

ASSEMBLÉ

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF BORDERLANDS BALLET

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Bouncing Back

After sitting out much of last year due to the pandemic, Borderlands Ballet had a highly successful return for its 2021-2022 season. The year began with a September performance along the beautiful banks of the Gila River as part of the *Gila River Festival* and ended with a performance at the Rio Grande Theatre for the Las Cruces *Lit Fest*, which included (among other things) an improvised dance to Gerard Manley Hopkins's poem "The Starlight Night".

In between, BBC staged two very successful full-length productions, *The Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*, in collaboration with The Las Cruces School of Dance & Music. These performances mark the emergence of BBC as the premiere ballet company in the region, a status the Company aims to solidify with a strong 22-23 season

During the year, BBC also developed a collegial relation with the new-to-Las-Cruces contemporary dance company Dark Circles Contemporary Dance - including a beautiful duet choreographed by Joshua L. Peugh (danced at a benefit for Desert Community Wellness by DCCD's Chadi El-Khoury and BBC's Janelle Hernandez).

What's ahead in 2022-2023?

THE SEASON

Full length shows include *The Nutcracker* and *Don Quixote* plus boutique performances

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community events and educational outreach are integral to BBC's mission

COMPANY UPDATES

Audition dates set. Principal dancer designations.

FUNDRAISING

The 2nd Annual Halloween Bash! and new donor initiatives

Season Preview: *Nutcracker, Don Q., & More*

The Nutcracker (December 2022). After serious deliberation, artistic director Monique Foster decided to commit BBC to an annual production of the beloved holiday ballet, *The Nutcracker*. For many families, attending *The Nutcracker* is a ritual of the holiday season. An annual *Nutcracker* allows Borderlands to focus on the development this breath-taking ballet and provides the community with a spectacle to treasure and revisit year after year.

Don Quixote (May 2023). Tilting at windmills - the perfect metaphor for battling monsters of our own creation. *Don Quixote* is an apt parable for the human condition and BBC will bring this poignant and timely story to the stage in the spring of 2023. Romance, comedy, and the misguided chivalry of the knight-errant and his faithful partner, Sancho Panza, make for one of the most memorable ballets ever staged.

While these full-length ballets will constitute BBC's major focus, we pride ourselves on the development of innovative, shorter works presented in boutique venues. These productions allow a more intimate and, in some ways, a more impactful dance experience. If you want to experience the raw emotive power of dance, we encourage you to attend our smaller productions.



Community Outreach



Community outreach has been a focus of Borderlands Ballet since its inception. This season BBC was honored to dance at the Gila River Festival in support of our region's most precious and increasingly scarce resource, water. We also instituted a free community ballet masterclass which included live accompaniment by Marco Antonio Jimenez, who prior to the pandemic played in New York for ABT and NYCB. We hope to continue and expand those commitments again this season.

In addition, BBC aims to revive its school show program, with daytime performances of *The Nutcracker* for local school children. Many local kids lack the resources and support to attend performing arts productions. These shows provide access to high-quality productions by paying for bussing to and from the ASNMSU Center for the Arts and providing admission at a negligible price.

We are always on the lookout for worthy groups to support and/or collaborate with. So, if you or someone you know thinks we might be a good fit, please reach out (575-525-5670).

Company Updates

BBC's annual in-person auditions will be Saturday, July 23rd from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music (1390 N. Main). BBC will not be accepting video auditions this season.

BBC Main Company

We will once again be looking for a few dancers 16+ years of age for the 2022-23 season. Dancers selected for the Company should have strong classical technique, a notable performance presence, and an up-beat but dedicated work ethic.

For this season, the most advanced dancers may be designated as principal dancers by the artistic director and provided remuneration for performances. This new designation is designed to help BBC transition into a semi-professional company.

BBC Apprenticeships

The BBC's Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity for aspiring dancers to fully develop their potential and the skills necessary for a professional dance career. While apprentices are not members of BBC, they are fully integrated into the training and routine of the Company. Admittance to the Apprenticeship Program is by audition only. Auditions will be in conjunction with auditions for the BBC on Saturday, July 23rd from 2:00-3:30 p.m. To be eligible for the program, dancers must be between the ages of 15 and 18.

Fundraising



In 2022-23, BBC is very well positioned to take another major step forward. But we cannot succeed without the appropriate financial resources. Our goal this fiscal year is to have on hand sufficient funds going into the holiday season in order to cover the main costs of performance - including theatre rental, costuming, set design, and equipment/performance fees for principal dancers. Our major fundraising drives will include:

- In October, BBC will host the 2nd Annual Halloween Bash! fundraiser. Building on a successful event in 2021, the Halloween Bash will include more games, more dance, and something more for the older crowd.
- We will engage our primary supporters through performance-specific drives to help develop the Company's resources for our on-going repertoire, particularly our annual *Nutcracker*.
- Finally, BBC will produce certain events throughout the year that give our most committed supporters access to donor-only events and previews. Details will be announced in future issues of *Assemblé*.