and has had an incredible career performing soloist and principal roles in the Valley, as well as at [Houston Ballet](#) and [The Sarasota Ballet of Florida](#).

"I have so many treasured memories from the last 18 years, many of which have come from being on stage with Ballet Arizona," said Kirchhofer. "I will cherish what has been and I look forward to what is to come on the other side of the curtain."

Join Ballet Arizona for a behind-the-scenes look at “The Sleeping Beauty” during Ballet Arizona’s studio spotlight performance on Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at Ballet Arizona’s Dorrance

Theatre. Tickets are \$30 and include an in-studio rehearsal with the dancers, a Q&A, and additional details about the production from the artistic team.

Tickets for “The Sleeping Beauty” range from \$36 - \$172 and are available now. Discounts are offered for seniors, college students, active military, and groups. For the best tickets and prices, always purchase directly from Ballet Arizona 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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