

Mission Statement

To inspire dreams, participation, community and excellence through the gift of dance.

About Us

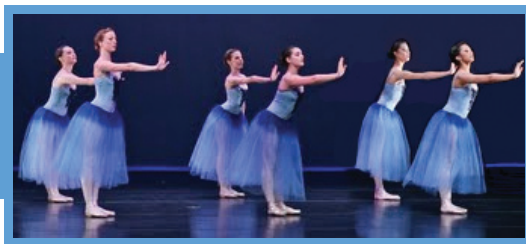
Southwest Youth Ballet Theatre (SWYBT) is dedicated to the development and advancement of ballet students ages 13-18 years of age who aspire to a professional career in ballet. SWYBT provides excellence in pre-professional training and achievement in artistry, as well as, provides a variety of educational and community outreach programs for the enrichment of our communities. Southwest Youth Ballet receives its artistic guidance from a renowned principal dancer, Yen-Li Chen, who serves as the Artistic Director.

History

The Southwest Youth Ballet was established in 2005 with the vision of providing an extensive high quality pre-professional training program for serious ballet students. In 2007 the company received its non-profit status and entered into its first operational year, holding auditions for company members and performing their first full length ballet, The Nutcracker. In 2009 the company hired the Chandler Symphony Orchestra to join them in The Nutcracker which proved to be a perfect addition. In 2010, the first Dance and Romance event was held at the Tempe Center for the Arts; showcasing the company's talent in a variety of dance genres.

The Company

The company is comprised of a group of young dancers, the artistic director and an all volunteer board of directors. The dancers are dedicated to the study of ballet and the advancement of their performance skills. The dancer's contracts run from September to May each year and many of the dancers continue to study at various prestigious summer programs throughout the United States. The Artistic Director trains the dancers in both technique and artistry in preparation for a career in dance. The board of directors is made up of a mix of professionals of various backgrounds including: a lawyer, a financial advisor, a contracts specialist, engineers, small business owners, and dancers.



Outreach

Southwest Youth Ballet educational programs bring dance education into valley elementary schools. These programs include ballet history, music of popular ballets, movement and choreography. The company also conducts community outreach programs which consist of mini dance performances perfect for small venues and non-standard spaces. These programs are targeted for senior centers and children's hospitals.

Performances

The Southwest Youth Ballet performs The Nutcracker annually in December. The production includes a cast of extras as young as seven years old. The first performance was in 2007 using a combination of rented, used and new costumes. In 2008 the production increased its value by building out the remaining pieces of its costume collection. In 2009 the addition of live music performed by the Chandler Symphony Orchestra enhanced the performance with their full rich sound. In addition to The Nutcracker, professional choreographers are commissioned to create new dances for other performance opportunities throughout the season.



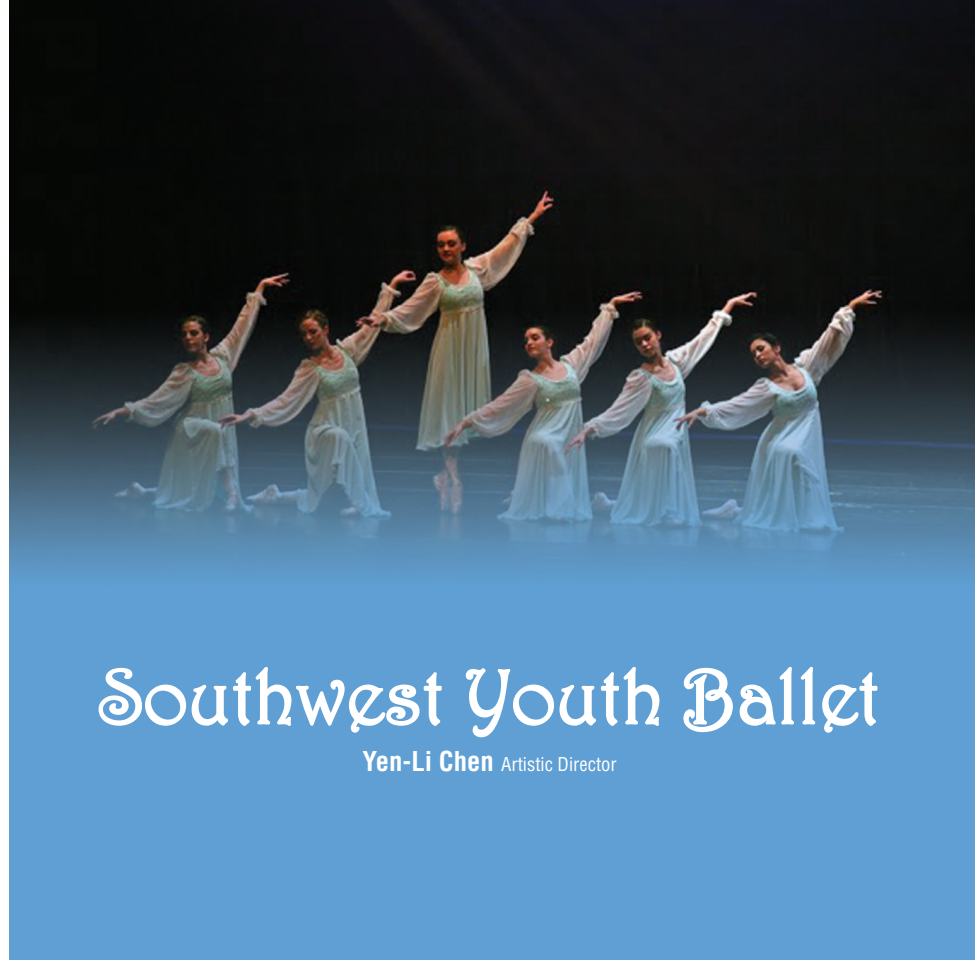


Yen-Li Chen Artistic Director

Yen-Li Chen's dancing has been praised by critics and audiences from Asia to South America and throughout the United States. She has been an invited guest artist at the Festival International de Caracas - Venezuela, The Santiago international Festival - Chile, in Taipei, Taiwan and at several dance companies across North America. A remarkable mastery of technique and artistry in both classical and contemporary repertory has earned Ms. Chen accolades of audiences throughout the world. Her repertory includes title roles in Giselle, Coppelia, Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker and numerous others. As a former Ballet Arizona principal, Ms. Chen has thrilled Arizona audiences since 1992. She brings the same passion and artistry of her dancing into the classroom. As a master teacher, Ms. Chen has taught at numerous ballet schools in Taiwan, Texas, Oregon, Arizona and California. In Taiwan, her early training in Vaganova and other ballet techniques has served her well as a dancer and a teacher.



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Southwest Youth Ballet

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