

For Immediate Release
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DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA'S "EI CASCANUESES" (The Nutcracker Ballet) WILL FEATURE STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUEST ARTISTS
The Civic Orchestra of Tucson will provide live music.

Tucson, AZ (November 29, 2011)--- On Sunday, December 18, Dancing in the Streets Arizona (DITSAZ) will present a holiday favorite with a local twist as students, parents and guest artists perform "El Cascanueses," an adaptation of the ever-popular Nutcracker ballet. Performance is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at the Historic Fox Theater 17 West Congress Street, Tucson, AZ 85701

"Our cast is the most diverse group of dancers in all of greater Tucson," said Joseph Rodgers, DITSAZ's Founder/Artistic Director. It's the most colorful Nutcracker in Tucson. I am constantly amazed at the immense talent we have found here in South Tucson."

The original Nutcracker is a fairytale ballet set to music composed in 1891-1892 by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Marius Petipa choreographed the first ballet based on Alexandre Dumas adaptation of the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E.T.A. Hoffmann. The inaugural performance was held in December 1892 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since then, the ballet has become a holiday tradition and one of the most popular ballets of all time. Its universal appeal has been attributed to its timeless characters and the beautifully intricate choreography, costumes, and set design. Writing in the Seattle Times in 2006, Mary Murfin Bailey described it perfectly: *Experiencing the joy of Nutcracker can fortify you for the hectic demands of the holiday. It slows it all down for a minute (but not slow enough to lose the attention of the younger children in the audience), and leaves you tuned to what is genuine and beautiful in this season.*

Typically, the DITSAZ performance plays to a sold-out house. According to DITSAZ president Marian Lupu, "I believe our rendition of the performance is as successful as it is because of Joseph Rodgers' amazing ability to work with all his dancers from age 3 to adults in a way that brings out their individual abilities and strengths as dancers, fine tuning each scene with humor in order to provide a captivating experience for the audience."

Who: Dancing in the Streets Arizona (www.ditsaz.org) and The Civic Orchestra of Tucson www.cotmusic.org

What: The 2011 El Cascanueses (The Nutcracker) ballet performance

When: Sunday, December 18th, 2011

Where: Fox Theater, 17 West Congress Street, Tucson, AZ 85701 www.foxtucsontheatre.org

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: Start at \$13.00 *Special*

Gold Level Tickets: \$50.00 *Gold level ticket holders attend a Pre-Performance Concert with Gabriel Ayala at 2:00pm, seating in the 1st 4 rows, and a light lunch at 1:30pm in the Founders Lounge at the Fox Theater.*

Info and Ticket Sales: Call the box office: (520) 547-3040 Box Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Weekends -- 2 hours prior to each performance. For additional Dancing in the Streets info call (520) 867-8489 or (520) 298-7738 or visit www.ditsaz.org.

About Dancing in the Streets Arizona: DITSAZ was founded in August 2008 as a not-for-profit organization that uses the excitement and discipline of ballet to guide children and at-risk youth as they work to achieve life skills, and to promote an interest in the art of ballet and dance within the local community. The studio has no paid staff and relies upon the generosity of donors to provide full and partial scholarships to more than half its students.

To learn more about DITSAZ call (520) 867-8489 or visit the organization's website at www.ditsaz.org.