

ARIZONA DANCE



DECEMBER 2014

statewide listing of performances
master classes | auditions | articles
tips | news | *and more*

NUTCRACKERS &
HOLIDAY SHOWS

PHOENIX
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

RETURN
ZUZI! DANCE
SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

CONTRA DANCE
NYE CELEBRATION
TUCSON FRIENDS OF
TRADITIONAL DANCE

NEW DANCE PRODUCTS
DANCE FILM
AUDITIONS & JOBS

AMBER ROBINS

FRANCES SMITH COHEN'S SNOW QUEEN
PHOTO BY TIM FULLER





Arizona Dance e-Star

a publication of the **Arizona Dance Coalition**

Volume 4, Issue 11

December 2014

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Dear readers,

Feels a little strange and euphoric welcoming in December with weather in the 80s (Tucson), so I've picked an appropriate Photo of the Month—*Danna Parker* dancing on the beach in FL by *Adam Marr*! (pg 19). The cover celebrates the Winter Holidays and *Frances Smith Cohen's* 24th *Snow Queen*—which started as a 20-minute recital and is now a full two-act production with a cast of 18 Center Dance Ensemble members and 50 young dancers performing over three weekends at Herberger Theater Center.

Over the past four years since I've been producing the *e-Star* there have been too many instances where dancers/companies have not had photos to submit for publicity. We are looking to work with our ADC member photographers to offer a special package to ADC members who need photos, but lack the means to hire a professional photographer. See pg 20 for details and a link to a Webinar on headshots. If you want publicity or work, you need professional photos. *We'd like to help you.*

Elasticsteel YouTube links (pg 27) are revealing and great for identifying and using anatomy terms for explaining dance positions. There are new *JOBS* (pg 28) and a new movie with Captain Pickard! *Match!* (pg 31) We mourn the passing of yet another tap dancer - *Bunny Briggs* / age 92 (pg 30). Congratulations to *Alvin Ailey* on his posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. And congrats to *Alfonso Ribeiro* and professional dancer *Witney Carson* on their Mirror Ball win in Season 19's *Dancing with the Stars*. Nominations are being requested for the *AZ Governor's Arts Awards* and the *ADC's Lifetime Achievement Awards*. Check out the "new" products.

Look for news or check the ADC online calendar about our Annual Member Meeting in January.

Happy Holidays from the Arizona Dance Coalition Board of Directors!

Krystyna Parafinczuk, Editor & ADC Treasurer



The **Arizona Dance Coalition** is a membership-based, statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit dance organization creating connections and communication between the general public and the dance community. ADC membership is available to individuals and organizations interested in the art of dance. You may join online at AzDanceCoalition.org. All questions about membership and sponsorship can be sent to Lisa@AzDanceCoalition.org. Calendar of Events are posted online by ADC members. Article submissions, news, letters to the editor and advertising sales can be sent to Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org. Additional ADC contact information is on the last page. *Past e-newsletters available at azdancecoalition.org/newsletters/.*



Ballet Etudes The Nutcracker Performances in Chandler and Mesa

November 28–30 & December 5-7. Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N Arizona Ave, Chandler. Tickets \$25, \$29. 20% discount for groups of 10+.

December 12-14. Mesa Arts Center, Piper Repertory Theater, One E Main St, Mesa. Tickets \$23, \$28. Lap children \$25. Group pricing for 10 or more is now available by calling the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at 480-644-6500.

Let the Holiday-favorite story of Clara's magical journey surround you as she encounters life-size mice, swirling snowflakes, dancing confections and the Sugar Plum Fairy in "...a royally entertaining show..." (The Arizona Republic). A feast for the eyes and ears with colorful and imaginative costumes paired with Tchaikovsky's original score, Ballet Etudes' Nutcracker is the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with the entire family. *Backstage tours are available following most performances.*

December 4-5, Thursday-Friday, 9:40 am–12:10 pm. Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix. Desert Dance Theatre performs in Step's Junk Funk School Assemblies program. Program info 480-962-4584.



December 5-6, Friday-Saturday, 8 pm.

Scottsdale Community College Performing Arts Center, 9000 E Chaparral Rd, Scottsdale.

Scottsdale Community College Dance presents **Images in Motion**, a dance concert featuring SCC's three performing companies. The works of ten choreographers will demonstrate the athleticism and artistry of SCC dancers in this all-ages performance. Come join us for this exciting biannual SCC Dance tradition!

Tickets are **FREE** and will be available at the door. 480-423-6600



December 5-7, Friday-Saturday @ 7:30, Sunday @ 2 pm.

Glendale Community College, 6000 West Olive Avenue, Glendale.

FREE. The **Glendale Community College Dance Program** is proud to present **SHINE**. Featuring choreographic works by Rebecca Rabideau, Artistic Director of **VERVE Dance Company**, Shauna Meredith, GCC Dance Faculty, and Guest Artists Jojo Diggs, Helene Phillips and Jenny Showalter. SHINE will showcase choreography created by graduating GCC Dance Majors Shaniece Brazwell, Caitlin Murphy, and Jimmy Tu Nguyen, and additional work by GCC Dance students. Rebecca

Rabideau, Artistic Director, rebecca.rabideau@gccaz.edu, 623-845-4905

December 6-7, 13-14, 20-12, Saturdays 2 & 7 pm, Sundays 2 & 5 pm. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe St, Phoenix. **Center Dance Ensemble's Snow Queen** is a Valley holiday tradition for the whole family, a modern dance ballet interpretation of the Hans Christian Andersen classic story of the power of love, to music by Sergei Prokofiev. With more than 50 young dancers from studios around the Valley joining CDE company members on stage. \$28, seniors \$23, students \$14, discounts for groups of 10 or more. 602-252-8497.

Lunch Time Dance Theater Performances on Fridays, December 12 & 19, 12:10 pm. \$6. Bring or buy lunch.



*Amber Robins as the Snow Queen
Photo by Tim Fuller*



Saturday, December 6, 2 pm. Cactus Shadows Fine Arts Center, 33606 N 60th St, Scottsdale.

Sunday, December 7, 2 pm. Paradise Valley Community College Center for Performing Arts, 18401 N 32nd St, Phoenix.

AZDance Group presents their annual family-loved professional production ~ **A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS**

AZDance caters to nonprofits that care for seniors, the abused, Veterans and others, so contact us if you would like your organization in the audience. *We bring our productions to you.* Tickets on sale NOW at PVCC through PVCC Box Office (602) 787-7738 (for 12/7/2014). Tickets available at the door (CSFAC

& PVCC), online (PVCC) or Box Office (PVCC). Both concerts **TICKET DETAILS:** Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$12, Children under 10 Free. **service & other fees will apply.*



December 6, Saturday, 11:30 am - 1 pm. ZUZI! Theater in the Historic Y, 738 N 5th Ave, Tucson. **ZUZI! Dance** presents **Family and Friends Informance**. Performance is a vital part of the creative process, integrating learned skills into something more powerful and meaningful – performance gives a dance a life of its own! Audiences get the treat of seeing a wide variety of pieces from performers of all ages, skills, and backgrounds

~ preschool to aerial dance to adult modern dance ~ Family & Friends is a performance embracing a rainbow spectrum of movement! \$7, 520-629-0237.

December 7, Sunday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. Phoenix Country Club Ballroom, 2901 N 7th St, Phoenix.

Scottsdale Ballet Foundation's Nutcracker Sweets Tea. This Festive Holiday Event is held in the Phoenix Country Club Ballroom and features Traditional Tea Service, Holiday Boutique, Children's Crafts, Raffle, a Grand March of Nutcracker Characters and short performance presented by students of Scottsdale School of Ballet, and more! For more information, call 480-826-0575, www.scottsdaleballetfoundation.org. Child \$40, Adult \$55.



December 12-13, Friday-Saturday, 7:30 pm, and Saturday 11 am. Coconino High School Main Auditorium (north end), 2801 N Izabel St, Flagstaff.

Canyon Movement Company hosts **The Nutcracker Suite in Modern Bare Feet**. ~ a 21st Century Interpretation of the Holiday Classic. Aerial dance, updated choreography and costumes, along with fun versions of the music by Tchaikovsky! Partnering with Canyon Dance Academy, Velocity Dance Company, and Rakasaat, as well as

Flagstaff Aerial Arts, this is a show you won't want to miss! New special effects, and updated choreography, new cast members and other surprises are in store. Tickets: \$16 general, \$12 child/student. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/923038



December 12-14, Friday 12-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 10 am -5pm. Phoenix Center for the Arts, 1202 N 3rd St, Phoenix. **Phoenix Festival of the Arts** is proud to bring together Valley artists, musicians, writers, students, and scholars to create a weekend-long cultural celebration sure to excite the whole family. In addition to the many arts and cultural organizations participating as vendors and exhibitors, art lovers will enjoy top-

notch performances taking place on two stages. *Photo left Step's Junk Funk.*

"Dance Dance Saturday," 1-4 pm on Saturday, will feature local dance companies and high school dance ensembles in the Phoenix Center for the Arts Theater. **Desert Dance Theatre, Step's Junk Funk** and **Crossroads Performance Group** will perform in the lineup. **Scorpius Dance Theatre** performs at 12:10 pm doing a double lyra/hoop work that was performed this summer in Lisa Starry's



Catwalk...I Love Duran Duran show, and **Flamenco del Sol Spanish Dance Ensemble** will perform 2:10-2:40 pm on the outdoor stage at Hance Park presenting traditional dances from various regions of Spain, showcasing the enduring ethos of a centuries-old culture. They invite everyone to join them in shouting, *Ole!*

info@phoenixfestivalofthearts.org or 602-254-3100



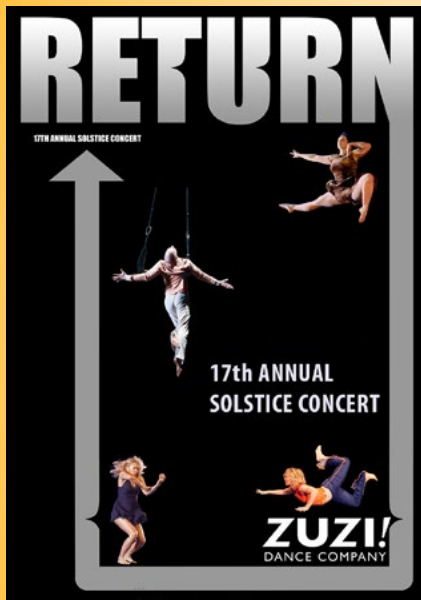
*Scorpius Dance Theatre
Photo by APatrou*



December 19-21, Friday 7 pm, Saturday 2 & 6:30 pm, Sunday 3 pm. Higley Center for the Performing Arts, 4132 E Pecos Rd, Gilbert. **Southwest Youth Ballet Theatre** presents **The Nutcracker**. Don't miss the excitement and energy the Southwest Youth Ballet brings to this holiday classic. Now in its eighth year, find out what audiences describe as wonderful and delightful. The live music of the Chandler Symphony Orchestra enhances the audience's experience through the full, rich sound each musician brings. Yen-Li Chen, Artistic Director. Yen-Li Chen, Artistic Director. Tickets \$10-\$30, 480-840-0457.



December 20, Saturday, 1 & 6 pm. PVCC Performing Arts Center, 18401 N 32 St, Phoenix. **Scottsdale School of Ballet & Scottsdale Ballet Foundation** present **The Winter Festival 2014**—a Scottsdale and Phoenix favorite for more than eight years featuring original choreography for the upper level students by director Donald Dadey. This ballet "Ballade" is set to the luscious compositions of composers W.A. Mozart and Andre Grétry. Also, not to be missed, is a gorgeous restaging of "The Nutcracker Suite" for the entire school by co-director Sibylle Acatos-Dadey. Tickets \$15, \$20. For more information, contact Scottsdale School of Ballet at 480-948-8202.



December 19, Friday 5:30 pm \$10 donation; December 20, Saturday 7:30 pm \$20; December 21, Sunday 7:30 pm, \$25 Performance & Solstice Reception. ZUZI! Theater in the Historic Y, 738 N 5th Ave, Tucson.

ZUZI! Dance Solstice Celebration with modern and aerial dance in a multi-generational performance titled **"Return."** The two-night event includes performances by the ZUZI! Professional Company, Apprentice Company, "Many Limbs" Youth Aerial Company, and members of the Releasing into Performance Community Workshops. This year also features dance pieces by former company members that have ventured out from ZUZI!, returning to share their new perspectives and new choreography. In addition to the performances, there is a reception and silent auction to benefit ZUZI! as a non-profit arts organization.

On the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice marks the beginning of the return of warmer, lighter days. Traditionally, this season was used as a time of reflection, renewal, and community celebration. In that spirit, ZUZI! has invited former company members to perform choreography never before seen in Arizona. These special guests include Alison Hart from Los Angeles, Nathan Dryden from Salt Lake City, Mechelle Tunstall, and Bridget Gunning from the School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts in Seattle.

A silent auction will span all three nights, closing with a reception after the performance on Sunday, December 21st. For more information or to donate to the silent auction, please call 520-629-0237. TICKETS are available [here](#).



December 27, Saturday, 7 pm, December 28, Sunday, 3 pm. Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Ave, Tucson. **Dancing in the Streets Arizona and Civic Orchestra of Tucson present The Nutcracker ~ El Cascanueces.**

This boldly re-envisioned version of The Nutcracker ballet is set to live music provided by the Civic Orchestra of Tucson. "It has become an new annual tradition for many of our South Tucson families," said Founder/Artistic Director Joseph Rodgers. "Our cast is the most diverse group of dancers in all of greater Tucson." Given the lush and familiar Tchaikovsky score and humorous classical choreography, you will be thrilled to witness the wonderful talent of our community's young dancers who will perform alongside professionals and community leaders.

Tickets: \$13, \$16, \$25, \$30, \$40, can be purchased on-line via paypal at <http://ditsaz.tix.com/> or at the studio. For more information, call 520-867-8489 or visit www.ditsaz.org.

December 31, Sunday, 8 pm–12:30 am. Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Ave, Tucson.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Dance are hosting a **Contra Dance NYE Celebration.**

Contra Dancing is a great way to bring in the New Year. It's fast paced, fun, and easy to learn. No partner required. All ages welcome. Smoke-/alcohol-free environment. Music will be provided by the Privy Tippers, one of the Southwest's premier contra dance bands, backed up by the Open New Year's Eve Orchestra. We will feature a cavalcade of callers. Finger food pot luck, non-alcoholic champagne toast at midnight.



\$10 general admission, \$5 for students with ID, \$5 gets you a membership button (show your button and get \$1 off general admission) Cash, check or credit card at the door. For more information, call 520-906-3011, email donna.fulton@gmail.com, or visit tftm.org.

Master Classes / Workshops

December 7, Sunday. Brick's Studio, 4550 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix. **JMill Productions Tap Intensive Representin' FIVE Cities ~ ...tap 'til your feet fall off...** [View bios here.](#)

9-10 am Chicago Street Sounds with Marten "Tres" Dumas (Chicago)
 10-11am Bustin' Broadway Beats with Ryan Kasprzak (NYC)
 11-12 pm Motor City Sole Swag with Jenefer "JMill" Miller (PHX); 12-1 pm LUNCH
 1-2 pm Phoenix Heat, Feet, and Beats with Suzy Guarino (PHX)
 2-3 pm LA Tap Sounds Underground with Gregg Russell (LA)
 3-3:30 pm Tap Jam with Gregg

Schedule: <http://jmillproductions.com/schedule2014>

Register: <http://jmillproductions.com/jwob-2014-registration>

<https://www.facebook.com/JMillProductions>; 602-740-5882



Djian Tié's love of dance began at age 4 when he accompanied his mother to the village of Vanie Botifla, the birthplace of his great-great grandfather. Djian Tié participated in the traditional dance ceremonies of Vanie Botifla and decided at an early age to pursue a career in dance and performance. At age 16 he formed his first dance company, Kavotchia (Unity), which placed first in Côte d'Ivoire's 1993 National Dance Competition and toured throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia from 1995 through 1999. In addition to being steeped in the revered traditional dance and music of his native Gourou People, Djian Tié became well versed in all ethnic dances of Côte d'Ivoire when he trained and toured with the Ballet National de Côte d'Ivoire. During a return trip to Abidjan in 2006, Djian Tié revisited the local villages to refresh his knowledge of the traditional dances of Côte d'Ivoire. Djian Tié is known for his energetic, innovative and dynamic style and has performed worldwide, toured with the Ballet National de Cote d'Ivoire, and taught authentic African dance for over 20 years at many universities, schools and dance workshops. Djian Tie will be in Arizona **December 1-11** teaching drum and dance classes that are open to the community. You do not need any prior dance or drum experience to join his community classes. Classes will be tailored to beginners, intermediate and professional levels together in one class setting.

Schedule

December 2, Tuesday, Granite Performing Arts Center, Prescott. 6-7 pm Drum; 7:15-8:45 Dance \$10/class, \$15/both

The Movement Shala, Tucson. December 4, Thursday, Dance 7-8:30 pm & December 5, Friday, Dance 6:30-8 pm \$15/class, \$10/students, \$25/both

December 6, Saturday, Wall 2 Wall Dance Studio, Tempe. Dance 4-5 pm \$15, \$10 students

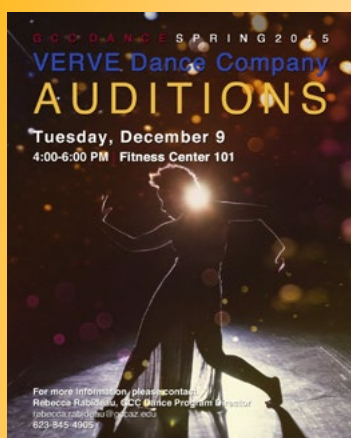
December 7, Sunday, Center for Indigenous Music and Culture, Flagstaff. 4-5:30 pm \$15, \$10 students

December 10, Wednesday, AZ Rhythm Connection, 200 E Curry Rd, PHX. Drum 7-9 pm \$15

Master Classes / Workshops

December 20, Saturday, 12 pm. *Contemporary Beasts of AZ Workshop* featuring Rufus Rodriguez of The Movement Talent Agency and creator of Beasts of AZ Dance Workshops, Brandon Rios who just moved back to the valley from VA, Sean Dahlberg the director of Phoenix Contemporary Dance Company, Jessica Starr founder and director of Muse Dance Company in L.A. and MORE! \$50 full workshop, \$35 half workshop, \$15/class. Location TBA. <https://www.facebook.com/events/710238702391114/>

ADC Member Auditions



Glendale Community College's Resident Dance Company VERVE will be holding auditions for the Spring 2015 semester **Tuesday, December 9, 4-6 pm, Fitness Center 101**. The audition will consist of a ballet barre, modern and jazz dance combinations, and improvisation. Dancers are asked to arrive early to fill out paperwork, look professional and be prepared with appropriate dance attire and shoes. Rebecca Rabideau, Dance Program Director, rebecca.rabideau@gccaz.edu, 623-845-4905.

Grand Canyon U Dance Education Program AUDITIONS February 28, April 11, 2015. Students interested in pursuing a degree in dance education

or dance performance are encouraged to apply! GCU offers a triple-track design that includes classical ballet and modern, as well as jazz and vernacular dance foundations. Once accepted to the university, students may enroll for dance auditions online by visiting www.gcu.edu/auditions. By completing an audition, students will also be considered for performance scholarships. Please find out more about our department by visiting www.gcu.edu/dance or contact dance@gcu.edu.



Call for Dancers

Desert Dance Theatre is looking for male and female dancers for the upcoming Genesis Dance Project, Sister Moses performances, and South of Gold Mountain with H.T. Chen & Dancers. Dance Theater West, 3925 E Indian School Road, Phoenix. Contact Lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org for details, or call 480-962-4584. Auditions are conducted during company rehearsals. There is no charge for the audition.

January 3 deadline for March 6 performance ~ Southwest Youth Ballet Theatre invites professional and pre-professional dancers to join us on the main stage at Tempe Center for the Arts on **March 6** for our **Dance & Romance** performance. Audition by video submission by January 3. \$25 audition fee/ \$150 performance fee if accepted. Pieces not to exceed ten minutes. For more information, visit www.swybt.org.



Governor's Arts Award Call for Nominations

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION IS DECEMBER 19, 2014.

34th Annual Governor's Arts Awards' Objectives:

- ~ To honor those individuals or businesses who make substantial and outstanding contributions to arts and culture in Arizona.
- ~ To elevate the public profile of the arts in the state of Arizona.

~ To encourage others to achieve and sustain high standards of excellence in artistic achievement and support for the arts.

A nomination should reflect activity above and beyond the normal expectations or responsibilities of an individual, business, school, or organization working in, and/or for the benefit of, the arts. <http://azcitizensforthearts.org/?s=arts+award+nominations>



Arts Congress is set for **February 3, 2015**. Let's meet at the State Capitol, talk to our state legislators and rally with fellow arts and culture supporters. Details will be out soon.

ALVIN AILEY receives posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom

President Obama presented nineteen bold, inspiring American with our Nation's highest civilian honor — the Presidential Medal of Freedom — on November 24, 2014. Among the recipients was Alvin Ailey and the Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Robert Battle, accepted the medal on Mr. Ailey's behalf.



Ailey was a choreographer, dancer, and the founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which is renowned for its inspiring performances in 71 countries on 6 continents since 1958. Ailey's work was ground breaking in its exploration of the African American experience and the enrichment of the modern dance tradition, including his beloved American masterpiece Revelations. The Ailey organization, based in New York City, carries on his pioneering legacy with performances, training, educational, and community programs for people of all backgrounds.

You can read about all the recipients [here](#).



2015 ADC Lifetime Achievement Award

Call for Nominations (by ADC members in good standing)

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JANUARY 31

The ADC presents **Lifetime Achievement Awards** (LAA) to Arizona dance professionals that have demonstrated exemplary artistry in performance, choreography, direction and staging and / or leadership, research, scholarship, philanthropy or service to dance in Arizona. ADC member must submit a letter why they are nominating the individual(s) and provide a detailed biography. A form will be emailed to members.

Criteria

1. Nominee must be an Arizona resident and United States citizen.
2. Excellence of the nominee's significant body of work, covering all aspects of artistic quality, creativity, innovation, and technical mastery.
3. Quality and impact of the candidate's lifetime contribution to the development of dance in Arizona.
4. Advocacy for the field of dance on a regional and/or statewide level.
5. Recognition by peers as an influential figure in their respective dance communities.

Past LAA recipients have been *Frank Trent (2010), Nian Cadman (2011), Marion Kirk Jones (2011), Jeanne Wright (2012), Ann Ludwig (2012), Frances Smith Cohen (2013) and Richard Holden (2014).*

Consider becoming an ADC member, being a part of a statewide dance community and enjoying the member benefits and discounts offered by our members and more than 20 Merchants throughout Arizona ~ *graphic designers, photographers, dancewear stores, dance studios, printers, costume designers, venues, etc.* Review the benefits towards the back of this magazine.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**January ISSUE
of the
Arizona Dance e-Star
December 20**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS listings are taken from the **Arizona Dance Coalition** website postings by ADC members.

All postings of events are restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations *with the exception of charitable and free events, educational workshops and master classes.*

All submissions are monitored. Content may be edited.
AzDanceCoalition.org

Arizona Dance Coalition Member Announcements

→ Grand Canyon University Dance Invitationals

January 16, February 20, March 6, March 27, April 10, 2015

Spend the day with GCU Dance Education majors! Juniors and seniors will visit our campus and take a class, meet current dance majors, and tour the campus. GCU enrollment reps will explain what it takes to become a 'Lope. GCU will provide lunch and reimbursement for up to \$150 of your transportation costs. Register online at <http://www.gcu.edu/GCU-Dance-Invitationals.php>. Contact dance@gcu.edu for more information.

→ Grand Canyon University Elementary Dance Tour

The GCU Elementary Dance Tour is a multi-media production that visits local elementary and middle schools each spring. This student touring company endeavors to bring a high-quality arts experience to K-8 students at no cost. We spark their impulse for self-expression by offering creative tools that will help them explore dance and the performing arts. This year **Leanne Schmidt**, who published an article in the September 2014 issue of **Dance Teacher Magazine** on incorporating humor into choreography, will take the helm as director. At the end of the show, students will be invited to participate in a lesson that builds into their own mini-performance. To book your visit in February – April 2015, contact dance@gcu.edu.

→ ZUZI! DANCE (Tucson) ~ In conjunction with the Solstice

Celebration, we will be holding a *silent auction fundraiser* with incredible prizes, including a pair of tickets to anywhere that Southwest Airlines flies! To ensure ZUZI!'s continued creative and educational work in the movement arts, *we encourage you to donate an item or service to be auctioned at this year's event*. We're offering extra incentive of a free 1/2-page ad in our program for donations over \$200. To arrange a donation, please download our Donation Form [here](#) and direct any questions by email to zuzisphere@gmail.com, Attn: Amanda.

For y'all **Twitter** users... We have one o' them! Follow Follow!

<https://twitter.com/zuzimoveit>

→ DESERT DANCE THEATRE is providing

three **School Field Trip** opportunities for students or community organizations to attend.

December 4 and 5, 2014, 9:40 am & 12:10 pm

Desert Dance Performs with Step's Junk Funk

Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), 4725 E Mayo Boulevard,



Arizona Dance Coalition Member Announcements

Phoenix. Step's Junk Funk utilizes ordinary everyday objects as musical instruments used to make rhythmical music or as accompaniment for dance. Students will learn about how to make music, "not noise" with such objects as suitcases, patio chairs, cups and tea kettles, and more. This performance includes "hands on" audience participation. Call the MIM at 480-478-6000 to book or go to: <http://mim.org/>

January 29, 2015, 9:45 am, 11:30 am & 7 pm

Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman

Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N Arizona Avenue, Chandler

Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman is a beautiful story of a courageous woman's determination to free her people from slavery through the Underground Railroad. She was one of America's first liberated women of color, who fought against all odds for the sake of freedom and equality. This production has a cast of over 20 performers, including: dancers, musicians, spiritual singers, narrator and community talent. Sister Moses is a valuable educational tool in bringing this period of history alive. It shares the knowledge and experience of the struggles and accomplishments of Harriet Tubman that will bring a source of inspiration to students and adults alike.



March 26-28, 2015, South of Gold Mountain with H.T. Chen & Dancers

Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 West Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe

New York City dance company, H.T. Chen & Dancers, offers an experience for students of all ages. Eight Strokes & the Moving Word is comprised of award-winning works by choreographer H.T. Chen and has been cited by educators as "the field trip of the year." Eight Strokes & the Moving Word draws from the company's rich cultural heritage and dynamic repertory to reveal the culture and history of Asians in America. Through dance and calligraphy, the students are shown the stories and meaning behind the words and dances in an innovative one-hour presentation through live performance, video projections, and an interactive format.

For information, call Lisa at 480-962-4584, or email Lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org.

"Dance is communication, and so the great challenge is to speak clearly, beautifully, and with inevitability." --Martha Graham

Arizona Dance Coalition Member Announcements



Student Essay Contest



The **Arizona Dance Education Organization (AzDEO)** and the **AZ Thespians** are now sponsoring the Student Essay Contest, formerly sponsored by the **AZ Alliance for Arts Education**. The contest is a great way to promote arts education. Winners are invited to the AZ Arts Day (Arts Congress) at the capital to discuss their arts experience with their legislators. In addition, three monetary awards are given to the winners' school for their arts program. This year's theme is "How will your Arts Education influence your future and help you make an impact on others/society?" **Deadline to apply is December 12, 2014.** For details and the application form, contact Lynn Monson, Imonson@cox.net.



30th Annual High School Dance Festival

February 21, 2014, 8 am - 4 pm

Cactus High School, 6330 W Greenway Rd, Glendale AZ 85306

AzDEO presents the **30th Annual High School Dance Festival**. A fantastic opportunity for students to participate in inspiring master classes and share in the experience of performing for and viewing fellow dance students from around the state in a morning and afternoon concert. Plus teachers get to network.

Registration fee: Early (1/30/2015): \$150 Members; \$225 non-members

Regular: \$200 members; \$275 non-members

Adjudication: \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members

Video: \$20 for members; \$30 for non-members.

Registration is on line at <https://azdeo.org/30th-annual-state-high-school-dance-festival/>. Contact Lynn Monson, Imonson@cox.net, if you have questions.



If you haven't heard, the **National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)** Annual Conference will be in Phoenix in 2015. **October 7-11, 2015** at the Point Tapatio Cliff Resorts, 11111 N 7th St, Phoenix. The Call to Proposals is out on the NDEO website www.ndeo.org. If you would like to be involved in some other way, please email Jacque Genung-Koch, our local site committee chair at jgenungkoch@yahoo.com or Lynn at Imonson@cox.net.

Regional Events

Northern Arizona ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

December 6-7, Saturday-Sunday. Sedona Performing Arts Center, Sedona. Sedona and Phoenix Ballets collaborate on **The Nutcracker**. The production, a collaboration between the **Sedona Chamber Ballet** and **Phoenix Ballet Company**, where Slawomir Woźniak is artistic director, will feature professional dancers who have performed with Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Moscow Ballet and Polish National Ballet alongside local dancers from Sedona and Northern Arizona in the iconic Tchaikovsky-composed holiday classic. NYC-based dancer Madison Cole, who was recently featured in photographer Luis Pons' photo montage of 22 ballerinas in urban city scapes in New York City, will perform as Dew Drop. Tickets \$15-\$30. www.sedonachamberballet.com.

Central Arizona ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Phoenix Mayor Stanton honored **Flamenco Por La Vida** with the Mayor's Arts Award on Friday, November 21, at the Phoenix Center for the Arts. Read more [here](#).

December 5-7, Friday-Sunday. Bricks Studio, Phoenix. JMill Productions is bringing back **Just West of Broadway** -- a weekend intensive focused on all aspects of performing. Tailored for high school and college students, attendees can take classes in acting, musical theatre, dance for musical theatre, on-camera acting, voice over, Foley art, Improv and more! This stellar faculty comes from Broadway, Chicago, and Los Angeles! We are proud to have Lindsay Levine back with us doing a casting workshop! Lindsay was one of the casting directors for Aladdin on Broadway! Won't you join us this year for an amazing weekend here in Phx! Need more details? Visit: <http://jmillproductions.com/jwob2014>

December 12-28. Symphony Hall, Phoenix. **Ballet Arizona** with the **Phoenix Symphony** presents **The Nutcracker**. The magic of The Nutcracker illuminates the stage with more than 150 performers, hundreds of costumes and the beauty and athleticism of Ballet Arizona's nationally recognized dancers. A timeless holiday tradition for all ages. Choreography by artistic director Ib Andersen danced to Tchaikovsky's famous score. Box Office 602-381-1096, 2835 E Washington St, Phoenix.

December 13, Saturday, 7 pm. Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain Auditorium, 2504 S 91st Ave, Tolleson. **JUICEBOX Dance Academy** proudly presents **Urban Nutcracker**. This show is a holiday mash-up for the entire community and family. "The Urban Nutcracker" re-imagines Tchaikovsky's classic through explosive choreography, music, twists, and uniqueness. \$5 pre-sale, \$8 door, \$10 reserved seating. 411juicebox@gmail.com, juiceboxdance.com.

Regional Events

December 13-14, 20-21. Chandler Center for the Arts, Chandler. **Tempe Dance Academy** presents **Tempe Dance Spirit of Christmas**. Hosted by Tom Booth, the Spirit of Christmas is an energetic variety show featuring a cast of over 100 dancers, singing, a horse and carriage, special guest performers and a champion hoop dancer. \$24-28. <http://chandlercenter.org/performances/christmas.html>

December 17, Wednesday, 7 pm. Comerica Theatre, Phoenix. **Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker**.

December 31, Wednesday. **AZ Lindy Hop Society** presents **New Year's Eve Party** at FatCat Ballroom, Phoenix.

December 31, Wednesday, 9:30 pm. Phoenix Theatre, 100 E. McDowell Rd, Phoenix. **Romantasy Cabaret's New Year's Eve Masquerade Gala**. VIP \$55, general admission \$35. Swing-billy music with Whiskey Kiss. <http://tickets.phoenixtheatre.com/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=5398>
Party Favors! Cabaret! Champagne Toast! Burlesque! Live Music! Vaudeville! Cabaret!

January 11, Sunday. Sheraton Downtown Phoenix, 340 N 3rd St, Phoenix. **One Rhythm The HIP HOP Experience**. \$100 for the day. Buddha Stretch, BBoy House, Kannon, Elektro Brothers, Ricky Maalouf, Amani Jae, and Chopliver. Styles will include house, waacking, krump, breaking, popping, locking, freestyle concepts, cypher skills and choreography. Register by emailing onerhythmdanceconvention@gmail.com. HIP HOP Competition on January 10 – email to register.

February 8, 2015, Sunday. Comerica Theatre, 400 West Washington Street, Phoenix. **Dancing With The Stars Live!** Tickets \$40-78.25.

Southern Arizona ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

December 4-7, Friday-Sunday, 7:30 pm, 1:30 pm Sunday. Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, UofA Campus, Tucson. **In Focus Student Spotlight**. In Focus refers to the drive and determination to be the best. The Student Spotlight concerts showcase student creativity through choreography and performance, and the work is fresh, engaging, sometimes edgy, and always danced with an esprit de corps that only the UA Dance Ensemble can offer. Tickets \$12-25. [https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/uacfa/EN/buy/browse?g\[0\]=10099](https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/uacfa/EN/buy/browse?g[0]=10099)

December 7, Sunday, 7:30 pm, 11 am & 3 pm. Tucson Marriott University Park, 880 E Second St, Tucson. **Ballet Tucson** presents **Sugar Plum Tea** ~ a benefit for Ballet Tucson. RSVP by December 1. 520-903-1445 or purchase online at www.ballettucson.org.

Regional Events

December 7, Sunday, 4 pm. UA Centennial Hall, Tucson. **December 13, Saturday, 4 & 7:30 pm.** SaddleBrooke DesertView Performing Arts Center. **Tucson Dance Academy** presents the **Spirit of Christmas**.

December 12-13, Friday-Saturday, 7:30 pm, 2 pm Saturday. Pima Community College Center for the Arts Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W Anklam, Tucson. **PCC Dance** presents **Signature Selections**. A school matinee performance is available for elementary and middle school groups. Call 520-206-6986 for reservations. Under the direction of Nolan Kubota. A contemporary dance concert inspired by movement processes featuring faculty and student works. Tickets \$10 with discounts for students/senior/PCC employees and groups.

December 13, Saturday, 6:30 pm. Artifact Dance Project Studio, 17 E Toole Ave, Tucson. **Artifact Dance Project** collaborate with the Tucson band **Reverie** with guest musician Heather Hardy. ADP artistic directors Claire Hancock and Ashley Bowman set new choreography to several of the songs. \$15, <http://downintown.brownpapertickets.com/>

December 13, Saturday, 7 pm. TCC Leo Rich Theatre, 260 S Church St, Tucson. **Grace! Ballet** presents a Christmas Story ... **A Night of Wonder**. \$10 reserved seating. Ticketmaster.com, Box Office: (520)791-4101.

December 13-14, Saturday 2 & 7:30 pm, Sunday 2 pm. TCC Music Hall, 260 S Church Ave, Tucson. **Tucson Regional Ballet** presents **A Southwest Nutcracker** featuring the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$29-\$35. TRB Box Office: 886-1222 or www.tucsonregionalballet.org. www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000.

December 14, Sunday, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Performance, 8:30 open dancing until 10 pm. University of Arizona South Grand Ballroom, Tucson. **Ritmos Latinos – Rueda de Casino End of the Semester Party**. Free to current members. Non-members \$20 dinner (Mediterranean style buffet), \$5 dancing. RSVP at <http://whoozin.com/4E3-H3T-DAWP>

December 19, Friday, 6 pm doors, 7 pm show. The Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St, Tucson. **Ballet Folklorico Tapatio** presents **A Christmas with Mariachi Divas**. Come and join us for a wonderful night of Mariachi Music from Two Time Grammy Award Winning Mariachi Divas and Traditional Mexican Folk dance from Tucson's Ballet Folklorico Tapatio! Tickets \$24-35. <http://www.rialtotheatre.com/event/725065-mariachi-divas-tucson/>

December 19-20, Friday-Saturday. Vail Theater of the Arts, 10701 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Tucson. **Ballet Rincon** presents **The Nutcracker**. \$10-16. 520-574-2804, dance@ballet-rincon.com.

Regional Events

December 22, Monday, 7:30 pm. Centennial Hall, UofA Campus, Tucson. **Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker.** Tickets \$51 & up. For VIP and single tickets, call Fox Theatre Box Office 520-547-3040 or go to www.nutcracker.com/buy-tickets.

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December 26-28, Friday 7:30 pm, Saturday 2 & 7:30 pm, Sunday 1 & 5 pm. TCC Music Hall, 260 S Church, Tucson. **Ballet Tucson** presents **The Nutcracker.** Tickets \$20-70. Call 520-791-4101 or visit www.ballettucson.org, www.ticketmaster.com



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

DANNA PARKER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, TERPSICORE DANCE COMPANY, PHX
WEST PALM BEACH FLORIDA, PHOTO BY ADAM MARR

Attention Non-ADC Members

Your performances, workshops, and master classes are mentioned in the **Regional Section** of the *Arizona Dance e-Star*. We welcome your **announcements**: job postings, auditions, scholarships, awards & recognitions, new positions, reorganizations, and invitations to participate in FlashMobs & Festivals. Keep Arizonans informed!

SOCIAL DANCE NEWS

TUCSON ~ April 2-5, Thursday-Sunday. Tucson Marriott University Park, 880 E 2nd St, Tucson. **Tucson Tango Festival** with instructors Murat and Michelle (NY), Homer and Cristina (CA), Gustavo & Maria (Buenos Aires), Jennifer Bratt (NY), Jay Abling (Phoenix), and Carrie Field (Taos). Seven DJs. Vendors to include Mr. Tango Shoes and Tangoleva fashions. New location convenient to use the new modern streetcar to access Downtown Tucson. Progressive series with the same instructors for an intensive learning experience. Progressive Beginner Bootcamp series and beginner milonga. Extensive a la carte pricing. **All Early Registration Prices Are Good Until February 1, 2015.** New organizer Jim Baker. www.TucsonTangoFestival.com, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-Tango-Festival/101594653298421>

Webinar - Headshots

December 3, Wednesday, 4-5 pm EST

BACKSTAGE presents **How to Get Amazing Headshots Webinar**

[Eventbrite](#) - \$29, plus \$2.55 fee

Tired of your headshot getting lost in a sea of submissions? This webinar is for performers who want a headshot that catches the attention of top agents and casting directors.

Backstage is teaming up with **Lauren Toub** – professional headshot photographer and owner of Lauren Toub Studio - to help you set yourself up for success with tips and tricks for getting fantastic looking headshots.

Headshots are your most important marketing tool. Without a headshot that pops you might be overlooked for your next big opportunity. Learning to be comfortable, open and interesting in front of the camera takes knowledge and practice. With the simple tips and tools discussed in this webinar you will learn what makes a headshot great and how to achieve it.

Whether you are an seasoned performer that is getting ready for new shots and need to know how to communicate with your photographer, or you are new to the biz and need help getting started on your first professional headshot session, this webinar will help you meet those goals.

We will be recording this event. If you are not available on Wednesday 3rd, at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, you can still sign up and we will send you a recorded copy of the event!

ADC Member Photographers would be interested in holding photo shoots in various parts of Arizona for ADC members to help build your promotional package and to submit for potential **e-Star** covers and Photo of the Month submissions. If you would be interested in participating, please submit a letter describing your needs (*headshots, full-body performance shots, audition poses, etc*) and why you would like to be considered for this project. You must show financial hardship and describe how you would be using the photos.

Send letter to: Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org | *This is an new ADC Project Benefitting Members*

Arizona Dance e-Star Editor/Designer/Writer, Krystyna Parafinczuk

Contributors: Adam Marr



NORTHERN Arizona

FlagstaffDance.com

for the most up-to-date schedule

Wednesdays, The Peaks ~ Alpine Room, 3150 N Winding Brook Rd, Flagstaff (on Hwy 180, North Fort Valley Rd). Group Dance Lessons ~ 6-7 pm East Coast Swing; 7-8 pm Waltz. \$5 one lesson/\$8 for both. Contact *Robert and Kathy* at 928-527-1414 or info@thejoyofdance.net

1st & 3rd Thursdays, Museum Club, 3404 E Route 66, Flagstaff. 6-7 pm line dance lesson; 7-8 pm Nightclub 2-Step; open dancing. \$3 nonmembers/ \$4 for both classes

Wednesdays, Ctr Indigenous Music & Culture, 213 S San Francisco, Flagstaff. Latin Dance Collective 6-7 pm. \$8-12, Kati Pantsosnik, 928-814-2650, latindancecollective@gmail.com.

Saturdays, Galaxy Diner, W Route 66, Flagstaff. Swing lesson & dancing with Tom

Scheel 7:30-9 pm.

Sundays, Canyon Dance Academy, 2812 N Izabel St, Flagstaff (across from Coconino HS) 5:30-6:30 ballroom technique practice 6:30-7:30 open dancing with instructors *John Rudy and Nancy Williams*. \$5. 928-213-0239

Fri/Sundays, Tranzend Studio, 417 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff. Flagstaff Latin Dance Collective 7-10 pm, \$5-8, Kati Pantsosnik, 928-814-2650, latindancecollective@gmail.com; **Fridays** \$3-5, 7:30-10 pm. Salsa Rueda & Latin, Paul & Nadine Geissler, nadinegeissler@hotmail.com

ADULT CENTER OF PRESCOTT, 1280 E Rosser St, Prescott. 928-778-3000. adultcenter.org.

Tuesdays, Country & Contemporary Line Dance Classes, \$5 / No charge Silver Sneakers 5:30 pm Beginners; 6:30 pm Intermediate

Fridays, Dance lessons with *Andy Smith and Marilyn Schey*, Rumba, 6-6:45 pm beginners; 6:45-7:30 Beyond Beginners. \$6 one or both

lessons. 7:30-10 pm Open Dance \$5.

The COTTONWOOD CIVIC CENTER, 805 Main St, Old Town Cottonwood. AZ We Dance - Contra Dance. 6:30 pre-dance lesson, 7-10 pm dancing. \$7, \$5 students \$4 16 yrs and under. 928-634-0486, azwedance@gmail.com.

CENTRAL Arizona

The **Arizona Lindy Hop Society** has an extensive calendar.

AZSalsa.net covers Phoenix, Scottsdale & Tempe

Sock Hop at 5 & Diner

Dec 5, First Friday, 220 N 16th St, Phoenix.

Dec 19, Third Friday, 9069 E Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale. 7 pm FREE Swing dance lesson; 6-9 pm Live Rockabilly/Swing music, wood dance floor, diner food and vintage cars. Come in a car older than 1972 and eat for 50% off!

SOCIAL DANCE ** verify schedules in advance **

SOUTHERN Arizona

TucsonDanceCalendar.com

for the most up-to-date schedule

Dec 14, Sundays, 5-9 pm (no Social 28th)

Tucson Sunday Salsa Social hosted by Gerardo & Lupita. Beg/Int/Adv lesson/open. \$10/live band or \$7/DJ. Shall We Dance, 4101 E Grant Rd, Tucson. tucsonsalsa.com **NEW LOCATION**

Tuesdays ~ Maker House, 238 N Stone, Tucson. 7 pm FREE **Blues Dance** lesson & social dance. <http://tucsonbluesdance.com/events/>

Wednesdays ~ Argentine Tango, class 7-8 pm, dance 8-10 pm DesertTango/Milonga Lunatico. Donations suggested.

Thursdays ~ Warehouse STOMP, 2351 N Alvernon Way, #202, Tucson. 7:30-8 pm Lindy Hop fundamentals with Gayl & Howard. 8-11

pm Open Dancing. \$5. **NEW LOCATION** <http://swingtucson.com/calendar/>

2nd Friday ~ Tucson Stomps! 7 pm lesson; 7:30-10 pm open dancing. 1st United Methodist Church, 915 E 4th St, Tucson. \$5

Saturdays ~ Armory Park Recreation Center, 22 S 5th St, Tucson

Dec 13 - *Swingin' Saturdays* featuring West Coast Swing, 7-11 pm, \$7/\$5 w/student ID info@swinginsaturday.com

Dec 20 - *USA Dance So Arizona Chapter* presents their Dance, 8-11 pm. \$5 members, \$3 students; \$8 non-members.

Dec 27 - *TucsonLindyHop.org* Live music for Lindy Hop & Swing dancers. 7-8 pm beginners lesson, 8-11 pm open dance. \$10 with discounts for students. \$15/if big band.



Lupita & Gerardo Armendariz / Salsa

ATTENTION "SOCIAL DANCE" COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT ARIZONA

If you host a "community" event (not private studio), you are welcome to submit your information to: Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org by the 25th of each month.

Call for Dancers / Instructors / Choreographers

Call for Lindy Hop Dancers / Will Train for "Performances"



Jump & Jive

CALL FOR
*Lindy Hoppers &
Tap Dancers 18+ yrs*

Tucson ✦ Phoenix

Perform with a *Live Big Band*

charitable benefits, concerts, school shows **520-743-1349**

Image courtesy of Gayl & Howard Zhao
Tucson Instructors / Performers

The **Arizona Dance Coalition** is organizing a "Swing Era" musical production featuring a live Big Band, Lindy Hop dancers, and Tap dancers. The mission is to establish performing opportunities for dancers with big bands, and generate awareness about **Alzheimer's Disease** through:

- **performances in Tucson, retirement communities, Phoenix, and beyond**
- **benefit productions** for the **Alzheimer's Association** and those suffering from Alzheimer's (Tucson, Phoenix, and possibly Las Vegas), and
- **community involvement** at the high school level & up ~ including school shows on the topic of jazz music history

Lindy Hop teachers will be working with dancers and choreographing specific pieces to be performed with a live Big Band. Organizational meeting is being planned. **PLEASE CONTACT** organizer Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org, 520-743-1349, to get on the list.

Call for Dancers / Instructors / Choreographers



TAP DANCE Instructors to work with Young Children in grades K-3

The **Arizona Dance Coalition** is creating a pilot **Tap Dance/Music** curriculum to be taught in grades K-3 ~ when the minds and bodies are primed for learning rhythm, timing, and musicality, as well as basic movements, directions, levels, and patterns.

There is a need and desire for this type of programming that combines *dance with music*. Tap dancers are musicians ~ foot percussionists. The ADC will be funding this project with the cooperation of the communities, businesses and granting organizations.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TEACHING and/or ASSISTING IN DEVELOPING THE CURRICULUM, PLEASE CONTACT Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org, 520-743-1349.

Thursdays, 6-8 pm, at Margaret T Hance Park – Urban Plaza, Phoenix, in partnership with **Phoenix Center for the Arts** presents **Dance In The Park**. CALL FOR DANCERS: I am in need of dance performers/companies. There is a \$50 stipend and the event will be marketed. However, it needs to be clear that it's VERY informal and the dancers will be on concrete. There is a great sound system and lights. Can you both advertise the event as well as have a call to performers? I will be the point of contact - michaelakonzal@gmail.com.

Season's Greetings



Rodeo City Wreckettes

Life is like dancing. If we have a big floor, many people will dance. Some will get angry when the rhythm changes. But life is changing all the time.

Miguel Angel Ruiz

The **Rodeo City Wreckettes** practice on the NE side of Tucson, 2 hrs twice a week. If you are interested in being a part of the group, please email wreckette@gmail.com. [Facebook](#)

BALLET IS BORING

October 9, 2014, post by Miss Erin
<http://atthebarre.net/ballet-is-boring/>

A friend and colleague recently posted a quote on her Facebook page and it got me thinking. Mr. Balanchine once said: *"If you don't feel challenged, it's because you're not doing enough. Ballet should never feel comfortable. Comfortable is lazy! If you're comfortable when you dance, you're not pushing yourself hard enough. 100% is not enough. You have to give 200%. One tendu takes years of hard work and will never be perfect. Everything in ballet is a challenge."*

I cannot tell you how many times I've

heard from my students, *'Ballet is boring.'* Now, I'm going to get up on my soap box and give one of those, 'in my day,' speeches that is sadly, long overdue. I never remember feeling this way and I never remember any of the kids I grew up with ever feeling this way, let alone saying it to an instructor. In fact, I wouldn't want to imagine what would happen to us if we had. The world is definitely changing. Students today think that a challenge is doing multiple, badly performed pirouettes, fouetté turns and big jumps. They want to perform the steps, but they have no care about how well they execute them.

I highly dislike and get frustrated when I hear students say a class is not

*One tendu takes years of hard work and will never be perfect.
 Everything in ballet is a challenge.*

challenging enough for them. Margot Fonteyn notoriously took beginner classes several times a week in order to perfect her technique. She challenged herself in the lowest class levels even though she was at the top of her profession. I'm sorry to say that none of my students that have told me this is a Margot Fonteyn and never will be with that attitude.

This mentality is not solely from the students either; much of it comes from the parents. I'll get comments like, 'Work her hard in there!' Ummm...I cannot make your child work, that's on her. Just a few weeks ago I got a question from a mother about a child having to repeat a level of ballet. I explained to the mother that the child lacked focus and didn't work to her potential. The parent then said, 'Well maybe

she isn't doing those things because she's bored and needs pushed. Putting her in the next level could help.' That's not how this works! I do not reward lazy behavior. She needs to work in the level she's in and prove to me she's earned a spot in a more advanced class where focus and work ethic are even more of a requirement. I don't remember my parents ever questioning my teachers' judgments, and if they had heard what I told that parent about me, I would have gotten a stern talking to about work ethic.

Speaking of work ethic, this is also something that's sadly lacking from many of this new generation. The problem is they aren't trying to be lazy; they actually think they're working when they aren't even coming close. For instance, I asked a student

BALLET IS BORING *continued*

to get his leg up in développé. His leg went up a whole foot! If he were really working to his full potential, it would go up less than an inch, not a whole foot...that's lazy! This happens over and over again in my classes. I have to ask a student why they are doing a single pirouette when I know they can do a double. I have to yell at them to jump higher and, all of the sudden, they're flying through the air. Why do I have to ask for their best? When I was kid, no one's leg in the room was going to be higher than mine, no one was going to balance longer than me and no one's feet were going to be as pointed as mine. I wasn't mean about it with the other students, but I wasn't going

to let them be better than me either. I would stand behind the best person in the room and work to emulate everything about them. I would go across the floor with the tallest person in the room and try to keep up. (I have always been short, but refused to move that way). Where are the students that are willing to fight to improve? They are becoming fewer and more far between with every passing year. Maybe Balanchine was right and these kids need to think of working at 200% in order to work to their full capacity.

I love when my students themselves realize they have not been working to their potential. I had a senior graduate last year

Working harder ... 200% to achieve full capacity (Balanchine)

that confided to me that she wished she would have learned how to work harder sooner. She told me that she knew she was one of the most diligent workers in class for her last two years, but then lamented to me that she wished she had figured it out sooner. She wondered how much further along in her dance training she would have been. I reminded her that the important thing was that she understood it now and that she continues on that path during her college training. I also had a mother tell me that her daughter was coming home a lot sweatier and more tired than usual lately and I laughed and told her that her daughter had finally figured out how to work. The next day the mother came in and told me that at first she was offended by comment and shared it with her daughter.

Her daughter laughed and said, 'Yep, I guess it finally just clicked with me that I could be doing a heck of a lot more than I have been. Wait until you see me during parent observation next week; I'm getting really good at this!'

While we are talking about differences in the generations, I can tell you that students also complain a lot more than they did in the past. Maybe we didn't complain to our teachers because we knew they didn't care if our baby toe hurt or if we were tired or had a bad day at school. There seems to be a real disconnect between discomfort and fatigue and actual pain with today's children. One of my favorite stories to tell about this is when another one of my colleagues was fixing an arabesque on a 10 year old girl. When he was done, the child

BALLET IS BORING *continued*

complained that her back hurt. He then asked the whole class if they had discussed pain yet. They all shook their heads no. He then asked them all if they liked figure skating. They all nodded an enthusiastic yes. He then said, 'Well you know when a figure skater lands on the edge of her skate, falls and SLAMS her head on the ice?! That's pain!' The whole class' eyes got wide. I think this is a brilliant way of explaining to young students the difference between being uncomfortable and sharp dangerous pain. Though, I have to admit when I was their age, I don't remember anyone having to explain to me the difference between the two. He then asked the little girl how her back felt after his explanation and she

replied, 'It's fine.' That's right, it's fine! You are sore, you are uncomfortable, you are not in pain.

From my Musical Theatre college students, many of whom are beginners, I hear many times, 'Why can't I get this?' or, 'Why doesn't my leg look like yours?' For the most part, my college students are wonderful, highly motivated, hardworking, focused and want to do well. I try to explain to them ballet is a process that takes many years and that professional dancers are still trying to perfect their technique. Also, that I have been dancing ballet all my life, of course my technique will be good, it would be sad if it wasn't! The thing I see from them is this idea of instant gratification that is so

Ballet is certainly not boring, especially if you're doing it properly.

rampant in this generation. They think that if they work hard, it will just come. To them, ballet isn't boring, it's frustrating. They too don't always find joy in the work and just want results they haven't earned quite yet. Maybe they need to be reminded that, 'one tendu takes years of hard work and will never be perfect. Everything in ballet is a challenge.'

As a teacher, I want to see my students succeed beyond their expectations, and even mine for that matter. I cannot make them work hard; that's something they have to do for themselves. I can only give them all my knowledge, information and

time and try to inspire them to do their best. What they do with all of it afterwards is totally up to them. One of the lessons I try my very best to teach them is that ballet is certainly not boring, especially if you're doing it properly. In the meantime, enjoy the work!

Erin Long-Robbins is currently an adjunct professor at Wright State University and Sinclair Community College. Mrs. Robbins is also co-owner of The South Dayton School of Dance in Centerville, OH as well as Co-Artistic Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the award winning, non-profit dance company South Dayton Dance Theatre.

I cannot make them work hard; that's something they have to do for themselves.

YouTube: Elasticsteel

NOTE: Elasticsteel produces a digital file you can download after you make a purchase. It is not a DVD or physical product. The following promo clips are available for viewing and show the anatomy in great detail and exercises for achieving front splits, développé a la seconde, ponché, side tilt, front and back attitude, and turnout. There are 369 videos in total!

Teachers: You may consider showing these to your students so they can better understand the mechanics of the poses or movements. Students: Consult with your teachers before attempting the exercises.

HANUMASANA MUSCLE ANATOMY TRAINING PROGRAM EasyFlexibility.com

TRUE FRONT SPLIT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF9BeEk8d1w&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw>

DÉVELOPPÉ A LA SECONDE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQbW2WRmHps&index=2&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw>

PONCHÉ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPLLvb6YJJQ&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw&index=3>

SIDE TILT / PITCH / KICK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpVVM2IVU8k&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw&index=4>

FRONT ATTITUDE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WXe-z1BORw&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw&index=7>

BACK ATTITUDE

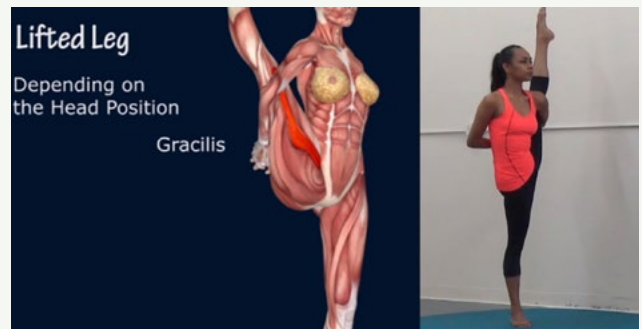
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCiwPft83wA&index=22&list=UUk5b8AKXngs9ifLvdUv-qQw>

Paul Zaichik is an exercise science expert.

His specialty is flexibility training as well as body weight conditioning. His innovative method is designed to have a maximum carry over into specific athletic techniques.

Over the years, Zaichik has worked with a variety of individuals including athletes, entertainers, and military personnel. His ElasticSteel Method of Athletic Conditioning programs are used worldwide by both professional and amateurs with great success.

<http://www.elasticsteel.net>
51,249 subscribers
10,840,350 views



BIZ TALK

BIZ Talk is a new section where YOU can have something to say - exactly the way you want to say it. *But it will cost you.* If you are interested, please email Krystyna@AzDanceCoalition.org or call 520-743-1349 for rates and sizes.

ADC members receive discounted rates.



Sensational, Award Winning Senior Tap Dancing Troupe

Author **Leona Claire Fuller** recounts her experiences when she was with the sensational, award-winning Senior Tap Dance Troupe — **The Hot Flashes!** Full color \$25 ~ Book is available at www.createpace.com/4614304

JOB POSTINGS

Arizona Commission on the Arts jobs page:
<http://www.azarts.gov/news-resources/jobs/>

Flagstaff: Marketing & Comm Mgr, [Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra](#). Deadline Dec 19.

Phoenix: Internship Program, [AZ Commission on the Arts](#). Deadline Dec 9.

Scottsdale: Dance Teacher, [Boys & Girls Club](#).

Tempe: [ASU Clinical Asst Prof of Dance Collections & Ethnochoreology](#). App deadline: Dec 15. Position starts Aug 16, 2015. fdtjobs@asu.edu, 480-965-5337.

Tucson: [Pima Community College](#), Dance Instruction Faculty / full-time. Job Posting <https://pima.peopleadmin.com/postings/5059>
For info, contact Chair of Perf Arts Mark Nelson, DMA, manelson@pima.edu, 520-206-6826.

Tucson: [Come Dance With Us! Fred Astaire Dance Studio](#). No dance experience necessary, will train qualified candidates. Limited positions available. Please contact us at 520-300-5490.

Tucson: [UA Dance Adjunct Instructor](#). Teach 2-4 units each semester. pchoate@email.arizona.edu. 520-626-4106. Job #56290.

Tucson: [Amphitheater High School PT Dance Instructor](#). More [here](#).

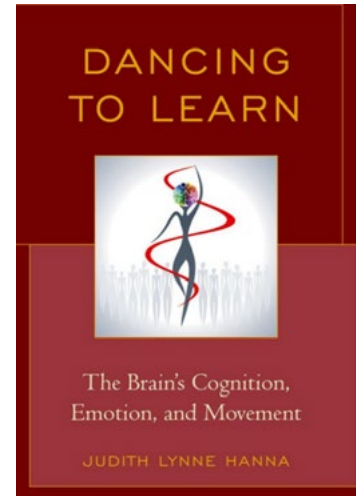
Tucson: [Canyon Ranch](#), Individual & Group Fitness & [Pilates Instructors](#). 5 yrs exp. Certified.

NEW PRODUCTS

BOOK

Dancing to Learn: The Brain's Cognition, Emotion, and Movement. by **Judith Lynne Hanna**, Affiliate Research Professor at University of Maryland. Pub. Rowman & Littlefield
Released on Amazon December 6, 2014. Hardcover \$56.14; Paperback \$27.55, Kindle Edition \$15.94 / Free 2-day shipping for college students.

This book evolved because I believe everyone can benefit from a new paradigm of dance for young and old alike that is grounded in the new brain sciences and integrated with knowledge in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. **Dancing to Learn** explains that dance is nonverbal language with similar places and education processes in the brain as verbal language, thus a powerful means of expression. Dance is physical exercise that sparks new brain cells (neurogenesis) and neural plasticity, the brain's amazing ability to improve cognition throughout life. Consequently, dance as an art, recreational, educational, and or therapeutic form is a good investment in the brain. *The brain that dances is changed by it.*



TAP SHOE



Capezio has introduced a new tap shoe: **Tapsonic®**. Shoes and the sounds they make are integral to the tap dancing art form. Tap shoes are like an instrument. Tapsonic® features an **innovative hollow aluminum heel that produces an amplified sound**. "When you think about amplifying sound, with a music system and speakers, it's about the air behind that," explains Capezio Sales Executive Rob Roy. "So what happens to the speaker? It vibrates the air creating sound waves which

are amplified by the sound chamber. It's not going to happen with a solid shoe. It's almost going to absorb the sound, and it's heavier." Instead, with Tapsonic®'s hollow, high-grade aluminum heel, a big, "bass-ier" sound is created. The heel is designed with cut-outs to help amplify the sound.

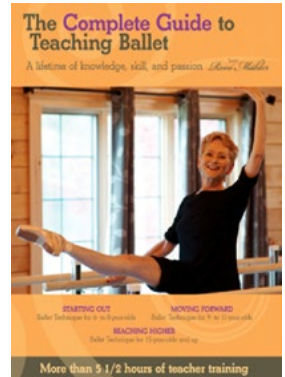
Tapsonic® will also feature the **first-ever interchangeable heel unit**. Heels will be sold separately in different weights and materials, allowing dancers to change the tone and pitch of their shoes. This will also allow teachers' shoes to sound different than their students and aid in teaching them correct technique.

Tapsonic® will be available in store and online from mid-January 2015. Read the entire Capezio Spotlight article here: <http://www.capezio.com/spotlight/introducing-tapsonic/>

NEW PRODUCTS *continued*

DVD

The Complete Guide to Teaching Ballet: A lifetime of knowledge, skill, and passion from **Roni Mahler** (DVD set). Rejuvenate your ballet classes with curriculum for all ages and levels. Whether you're teaching beginners or the most advanced students, the concepts on these six DVDs will enhance the classroom experience for both you and your students. Total running time: over 5 1/2 hours. Currently on sale for \$199 / regularly \$249. Available at Dance Teacher Store: <http://danceteacherstore.com/default/the-complete-guide-to-teaching-ballet-a-lifetime-of-knowledge-skill-and-passion-from-roni-mahler-dvd.html>



Bunny Briggs ~ February 26, 1922 - November 15, 2014

Duke Ellington introduced **Bunny Briggs**, legendary tap dancer, as a *superlaviophonic, rhythmaturgically-syncopated tapstamathicianismist* in David Danced Before the Lord. With the influence and help of jazz musicians *Dizzy Gillespie* and *Charlie Parker*, Briggs adapted his style to *bebop*. He also created his own style of paddle-and-roll tapping that combined pantomime. "I was always an improvisation dancer," he told Rusty Frank. "I never danced to the same tune more than two or three times."

After appearing at the **Monterey Jazz Festival** in 1960 with the Duke Ellington band, Briggs became known as "Duke's dancer" was the chosen soloist in Ellington's Concert of Sacred Dance, in "David Danced Before the Lord," which premiered at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco (September 16, 1965); he was also the soloist for the East Coast premiere of Concert of Sacred Music at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (December 26, 1966) in New York. Briggs also took part, along with along with *Baby Laurence*, *Honi Coles*, *Pete Nugent*, and *Cholly Atkins*, in the 1962 **Newport Jazz Festival** in a landmark concert which marked the ascendancy of tap dance in popularity.

In 2002, Briggs received an honorary doctorate of **Performing Arts in American Dance by the Oklahoma City University** (2002).

We greatly mourn the loss of this tap legend who passed away at the age of 92 on November 15 in Las Vegas. Those wishing to make donations for Bunny Briggs's funeral expenses should make checks payable to the "Bunny Briggs Memorial Fund" c/o Sandra Seaton, P.O. Box 1562, East Lansing MI 48826.

Here are some tributes and biographies you will enjoy reading about his remarkable life:

The New York Times 26 Nov 2014

The Philadelphia Tribune 28 Nov 2014

Footnotes on Tap

Tap Dance Hall of Fame, American Tap Dance Foundation

Facebook



AUDITIONS

NATIONWIDE DANCE AUDITION LINKS

[Dance.net](http://www.dance.net/danceauditions.html) ~ <http://www.dance.net/danceauditions.html>
[DancePlug.com](http://www.danceplug.com/insidertips/auditions) ~ <http://www.danceplug.com/insidertips/auditions>
[StageDoorAccess.com](http://www.stagedooraccess.com/) ~ <http://www.stagedooraccess.com/>
[DanceNYC](http://www.dancenyc.org/resources/auditions.php) ~ <http://www.dancenyc.org/resources/auditions.php>
[BackStageDance.com](http://www.backstage.com/bsa/dance/index.jsp) ~ <http://www.backstage.com/bsa/dance/index.jsp>
[SeeDance.com](http://www.seedance.com) ~ <http://www.seedance.com>

The Audition January 17, 2015

*All the same great opportunities,
experiences, at a new location!!*

Sign up now!!

www.theauditionevent.com

Terpsicore
 219 S 5th Ave, Phoenix
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2cXnaR0HrU>

AUDITION: American Music Theatre 2015 Season

Casting notice expires: **January 30, 2015**. Runs March-December in Lancaster, PA. Seeking video submissions for singers, dancers, and musicians for **America Music Theatre's 2015 Season**. Season includes: "INSPIRE!" ~ a Christmas show. Pays \$600/week. Housing available. Contracts are offered on a per show basis, with the possibility of full season, competitive salaries. **Dancers: versatile; proficient in ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre and partnering; acrobatics a plus.** http://www.backstage.com/casting/american-music-theatre-2015-season-53308/?utm_campaign=Casting%20Posts&utm_content=10011308&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

Patrick Stewart Goes Where No Starship Captain Has Before: Into the Ballet Studio

IFC Films has debuted a trailer for *Match*, a film starring Patrick Stewart as an aging ballet instructor at The Juilliard School in New York City, written and directed by playwright Stephen Belber and based on his 2004 Broadway play of the same name.

The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival earlier this year, before being picked up by IFC Films. A synopsis on the Tribeca web site describes the movie: Seattle couple (Carla Gugino and Matthew Lillard) travel to New York to interview former dancer Tobi (played with remarkable dexterity by Patrick Stewart) for research on a dissertation about the dance landscape of 1960s New York City. The movie weaves effortlessly between riotous wit and delicate poignancy as it unravels the story of three people forced to confront ideas of responsibility, artistic commitment, and love.

Plans call for a limited release starting January 14, plus a VOD release on January 16. To see the trailer, visit <http://www.firstshowing.net/2014/watch-patrick-stewart-stars-as-a-ballet-instructor-in-match-trailer/>.

ARIZONA DANCE COALITION Member Benefits & Perks

The ADC offers *four* types of memberships:

**Individual \$20 ♦ Organization \$50
Venue/Presenter \$100 ♦ Sponsor \$100 plus**

Membership and dues renew annually and ADC organizes an Annual Member Meeting in January to discuss the state of dance in Arizona featuring guest speakers. See the last page for details on joining. Membership entitles you to ~

- **ADC Membership Directory** ~ inclusion and online access, plus a PDF document with live links
- Posting events on the **ADC website Calendar of Events*** which are then prominently featured in the *Arizona Dance e-Star** with a photo & live links
- *Arizona Dance e-Star* monthly e-newsletter received *in advance* of subscribers
- **Member Spotlight opportunity** in the *e-Star*
- **Performance opportunity** in the **ADC Member Showcase** (*when production funds are available*)

- Posting classes on the ADC website **Class Page***
- Board Member Nominations (December) & Annual Membership Meeting Voting Privileges (January)
- **ADC Lifetime Achievement Award** Nominations (March)
- **Merchant Discounts** and periodic member-to-member discounts
- **Affordable Venue General Liability Insurance** for 1-2 day performances. *We have renewed our policy to continue this benefit for our members because we know the cost of insurance (\$400-\$500) would prohibit most individuals and small companies from producing in a professional theatre. Current fee is \$75/1 day; \$150/2 days.*
- **NEW** ~ Discounted *Arizona Dance e-Star* Advertising Rates. Inquire for details.

* All postings of events and classes are restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations with the exception of charitable and free events, community festivals, educational conferences and master classes.

"Join the community and feel welcome."

This is just one quote from many in this wonderful, must-see, video clip. It is the best promo I have ever seen to promote all dance styles. Thank you to Gerardo Armendariz for finding and posting it on facebook. *It would be great to film something similar in Arizona as well as an "I Charleston" piece to show off our landscape.* Watch "Why I dance" ... *over and over and over ...* and share it! (*click on the link below*)

Why I dance... Pourquoi je danse...

This video was created to support the goals of Ontario Dances. Ontario Dances is a program of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). In 2013, the Ontario Arts Council will celebrate 50 years of support to the hundreds of artists and arts organizations across the province. Among these are the dance organizations, dancers and choreographers who produce and create in Ontario. OAC support helps ensure that dance lovers throughout the province have access to their work.

Video Tip

by Krystyna Parafinczuk

GoPro HERO4 cameras take Emmy Award-winning GoPro performance to a whole new level. *Built-in Wi-Fi, waterproof durability and so much more.*

I recently saw **Daniel Buckley** (2014 AZ Governor's Arts Award Lifetime Achievement Winner) using this camera at the **Viva Mia de los Muertos** performance and he posted a *fish-eye* effect clip of **Ballet Folklorico Tapatio's** performance on *facebook*. Very cool and compact. You can place it downstage center on your theatre's stage to capture your performance. There's about 1.5 hours of battery life and you can capture stills.

HERO4 Black is \$499.99

HERO4 Silver is \$399.99

(What's with the penny?)

Here's a great review by Abe Kislevitz:
<http://abekislevitz.com/understanding-photos-in-the-hero4/>



Here's a clip of WILD MUSTANGS:
<https://gopro.com/channel/video-of-the-day/wild-mustangs-a-legacy-in-4k>

Here's Dan Buckley's *fish-eye* clip of **BF Tapatio's** 17th Anniversary Show held on November 17, 2014, at Pima Community College, Tucson.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DzMb3o40BY>

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JOIN ADC



Become an Arizona Dance Coalition Member ~ online (PayPal) or snail mail / click on the icon to download application

Board Members are needed with expertise in organization & event planning, marketing/graphics, writing and computer/website maintenance.
Help us grow and make a difference.

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