

Borderlands Ballet Company | BBC
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**Inaugural Auditions for Borderlands Ballet Company, August 10th, 2016
with Artistic Director Monique Foster**

July 22nd, 2016 — (Las Cruces, NM) The Borderlands Ballet Company is a newly founded non-profit dance company based in Las Cruces, NM and serving the entire borderland region with performances and educational outreach. The Company's mission is to establish a professional quality ballet troupe that will share the beauty of dance with the broadest possible audience within the borderland community (and beyond). Auditions will be held in the main dance studio of the Las Cruces School of Dance & Music located at 1390 N. Main in Las Cruces. Auditions will run from 10:00-12:00 pm, and aspiring company members are encouraged to arrive at least a half hour early. Complete information, including requirements and online preregistration, can be found at the BBC website: www.borderlands-ballet.com. Call backs will be immediate and all dancers should be prepared to return to the studio for an initial rehearsal and orientation from 3:00-6:00 pm if they are selected for the Company.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring professional-level ballet to southern New Mexico and El Paso," says artistic director Monique Foster. As the New Mexico/Texas border region develops into a significant southwestern cultural center, Borderlands Ballet aspires to develop into an influential resident ballet company that allows regional talent to transition into a serious dance career without simply picking up and leaving the area. "Without a range of opportunities," says Foster, "we end up losing some of our most talented individuals to other communities rather than the other way around." The Company will begin developing its repertoire with a number of smaller productions throughout the year, culminating in its first stage production in the spring of 2017 with the premiere of its original show *Café de Vie, Café D'amour*.

But Borderlands Ballet isn't only concerned with providing opportunities for local dancers. According to Heather Gandy, one of the founding board members and acting president, the organization is founded on a commitment to educational and humanitarian outreach. "I am involved with a lot of charitable work in the community," she says, "and I believe that Borderlands can help contribute to these events as a great entertainment option." In fact, the Company's outreach calendar is already starting to fill up, with the performances set for the Downtown Civic Plaza Opening (September 17th) and the 2016 Renaissance Faire (November 5th & 6th).

Being available for this kind of charitable outreach in the community is another reason why a local ballet company provides something more than the shows that outside dance companies occasionally bring to the area. It also allows the Company to do significant educational outreach to the local schools. “We already have fundraising initiatives in the works to bus students to local dance performances,” says Gandy. Dance, particularly ballet, is one of the less well-understood art forms. Monique Foster explains, “In ballet, even movements that look very simple on stage can literally take years of training.” Promoting a greater appreciation for dance by getting the word out about the artistic and athletic demands of dance is something the Company feels strongly about. They are currently developing a series of short educational tutorials that can be presented to interested groups around the region. If interested, contact them from their website: www.borderlands-ballet.com.