



alexandra ballet®

ALEXANDRA ZAHARIAS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Educating,
Elevating,
and
Enriching
St. Louis
for over
20 Years!*

Alexandra Ballet has been exciting St. Louis audiences for over 20 years with outstanding professional dance productions. Founded by Alexandra Zaharias, former student of the legendary George Balanchine, the Company has long been known as the best training ground in our region for serious dancers, and has provided hundreds of talented youngsters the opportunity to succeed. More importantly, this non-profit organization brings the beauty of dance and the thrill of a live performance to diverse audiences across the region each year. Alexandra Ballet offers everything from annual full-length classical ballets staged by internationally known choreographers, to smaller performances offered to the public free of charge at venues throughout the city. This dynamic company entertains and educates over 3,000 school children each year at the annual Young People's Performance, providing educational booklets to all classrooms, and presenting an interactive backstage demonstration as part of the experience. All performances foster the development of future patrons of the arts, sparking an interest that will last a lifetime, and are part of the important mission began in 1984 to educate, elevate, and enrich St. Louis through the art of dance.



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Alexandra Zaharias is founder of the Alexandra School of Ballet, the official school of Alexandra Ballet, established over 50 years ago. She received her early training in St. Louis from Isabella Rainford, and went on to study at the School of American Ballet in New York City under the legendary George Balanchine. She attended the National Academy of Ballet, under the direction of Thalia Mara, renowned teacher, author, and founder of the International Ballet Competition, held in Jackson Mississippi. Miss Zaharias is National Dance Chairman for the National Society of Arts and Letters, and past president of the St. Louis chapter. She has served as co-director of the Midwestern Music and Art Camp, University of Kansas, and taught ballet at Fontbonne College in Clayton, Missouri. She was Dance Consultant for the St. Louis Board of Education Commission, St. Louis, and served as dance panelist for the Missouri Arts Council and Regional Arts Commission, Saint Louis. She also directed four seasons of *The Nutcracker*, and choreographed *KinderKonzerts* and *Young People's Concerts* for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. Miss Zaharias received the Hellenic American Achievement Award in 1991

for her work in the arts, and in 1999, she was honored to accept the Arts & Education Council's Excellence in the Arts Award. She is an honorary member of the Dance St. Louis Troupe, and currently serves as Historian for Regional Dance America.

Students of Alexandra Zaharias have gone on to careers with major companies around the world, including Alvin Ailey Dance, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Hispanico, Basel Ballet (Switzerland), Charleston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Joffrey Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet Theatre, Richmond Ballet, Royal Birmingham Ballet (UK), and San Francisco Ballet.

68E Four Seasons Center
Chesterfield, MO 63107
Phone/Fax
314-469-6222
alexandra@alexandraballet.com
www.alexandraballet.com

Alexandra Ballet is a proud member of:
Dance St. Louis; Missouri Citizens for the Arts; and Regional Dance America
(MidStates Honor Company)





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Enriching St. Louis Through Free Performances



Alexandra Ballet is proud to offer several performances free of charge to the community throughout the season, with appearances at The Saint Louis Galleria, and the Missouri Botanical Garden, among others. These free events are the perfect opportunity for parents to introduce children to the magic of a live performance.

In conjunction with KFUO's Rhapsody in Bloom, a free annual performance is offered to the public against the back-drop of the beautiful historic gardens of Henry Shaw, The Missouri Botanical Garden. Families are invited to stroll through the beautiful surroundings while attending one of the fine arts performances that day.



In addition to short presentations around the area for various events, the Company offers four separate performances of a delightful, narrated version of *The Nutcracker*, abbreviated to adapt to younger audiences.



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Educating St. Louis with Annual Young People's Performances



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"You enabled many children to experience a ballet presentation, something they probably would not have experienced otherwise."

**Arlene Cohrs, Principal
St. Luke's Lutheran School**

In a culture where entertainment exists mostly in the electronic medium, Alexandra Ballet offers the exhilarating alternative of live performances. Our educational outreach initiatives are an effort to touch those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the beauty of ballet or a live fine arts performance. Our annual invitation to school districts across the St. Louis area to attend a free Young People's Performance is the finest example of our educational outreach into the community.

Each spring, more than 3,000 children from across the region attend two performances of a full-length ballet production at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. As a critical component of this effort, the teacher of every class in attendance is provided an educational booklet containing interesting, age-appropriate information on such topics as ballet history and terminology, choreography, composers, and costuming pertaining to each specific ballet. The booklet also contains devices such as puzzles, word-finders, and coloring pages to assist teachers with these concepts. These educational booklets serve a dual purpose; first, to educate and prepare the students for the performance they are about to see, and secondly, to motivate them to learn more about this fascinating, creative, and challenging art form.

"I could tell that your dancers are all very experienced and worked hard to achieve the goal of putting on this ballet so wonderfully. I am hoping to be able to see another performance done by Alexandra Ballet."

**Ellie Thiemann, Fifth Grade
Rossman School**



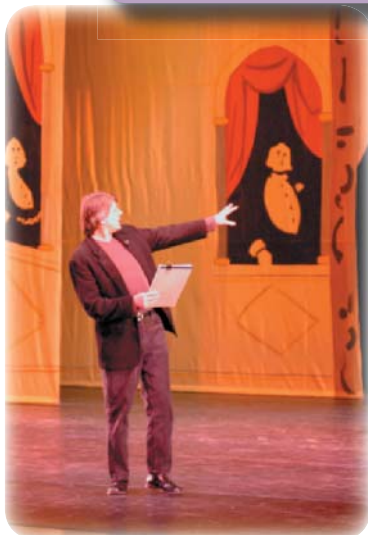
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"I hope you get the money to pay it all off. If I could, I would help you pay it off."

**Ronnie
St. Luke's Lutheran School**



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In 2005, we introduced a new, interactive presentation during intermission, teaching students what happens backstage during a performance, including interesting information on lighting, sound, scenery, and props, thus opening up yet more possibilities to the children, sparking an interest in participation in the arts.

"This was an experience most of us have never had before."

**Third Grade Teachers & Students
Buder Elementary**





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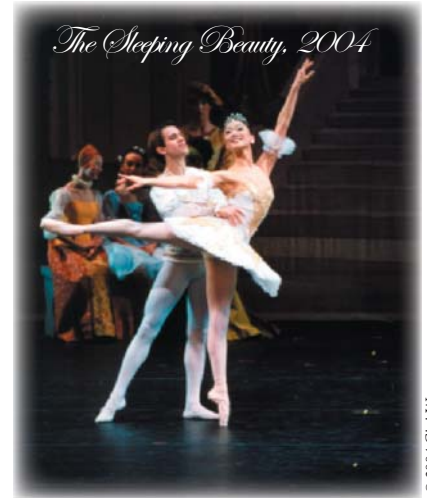
Elevating St. Louis with Full Length Ballets & Repertory Programs



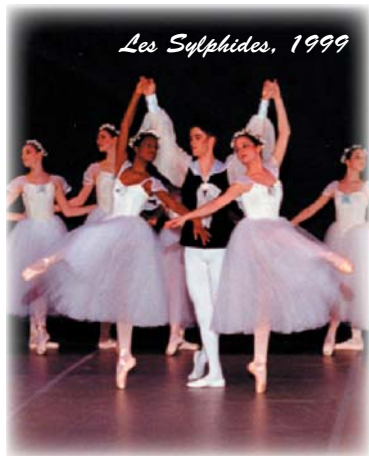
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Alexandra Ballet is the only ballet company in the St. Louis region that meets the challenge of producing a different full-length ballet every spring. In collaboration with internationally known choreographers and professional guest artists, these productions are unparalleled in their level of excellence.

This standard of excellence begins with the Company's Artistic Director and founder, Alexandra Zaharias. A gifted and distinguished teacher for over 50 years, Ms. Zaharias instills in each of her students the highest level of technical training and artistry. This combination of both artistry and technique is unequalled in St. Louis, and prepares the dancers for the Company's mission to elevate the community through the art of dance, in addition to offering them the best opportunity to pursue a professional career.



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