

# SCORPIUS

DANCE THEATRE



**MEDIA KIT**

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[scorpiusdance.com](http://scorpiusdance.com)

# SCORPIUS

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## SCORPIUS DANCE THEATRE

Formed in 1999 by choreographer, Lisa Starry, Scorpius Dance Theatre is observing its 15 season in operation. The contemporary dance company has been a constant presence in the metropolitan Phoenix arts community since its inception, combining the motifs of humor, drama, organic and technical movement and aerial arts to form a very distinct brand of dance theater.

Voted **BEST CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY 2009 & 2010** and **BEST DANCE COLLECTIVE 2012** by Phoenix New Times, Scorpius is best known for they're highly accessible, evening-length, themed productions such as Dreaming In Water, An Unusual Love Story...David & Lisa, Catwalk, Kick A Showcase and Lisa Starry's annual signature cult classic, A Vampire Tale.

**VOTED BEST CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY,**  
**BEST PRODUCTION** and **BEST DANCE COLLECTIVE**

by Phoenix New Times



Received Mayors Award for **"DANCE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR"**



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED FROM CHOREOGRAPHER  
**LISA STARRY!**

Lisa Starry has been commissioned by **Jose Cuervo, Phoenix Opera, Nearly Naked Theatre, Teatro Bravo,** and other prominent art organizations to create exciting, original choreography and staging.

Starry's work is sought after by **international directors, filmmakers, and music artists.**

Lisa creates **highly-entertaining contemporary dance, theater, and aerial dance.**

She **thrives on the challenge of surprising audiences** and presenting breathtaking choreography.

Starry's solid reputation, combined with her **intensity and passion** for live performance, has excelled her as **one of Arizona's leading artists.**



USA STARRY'S  
A VAMPIRE TALE

11TH CONSECUTIVE SEASON WITH  
PERFORMANCES IN THE US AND UK



**"A VAMPIRE TALE IS ONE OF THOSE  
RAREST OF SPECIES, A CULT HIT IN THE  
WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE."**

~ KERRY LENGEL, ARIZONA REPUBLIC



This very popular, ever-evolving, original dance production pre-dates all the current pop-culture vampire phenomena; often referred to as the "Nutcracker of Halloween."

Receiving national and international acclaim, the company has performed A Vampire Tale at the Twilight Convention and Phoenix Comicon. The show has toured to Helena MT, Los Angeles CA, The Vampire Film Series and Festival in New Orleans and the Bram Stoker International Film Festival in Whitby, England.

Run time of 120 minutes with intermission. 20 dancers featuring contemporary, modern, ballroom, theater and aerial arts.

DREAMING IN  
WATER

A SENSORY SHOWCASE OF WATER,  
FILM AND MOVEMENT, TOLD  
THROUGH THE EYES OF A  
YOUNG BOY'S IMAGINATION.



Dreaming in Water, a sensory showcase of original dance, aerial arts, film, and music. The story is told through the eyes of a young boy's imagination as audiences are transported into a dream world where the wonderment of water is brought to life. Dreaming in Water features five original water-themed dance videos, including one large opening film created entirely underwater. The dancers bring fluidity and movement to the stage through choreographed works and aerial arts. After a successful performance at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Chandler AZ, Dreaming in Water was recently selected to perform at the Sedona International Film Festival in Sedona AZ.

Run time of 90 minutes with intermission.  
15-20 dancers featuring contemporary,  
modern and aerial arts.





# catwalk

DANCE + FASHION = RUNWAY ATTITUDE

WHERE FASHION MEETS DANCE;  
ON THE RUNWAY



Staged on a runway, and set to popular rock, pop and mix music, this original contemporary dance production fuses funky, local fashions, sexy athleticism and the distinct choreography of Lisa Starry. Catwalk features 18 different choreographic works that are connected by video montages and fashion runway spoofs.

Run time of 90 minutes with intermission.  
15-20 dancers featuring contemporary, modern, ballroom, theater and aerial arts.

david+lisa  
an unusual love story

AN INTENSE FAIRYTALE (OF SORTS),  
INSPIRED BY THE POPULAR 1962  
LOVE STORY, DAVID AND LISA.



An unusual love story: david+lisa is an intense fairytale "of sorts" that tells of two people who meet in a mental institution. After a series of events, an unlikely attachment is developed between the volatile individuals. The true lives of David and Lisa have also been the subject of a fact-based, psychoanalytic book, a stage play, and a 1960s film. Scorpius was the first to abstract their story into the realm of contemporary dance, featuring monochromatically themed staging and original music.

Run time of 90 minutes with intermission.  
15-20 dancers featuring contemporary and modern dance.



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**KICK A  
SHOWCASE**

FEATURING CHOREOGRAPHY  
FROM THE SOUTHWEST US



Featuring "kick-a" choreography by artistic director, Lisa Starry and Scorpius dancers. Not your average repertory production, Kick-A will knock you out of your seat with genius dance compositions and stellar stage performances.

Run time of 120 minutes with intermission.

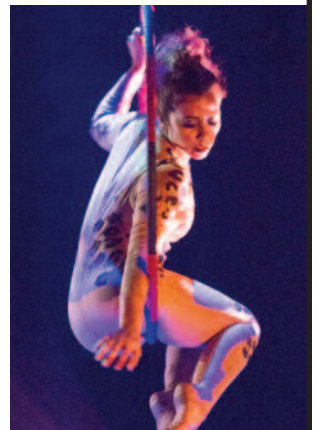


# catwalk

I LOVE DURAN DURAN



**A TRIBUTE FOR THE FANS  
OF DURAN DURAN**



Scorpius Dance Theatre's popular fashion runway themed production, Catwalk takes the stage with a focus on the iconic 80s British rock group, Duran Duran. With a combination of dance and live music, entire production pays tribute to the band's fashion forward style, ultra sexy music videos, and chart topping music.

Run time of 120 minutes with intermission.  
15-20 dancers featuring contemporary, modern, ballroom, aerial arts and live band.



**Lisa Starry**  
**Artistic Director/Choreographer**

Born under the astrological sign of Scorpio, Lisa Starry is intense but friendly, passionate and determined, dependable and intuitive. These inherent traits are what help make Scorpius Dance Theatre the foremost performing arts company in Arizona.

Lisa grew up throughout the US and Europe, a product of the 1960s and her free-spirited German Mother. She began her formal dance training in modern, ballet, and choreography at the Phoenix School of Ballet in 1985 and continued on to college to receive her BFA in Dance/Choreography from the California Institute for the Arts in 1993. That same year she was presented with a full scholarship to the London Contemporary School of Dance student exchange program.

Lisa manages Scorpius like a tight-knit family and many dancers enjoy working with her for that reason. Other dancers simply respect Lisa for her creativity and motivation...always thinking outside of the box. This is a team environment and Scorpius' strengths come from the mutual care, respect and cooperation of dancers, volunteers, and board members. A consummate professional, it's been instinctive for Lisa to build relationships within the metropolitan Phoenix arts community and she continues to do so in the dance and theater circles. As a result of Lisa's reputation, personal character, and with the steady exposure of this unique contemporary dance company, Scorpius quite often has exclusive opportunities presented to them, regularly experimenting with innovative performance situations while making new friends.

Starry's annual Fall production of A Vampire Tale was voted **BEST MODERN DANCE PRODUCTION 2007** and Scorpius Dance Theatre was named **BEST CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY 2009 & 2010** and named **BEST DANCE COLLECTIVE 2012** by Phoenix New Times BEST OF Awards. She has been commissioned by other prominent arts groups and organizations and has featured choreography throughout the US. In addition to Scorpius, Lisa is in the process of producing a film based on her signature cult classic, A Vampire Tale.

Lisa stays very busy with projects outside of Scorpius and is regularly recognized and honored as an independent artist.

- Honored as one of the "**100 Creatives**" by the Phoenix New Times
- Awarded **Best Artist in Phoenix Magazine's 2013** Best of the Valley poll.
- Awarded first place in the Choreography category at the **Cave Creek Film & Arts Festival 2010 & 11**
- Featured choreography in several music video's with **up-and-coming music artist, Miss Krystle**.
- Honored as a nominee for **Arts Advocate of the Year by the Arts & Business Council**.
- Featured choreography in the short films, "**Accordion**" & "**Weekend**"

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**Nicole Olson**  
**Associate Director, Dancer**

Nicole received her BFA in Dance from the University of WI-Stevens Point after attending Milwaukee Ballet School. She has worked with numerous dance companies throughout Milwaukee and Chicago, and has received recognition for her choreographic endeavors. Currently, she directs the dance department at Metropolitan Arts Institute. Nicole joined Scorpius in 2000.



**Gavin Sisson**  
**Assistant Rehearsal Director & Aerial Training, Dancer**

Gavin is originally from Belleville Illinois. He began his professional career at the age of 18 for the St Louis MUNY Theatre, America's largest outdoor amphitheater. He worked with MADCO from 1998-2002 before moving to New York. In New York he worked with several small companies and was then hired as one of six select dancers for the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. In 2005 a dream came true for Gavin, as he performed classic original works choreographed by Mr. Hawkins, at the Lincoln Center in Manhattan. Gavin returned to MADCO in 2007 as a principle dancer, where he most recently worked with Frank Chaves (River North Dance Co), Robert Battle (artistic director of Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre), and Janice Garrett (Janice Garrett & Dancers). He also served as a teaching artist for the St Louis ArtWorks, a nationally recognized program that uses the arts to provide job training skills for youth in need. Gavin joined Scorpius in 2011.



**Lisa Hammond**  
**Administrative Assistant, Dancer**

Lisa grew up dancing in the Phoenix area. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance and dancing for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, she returned to teach at various studios throughout the valley and Mesa Community College. Along with teaching and co-directing the dance company at Desert Star Dance, she chases her three kids, Taylor, Sydney, and Jake (also dancers). Lisa first joined Scorpius in 2006 for two years and is very excited to be back.



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**Jose Soto**

**Assistant Choreographer to Lisa Starry & Aerial Team, Dancer**

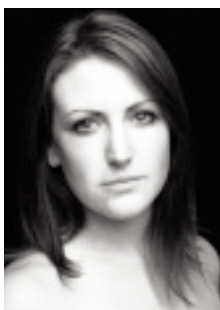
Jose graduated from Maryvale High School where he started his dance training at the age of 17 with Ms. Elizabeth Roper in ballet. He has been a company member of Center Dance Ensemble and was a member of Epik Dance Company for 3 years. He has worked with the Mercury Hip Hop Squads for two seasons and the NBA. Jose has choreographed for The Arizona Sidewinders Dance Team (NFL) and has worked with many high schools around the valley. Jose has participated in a "My45" Commercial, Ms. Asia Arizona Pageants and Celebration of Dance. Right now, Jose teaches at 3 dance studios while performing with Scorpius and Scandalisque. Although he has been involved as a guest artist with Scorpius, his first official season with the company started in 2010.



**Angel Castro**

**Dancer, Admin Assistant & Aerial Team**

Angel started his career in the arts at a young age when he began to study acting and musical theater. It wasn't until his senior year in high school, at the age of 18, when he started dancing. His training started at the South Mountain High School dance magnet. Upon graduating in 2008, he auditioned and was admitted to the ASU School of Dance where he is currently pursuing his BFA in Dance. In 2009, Angel performed with Aaron McGloin Dance and Dulce Dance Company. He is currently dancing with EPIK Dance Company and Scandalisque. Angel joined Scorpius in 2010.



**Bridgette Caron**

**Dancer, Costume Assistant**

Bridgette graduated from Arizona State University in 2007 with a BFA in Dance Choreography. While studying dance in college, she had the honor of playing Division I softball for San Diego State University and finishing her career at Arizona State University. Bridgette danced in 32 Flavors Dance Company and taught Ballroom lessons at Arthur Murray Dance Studio upon graduation. Perhaps her most ambitious endeavor was establishing her own Massage Therapy Practice in Phoenix in 2009. Bridgette joined Scorpius in 2010.



**Liliana Gomez**

**Dancer**

Liliana has been in awe of Scorpius for some time – first as a fan while in high school, then as an apprentice and guest artist, and finally, as a company member. She has also worked with Instinct Dancecorps, LizCasebolt Dance, Garner-Gutierrez Dance, and now co-directs Dulce Dance Co. She is passionate about art that educates and fills the soul and is a strong supporter of the downtown art/dance scene. She enjoys watching movies and riding her bicycle. Lili first joined Scorpius in 2003.

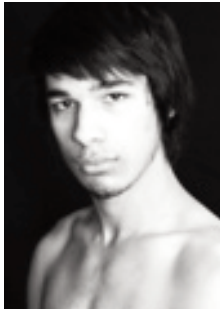
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**Kalli Sparish**  
**Dancer, Aerial Team**

Kalli grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in May 2006 with a B.A. in dance and a minor in psychology. After graduation, Kalli spent the fall of 2006 dancing and living in NYC. Upon returning to Minneapolis, she has enjoyed dancing throughout the city in various projects – including the Minnesota Fringe Festival, University of Minnesota Opera Theatre, a reconstruction of Trisha Brown's Planes at the Walker Art Museum, Rainy Day Cabaret, and spent 2006-2008 as an apprentice and performer with Carl Flink's Black Label Movement. This summer she completed her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy at the U of MN and recently relocated to Phoenix. Kalli joined Scorpius in 2009.



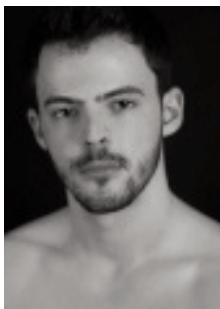
**Haydehn Tuipulotu**  
**Dancer, Aerial Team**

Haydehn started dancing at Washington High School. Currently, he is working on his Associate's Degree in Fine Arts at Scottsdale Community College, where he has performed with SCC Moving Company, Southern Arizona Jazz Ensemble, and Instinct Dancecorps. Haydehn is a founding member of No Limitz Dance Crew. This is his first season with Scorpius.



**Anca Mihalcescu**  
**Dancer**

Anca was born in Romania and moved to Anchorage, Alaska in 1998, where she began her training. Anca continued her dancing at the Univ. of Alaska. She was able to work with many guest choreographers and attend the NW's ACDFA conference. In '09, Ms. Mihalcescu moved to Tempe, AZ, where she attended Mesa Community College. At MCC, Anca continued performing/choreographing, winning 1st place for Solo Choreography, Solo Performance, and Group Performance at the Artists of Promise Dance Competition in Phoenix. Anca is currently attending ASU as a major in Kinesiology and a minor in Dance. This is her first season with Scorpius.

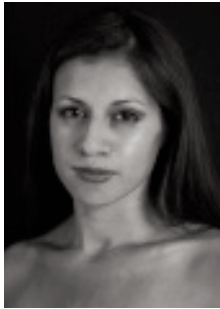


**Andrew Hagerty**  
**Dancer**

Andrew Hagerty began dancing at the age of 9 and graduated under the direction of Donald Dadey and Sibylle Acatos-Dadey at the Scottsdale School of Ballet. Andrew attended Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's graduate program on full scholarship and went on to perform in PBT's Giselle, and 30 performances of The Nutcracker Suite under the direction of Terrence Orr. Andrew joined Scorpius in 2013.

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**Martha Patricia Hernandez**  
**Dancer**

Martha Hernandez is a born native to Jalisco, Mexico. She was first a painter, and then joined dance at Metropolitan Arts Institute in 2005. Martha gained additional training from Ballet Arizona and the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. She has performed with Physical Graffiti, Center Dance Ensemble, and Roberto Villanueva's BalaSole Dance Company at Dance Theatre Workshop in New York City. Recently earning her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance with an emphasis in Media for Dance from Arizona State University. This is Martha's second season with Scorpius.



**Ashley Zarr**  
**Dancer**

Originally hailing from Iowa, Ashley moved to the Valley in 2010 following the completion of her B.A. in Dance from the University of Iowa. After having taught dance for six years at various studios throughout Iowa, Ashley decided to fully pursue her own dreams of dancing professionally. She has danced with Dias Dance Life, Desert Dance Theatre and is currently in her third season as a core member with Dulce Dance Company. Ashley is thrilled to be joining Scorpius after much admiration from afar. Ashley joined Scorpius in 2013.



**Liz Ann Hewett**  
**Dancer**

Liz Ann Hewett started dancing at 14 in Houston, Texas as a street and break dancer. She has toured with the Mexican pop group Kabah and done opening performances for Jordin Sparks, Ricky Martin, Fat Joe, and The Roots. She appeared in Janet Jackson's 20 Y.O. DVD in 2006 as a dancer in Janet's private audition process. She also represented the USA in the World Hip Hop Championships in Bremen, Germany. She moved to Phoenix in 2008 when she received a scholarship to the School of Dance at Arizona State University. She continued her training with ASU, EPIK Dance Company, and now performs with Scorpius Dance Theatre. Within the last year Liz Ann has graduated ASU with a minor in Dance, was featured in the online series AXI: Avengers of Extreme Illusions, and attended "Vegas Week" for So You Think You Can Dance Season 9. Her goal is to continue evolving as a dancer and bring something to every style. Liz joined Scorpius in 2013.



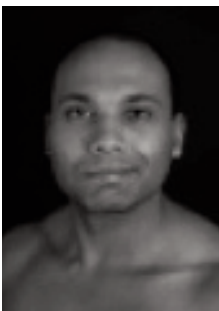
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**Erin Runbeck**  
**Dancer**

Erin started dancing her freshman year of high school at Metropolitan Arts Institute in Phoenix, AZ. During her years there, she performed in many school and professional productions including Celebration Of Dance and was awarded the 2010 Young Adult Choreography award by the Cave Creek Film and Arts Festival. She joined the company as an apprentice in January 2012 and currently studies genetics and cell biology at Arizona State University. Music and movement continues to be her passion and preferred method of expression. Erin is ecstatic to continue dancing in more wonderful performances with her Scorpion family.



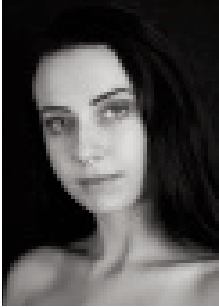
**Dominique Bailey**  
**Dancer**

Dominique started training when he was eighteen years old and knew right away he had a passion for dance. Dominique has danced for Verve Dance Company for the past year and a half and describes his dance style as diverse fusion of contemporary modern. Dominique is currently studying to receive his bachelor's degree in forensic science at Grand Canyon University. This is his first season with Scorpion.



**Travis Richardson**  
**Dancer**

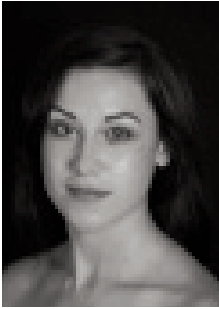
Travis began his dance training at Metropolitan Arts Institute. He received his Bachelors in Dance from California Institute of the Arts in 2013. He has danced with Pennington Dance Group in Pasadena, CA and has had the pleasure of performing at the RedCat Theatre in Los Angeles. Now back in his home state of Arizona, he's glad to be back where it all started and is looking forward to the next adventure. This is his first season with Scorpion Dance Theatre.



**Samantha Dutcher**  
Apprentice



**Teala Jacobs**  
Apprentice



**Julia Goraj**  
Apprentice

## **2014/15 Board of Directors**

Eric Chapman (President)

Mike Eddy

David Weiss

Heather Jones

Lorraine Toner

Jen Marson

# SCORPIUS

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## CONTACT:

Scorpius Dance Theatre and Scorpius Aerial Studios

Studio residency  
at Metropolitan Arts Institute

Season performances at The Hormel  
Theatre at Phoenix Theatre

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