

Cinderella

April 25-26, 2026 at Chandler Center for the Arts



BALLET ETUDES

Sharon Seder Meko, Founding Artistic Director

The Ballet Etudes Company

Founding Artistic Director

Sharon Seder Meko

Ballet Mistress

Susan Sharkey

Rehearsal Directors

Aliece Bergen, Kellan Meko, Astrit Zejnati

Principals

Katie May Chen, Whitney Dana, Anna Inwards, Hazel Sherwood

Soloists

Mikayla Bryan, Sarah Girard, Chloe Johnson

Seniors

Abigail Noble, Simona Tenorio

Juniors

Emma Ashby, Ellie Ball, Eliza Lauritzen,
Jada Nhoksayakham, Scarlett Smith

Apprentice

Lyla Wahlbrink

Aspirants

Kate Auman, Makenna Fuller, Eliana Robinson, Elsie Sherwood, Ava Teska

Trainees

Erin Abril, Macelynn Adams, Ruby Benson, Margot Bosen, Elise Pabst

Novices

Troy Bergen, Julia Bernstein, Addeline Hawthorne, Owen Lauritzen,
Annabelle Putnam, Loretta Hale, Sofia Simons, Vivian Woods, Abigail Vaughn,
Anika Williams, Anna Mei Wong, Mackenzie Wong

2025/2026 Season Board of Directors

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The Cinderella Cast & Crew

(In order of appearance)

Memory Mother	Hazel Sherwood
Memory Cinderella	Eliana Robinson
Cinderella	Katie May Chen
Maude	Whitney Dana
Myrtle	Chloe Johnson
Stepmother	Kellan Meko
Fairy Godmother	Hazel Sherwood
Dance Teachers	Anna Inwards, Kleiton Sistelos
Spring	Sarah Girard
Summer	Whitney Dana
Autumn	Anna Inwards
Winter	Mikayla Bryan
Toujours Relié	Ellie Ball, Makenna Fuller, Eliza Lauritzen, Jada Nhoksayakham, Elsie Sherwood, Scarlett Smith, Ava Teska, Lyla Wahlbrink
Bugs	Julia Bernstein, Loretta Hale, Sofia Simons, Mackenzie Wong
Horses	Abigail Vaughn, Anika Williams, Anna Mei Wong, Vivian Woods
Carriage Driver	Margot Bosen
Ballroom Corps	Emma Ashby, Ellie Ball, Mikayla Bryan, Sarah Girard, Anna Inwards, Eliza Lauritzen, Jada Nhoksayakham, Abigail Noble, Hazel Sherwood, Scarlett Smith, Ava Teska, Lyla Wahlbrink
Queen	Julia Ridderhoff
King	Astrit Zejnati
Prince	Helio Lima
Queen's Court	Troy Bergen, Julia Bernstein, Loretta Hale, Owen Lauritzen, Annabelle Putnam, Sofia Simons, Abigail Vaughn, Anika Williams, Anna Mei Wong, Mackenzie Wong, Vivian Woods
King's Court	Macelynn Adams, Ruby Benson, Margot Bosen, Makenna Fuller, Elise Pabst, Eliana Robinson, Elsie Sherwood
Prince's Court	Mikayla Bryan, Sarah Girard, Anna Inwards, Hazel Sherwood, Helio Lima, Kleiton Sistelos
Footman	Troy Bergen
Technical and Production Staff	
Choreographer	Kellan Meko
Musical Score	Sergei Prokofiev
Production Manager	Michelle Martin
Stage Crew	Al Chen, Scott Sherwood, Anthony Wahlbrink
Wardrobe Manager	Natalie Sherwood
Wardrobe	Tracey Scalzo
Costume Chair	Natalie Sherwood
Lighting Design	Danielle Livingstone
Spot Operators	Arabella Gallo, Lizzy Norton
Sound	Matt Huston
Properties	Janet Chen, Angie Grimwood, Meena Bryan
Cast Party	Megan Girard
Resident Accompanist	Lincoln Wright
Rail	Justin Valdez
Carriage Refresh	David Bosen, Natalie Sherwood, Scott Sherwood, Angie Wahlbrink, Anthony Wahlbrink, Kristie Ball, Jen Bosen, Lynne Grimwood
Chaperone Coordinator	Lynne Grimwood

Principal Dancers

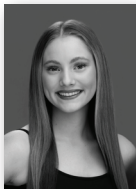
Katie May Chen - Cinderella

Katie slipped on her first pair of ballet shoes when she was 3 years old and has been dancing with Ballet Etudes ever since. This is her 7th year in the company and 3rd year as a principal dancer. Some of her favorite roles include Clara, Arabian Coffee, Snow Queen, and Dew Drop Fairy (The Nutcracker), Spring and Royal Court (Cinderella), Silver Fairy (Sleeping Beauty), and Rose and Duchess (Alice in Wonderland). Other pieces include Dryad Corps (Don Quixote), Paquita Grand Pas Classique, and Swanhilda's Friends (Coppelia). She has attended summer programs with American Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, BalletMet, and Ballet Arizona. Katie is so honored and beyond excited to be performing as Cinderella this year, a role she has dreamed of dancing since she first watched the production as a little girl! Katie will always be grateful for Ballet Etudes for their continual support and exceptional teaching and will forever cherish the memories and second family they have given her.



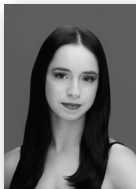
Whitney Dana - Maude, Summer

Whitney first started her ballet journey with Ballet Etudes at 7 years old. This will be her 6th year in the company. With Ballet Etudes, Whitney has performed roles such as Snow Queen, Arabian, and Clara (The Nutcracker), ballroom corps (Cinderella), as well as roles in Sleeping Beauty and Alice in Wonderland and performing opportunities dancing alongside The Phoenix Symphony. This season in Cinderella, she is thrilled to perform as a Step Sister and Summer. Whitney is extremely grateful to be part of such a special company and is so thankful for her Ballet Etudes family as well as the opportunities they continue to provide!



Anna Inwards - Dance Teacher, Autumn, Prince's Court

Anna started her ballet journey at the age of 7 with Ballet Etudes and has loved every second of it. She is now well into her 6th and final year in the company. She first stepped on stage with Ballet Etudes as a Baby Doll in The Nutcracker and has since been honored with the roles of Gingerette, Soldier, Snowflake, Garland, Russian Peppermint, Chinese Tea, Flower, the beloved Clara, and most recently Spanish Hot Chocolate, Marzipan Soloist, and Rat King. Ever since she joined the company back in 2020, she has adored all the spring productions she has been a part of. She has performed as part of the village scene (Swan Lake), Opening Scene and Flower Waltz (Sleeping Beauty), Bluebell Flower and Tweedle Dum (Alice in Wonderland), and King's Court and Ballroom Corps (Cinderella). She has grown deep admiration for the ballet Cinderella and is extremely grateful to be ending her final year as Dance Teacher, Autumn, Ballroom Corps, and Prince's Court in this year's production. Anna has also attended various summer intensive programs with Joffrey Ballet School NYC, Colorado Ballet and most recently Milwaukee Ballet. Anna is extremely grateful for the training, opportunities, and family Ballet Etudes has given her.



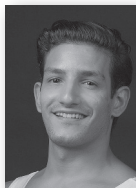
Hazel Sherwood - Fairy Godmother, Prince's Court

Hazel first started her dance journey at the age of 10. In this year's production of Cinderella, she is proud to be dancing the role of Fairy Godmother. Over her 4 years with Ballet Etudes she's had the privilege to perform in two other productions of Cinderella where she performed Ballroom Corp and Queens Court. In addition, Hazel has danced roles such as Dew Drop Fairy and Mechanical Doll (Nutcracker), Garland Waltz (Sleeping Beauty), and Flamingo and Marigold (Alice in Wonderland). She's also had the pleasure of dancing in Ballet Etudes' annual showcase and repertoire as well as select performances with The Phoenix Symphony. This summer she will be attending Ballet Etudes and Ballet West's summer intensives. Hazel is extremely grateful for all the opportunities she has had being a part of Ballet Etudes company and all the family she has gained through the years spent at the studio.



Helio Lima - Prince

Helio Lima was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and started dancing at the age of 10. He studied with Patricia Salgado at Escola de Dança Petite Danse in Rio de Janeiro for nine years. In 2009 he was placed amongst the top ten finalists of the Youth America Grand Prix and was awarded the Sir Logan Campbell ballet award. He was also awarded scholarships to Washington Ballet School and The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, but accepted the Jerome Robbins Foundation Scholarship to study full time at the New Zealand School of Dance. At the end of 2010 he joined The Western Australian Ballet Company, for the Marcia Haydée's season of Sleeping Beauty, under Ivan Cavallari. In 2011 Helio was offered a place with Royal New Zealand Ballet Company under Ethan Stiefel. In 2014 Helio was offered a contract with the Boston Ballet Company, under Mikko Nissinen. Today Helio currently dances as one of Ballet Arizona's Principal dancers. Some of Helio's highlight performances include Albrecht, from Johan Kobborg and Ethan Stiefel's production of Giselle, Dream Pas in Val Caniparoli's Lady of the Camellias, Blue Bird in Marcia Haydée's Sleeping Beauty, and several works under the direction of Ib Andersen including: Romeo, from Romeo and Juliet, Solor from Bayadère, Prince Désiré from Sleeping Beauty, Franz from Coppélia, Prince Siegfried from Swan Lake and the Prince from Cinderella. Helio has also had the privilege to dance as a principal role in the following works by George Balanchine: Rubies from Jewels, Square Dance, Symphony in Three Movements, Agon and La Sonnambula.



Kleiton Sistelos - Dance Teacher, Prince's Court

Kleiton Sistelos was born in Recife, Brazil. He studied Classical Dance in the Royal Method and graduated in 2006. He also studied the Cubana Technique from 2005 to 2007. Kleiton has trained throughout the world in Brazil, the United States, and Europe, including the Teatro Carcano, Milan, Italy. He has studied Jazz and Modern, specializing in the Horton Technique at Alvin Ailey in NYC. Kleiton owns a certification signed by Ms. Anne Marie Forsythe that gives him permission to teach Horton master classes. He has danced in festivals throughout Brazil and Europe including the Latin American Tour in Milan, the Dell'Art Festival in Genova, the Nice Festival in France, and the Festival of Valencia in Spain. He has performed in major productions on the stage and on television in Rio de Janeiro, and his classical repertoire includes the Grand Pas de Deux from Don Quixote, the Sugar Plum Cavalier in The Nutcracker, the Blue Bird from Sleeping Beauty, Flames of Paris, and Cinderella. He currently works in 5 different schools in Arizona.



The Story of Cinderella

Act I

As the curtain rises, Cinderella rests by the fire after having just cleaned the family's home from top to bottom. Her stepsisters Maude and Myrtle soon enter the room and cause chaos, waking and taunting Cinderella. Maude and Myrtle's mother, Cinderella's stepmother, arrives home soon afterwards and blames Cinderella for the mess. An old beggar woman appears at the front door asking for a drink of water and to warm herself by the fire, which Cinderella graciously provides. Just before leaving, the mysterious woman hands a scroll to Cinderella – an invitation to the royal ball! Cinderella's step family discovers the invitation, and knowing how clumsy her daughters are, the Stepmother hires an instructor to teach them to how dance and mingle at the ball – hoping to catch the eye of the Prince. Freshly purchased dresses are donned and the family departs for the ball - without Cinderella. Shoving aside any feelings of self-pity, she uses her imagination to create a ballroom in her own home and imagines what it would be like to dance with the handsome Prince. Without warning, the family home dissolves into thin air and Cinderella's Fairy Godmother appears. She explains to Cinderella that she visited the home disguised as the beggar woman to ensure that Cinderella's kindness is true. With the Fairy Godmother are Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. Fairy Godmother explains that through them she has been with Cinderella from the beginning and that together, they have experienced all the beauty and wonder that each day holds. Fairy Godmother provides Cinderella with all the essentials to attend the ball: a beautiful dress, a glistening tiara, satin gloves, glass slippers and a magical carriage. With a final warning to return home by midnight, Cinderella is whisked away to the ball.

Act II

At the castle, the King and Queen greet their guests and announce their son the Prince will choose an eligible young maiden at the ball to be his bride. The young women in attendance present themselves to the Prince, but he has decided he cannot marry any of them as he must marry for true love. As the night wears on and the Prince becomes more resolute in his decision, Cinderella makes her appearance and her beauty transfixes everyone in attendance – including the Prince. As Cinderella and the Prince dance well into the night, followed closely by the curious Stepmother, Cinderella forgets the midnight warning from Fairy Godmother. The palace clock begins to rumble toward midnight and Cinderella's transformation back to rags begins. She tears herself away leaving behind a bewildered Prince as well as a glass slipper which the Prince discovers. The next morning, a very tired Maude and Myrtle encounter an enamored Cinderella. They discover she has the other shoe which can only mean she was indeed the mysterious girl at the ball. Cinderella is able to hide the shoe from her step family as they wildly inform their mother of this new information. Before Cinderella's Stepmother and stepsisters can find the hidden shoe, the Prince appears at their home with the announcement that whomever fits the slipper found on the ballroom stairs will be his new bride. Maude and Myrtle both take turns trying on the slipper, but neither of them are able to make it fit. Before Cinderella can make herself known to the Prince, her stepsisters pull her into the corner and hide her from their royal visitors. Just as the Prince is about to disappear through the front door, Cinderella frees herself from the grasp of her stepsisters. Upon seeing her face, the Prince recognizes Cinderella as the woman he fell in love with at the ball. Cinderella and the Prince are transported to the Fairy Godmother's realm where she marries them and they begin their journey towards their own "happy ever after."



BALLET ETUDES
ACADEMY

balletetudes.net | (480) 558-2080 | 1455 S Stapley Dr. in Mesa

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out stars-to-be."
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*Katie May Chen,
a Ballet Etudes
Academy student
and Ballet Etudes
company member*