

A FE BALLET
will again soar



“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass; it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

—Vivian Greene

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET'S
ANNUAL FUND

A CAMPAIGN FOR
RESILIENCE



aspensantafeballet.com

PHOTOS: SHAREN BRADFORD

With your support
ASPEN SANT

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet’s multifaceted arts organization, with a boutique ballet company as its public-facing front, debuted nearly 25 years ago. Based in the American West, ASFB has embodied a frontier ethos: tough, resilient, and on-the-go. The support of many loyal patrons, all ballet believers, has made this possible. Our message—that dance brings joy to the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds—has been a blessing to our two vibrant home communities.

ASFB now faces an existential threat not of our making. No amount of astute management, fiscal prudence, artistic excellence, or even a dancer’s discipline could protect us from a global pandemic. It has dealt a severe blow.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Presents are on hiatus. They shall return. The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is working ceaselessly to operate under new protocols; Folklórico continues with courage.

We invite you, especially now, to stand with us in our fight to sustain ASFB.



PHOTO: ROSALIE O'CONNOR

THE SCHOOL OF ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

Dance education is essential to ASFB's mission. After shuttering studios and offering free online classes during the pandemic's initial lockdown, we have now carefully reopened. Operating under strict guidelines, we have restored a much-needed creative and social outlet to our children. We now run but a fraction of the 120 classes per week we offered to almost 500 students before the coronavirus.

This activity forms our very roots in the community. We are determined to spare our students the deprivation of dance in their lives. Even with these limited offerings, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide a supportive learning environment for young dancers. We take immense pride in our alumni who study at prestigious programs including Ailey/Fordham University, American Ballet Theatre, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Boston Ballet, Interlochen Arts Academy, Joffrey Ballet School, North Carolina School for the Arts, and San Francisco Ballet School. Seeing the optimism and joy in the faces of aspiring young students—even if behind a mask—fuels our motivation and gives us hope.

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET FOLKLÓRICO

At its peak, the award-winning ASFB Folklórico enriched the lives of 400 local children through free, after-school classes in Mexican folkloric dance. Serving 13 locations in the Roaring Fork Valley and Santa Fe public schools, the program promotes positive youth development, creative expression, and the crossing of cultural boundaries. The current pandemic has had a devastating impact on our Latino community, making this program a wellspring of hope to many youth as a source of physical activity, self-expression, and cultural pride. Today, when it is most needed, ASFB Folklórico is offering a scaled-back program in a safe environment that continues to connect families and keep traditions alive. We look forward to seeing the Folklórico children dance again on stage, at festivals, and in the streets!



PHOTO: ANNA STONEHOUSE



PHOTO: SHAREN BRADFORD

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

Our homegrown, critically acclaimed, and artistically adventurous ballet company has toured the world as a cultural ambassador for Aspen and Santa Fe. Things changed nearly overnight when a pandemic broke out just as ASFB was poised for its much anticipated debut in Germany. That engagement would have added a stamp in our passports next to others: Italy, France, Canada, Israel, Brazil, Mexico, and Russia.

As our 25th anniversary approaches, ASFB, with its signature aesthetic and original commissioned ballets, occupies a unique space as a key influencer in the dance field. Although our ensemble of talented artists is on hiatus, ASFB's quarter-century benchmark beckons! We are driven by the vision of the curtain rising again on our cherished dance company. Let's reach and celebrate this milestone together!

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET PRESENTS

ASFB's fondness for dance of all genres shines forth in its presentation series. The public health crisis we face as a performing arts organization is mirrored by dance companies across the world. We feel for our colleagues. Our commitment to excellence is on view in the culturally and ethnically diverse roster of dance companies we have presented: Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Alvin Ailey II, Ballet West, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Diavolo, Grupo Corpo, Hong Kong Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Joffrey Ballet, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, MOMIX, Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, Parsons Dance, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Pilobolus, and more. The return of our presenting series, now on pause, will be an early signal of our art form's recovery.



PHOTO: PIERANGELA FLISI