

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 2, 2026

Contact: Amber Godbehere
Phone: 602-321-0492
Email: Amber@evolveprandmarketing.com

“Romeo & Juliet” Takes Center Stage as Ballet Arizona Begins 40th Anniversary Season

Shakespeare’s Star-Crossed Lovers Launch a Celebratory Season of Excellence

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#) is thrilled to kick off its 40th anniversary season with the most famous love story of all time, “Romeo & Juliet.” Celebrated as one of Artistic Director Emeritus Ib Andersen’s greatest works, this classic takes the Symphony Hall stage for six performances from Oct. 22 – 25.

The ballet is a feast for the eyes and ears with sweepingly regal ballroom scenes, vivacious swordplay, and poignant pas de deux to the tune of Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev’s dramatic and moving score. A production for ballet, literature, and classical music fans alike, “Romeo & Juliet” seamlessly blends the touching yet tragic story of doomed love with Prokofiev’s rich score. The score is rarely heard in its entirety but will be performed in full by the acclaimed [The Phoenix Symphony](#), making “Romeo & Juliet” a must see for all performing arts fans.

The beloved Shakespeare classic tells the story of two feuding families – the Capulets and Montagues – whose disputes have caused a rift in 16th century Verona, Italy. A Montague son, Romeo, is sworn to marry another woman when he mischievously sneaks into the Capulet ball, where he spots the captivating Juliet. The tale that unfolds is a lesson in petty feuds, dire consequences, and of course, true love.

“Opening our 40th anniversary season with ‘Romeo & Juliet’ is both meaningful and inspiring,” said Artistic Director Daniela Cardim. “This iconic ballet showcases the power of storytelling through Ib Andersen’s beautifully crafted choreography. As we celebrate this milestone season, we are proud to continue sharing transformative performances that connect communities through the universal language of dance.”

Ballet Arizona is excited to announce that former company dancer Michal Wozniak will be returning for the production of “Romeo & Juliet.” After joining the company in 2009, he performed in productions including “Swan Lake,” “Raymonda,” “The Sleeping Beauty,” and “Romeo & Juliet,” and danced principal roles in “Prodigal Son” and “Mosiak.” Wozniak also toured nationally with Ballet Arizona, performing at The Kennedy Center, Chicago Dancing Festival, and New York City’s Joyce Theatre. Since joining Phoenix Ballet as a principal dancer in 2012, he has performed a wide range of works, including the annual production of Slawomir Wozniak’s “Nutcracker.”

Audiences will also have the opportunity to go behind the scenes at Ballet Arizona’s Studio Spotlight performance of “Romeo & Juliet” on Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. Held at Ballet Arizona’s Dorrance Theatre, Ballet Arizona invites you to join for an in-studio rehearsal with the dancers, learn more about the production from the Artistic team, experience a reading from Southwest Shakespeare artists, engage in a Q&A, and more. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online at balletaz.org.

Ballet Arizona’s Opening Night Series Sponsor is F. Francis and Dionne Najafi of Pivotal Foundation. “Romeo & Juliet” is also sponsored by Mayo Clinic and The Judie Consentino Endowment. Ticket prices

start at \$36, with discounts offered for seniors, students, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602.381.1096 or by visiting 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.

###