

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2026

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Ballet Arizona's "Ballet Under the Stars" Returns This September

Free Outdoor Ballet Performances Brings World-Class Dance to Communities Across the Valley

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona's](#) annual "Ballet Under the Stars," presented by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, returns Sept. 24 through Oct. 3 with performances at six locations across the Valley.

This free, family-friendly series brings ballet into outdoor community spaces, offering a welcoming way for new audiences to experience the art form. This year's "Ballet Under the Stars" will feature excerpts from both classical and contemporary ballets. Audiences will get to experience parts of "Romeo & Juliet," "Concerto Six Twenty-Two (first movement)," and "Don Quixote."

Since its inception in 1997, "Ballet Under the Stars" has grown into a Valley tradition, drawing more than 9,000 attendees annually. Guests are invited to bring chairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy professional ballet performances staged in local parks throughout Maricopa County. Each event features a full production setup, including stage, lighting and costumes, along with local food trucks and space for families and aspiring young dancers to participate informally.

Attracting more than 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 or for aspiring young dancers to relax and enjoy the performance.

"Ballet Under the Stars is a long-standing tradition and a special way we begin our season at Ballet Arizona," said Artistic Director Daniela Cardim. "It's an opportunity for people of all ages to experience live ballet in a relaxed, welcoming outdoor setting. There's something extraordinary about seeing this art form under the stars, surrounded by your community. We're proud to continue this tradition and invite audiences across the Valley to join us for these free performances."

Ballet Under the Stars" also features world premiere performances choreographed by local elementary students through the Ballet Arizona's Class Act program. Each year, Ballet Arizona teaching artists lead a three-week dance training program at six schools across the Valley, guiding students through the creative and rehearsal process. Their hard work culminates in a special on-stage performance as part of "Ballet Under the Stars." This tuition-free educational program is made possible through the generous support of Joan Benjamin and Laurence Cherkis.

THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

- Thursday, Sept. 24 at Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
- Friday, Sept. 25 at Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater, 10300 Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ 85338

- Saturday, Sept. 26 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012
- Thursday, Oct. 1 at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park, 9802 N. 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85302
- Friday, Oct. 2 at Tumbleweed Park, 2250 S McQueen Rd., Chandler, AZ 85286
- Saturday, Oct. 3 at Centennial Plaza Park, 9875 N. 85th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345

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, The Steele Foundation, City of Chandler, Chandler Center for the Arts, City of Glendale, City of Goodyear, Town of Fountain Hills, City of Peoria, APS, Estrella, Grand Canyon University, BMO | Stoker Ostler, Desert Diamond Casino, and Applied Materials.

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 the tradition of classical ballet while advancing the art form through innovative performances and new works. Led artistically by internationally acclaimed choreographer Daniela Cardim, Ballet Arizona continues to inspire audiences with dynamic performances that honor ballet's rich heritage while embracing the future of dance. During its 40th season, the company will present “Romeo & Juliet,” “The Nutcracker,” “Don Quixote,” “Pulse,” and “Desert Lines.” Under the executive leadership of Jami Kozemczak, the company has grown into one of the nation's leading regional ballet companies and a premier cultural institution in the Southwest, recognized for its artistic excellence, financial strength, and community impact. The School of Ballet Arizona, under the direction of James Payne, provides exceptional dance education and helps extend the organization's reach through free and low-cost community programs that serve more than 26,000 children and families each year. For more information, visit balletaz.org.

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