



25 to Watch

Kathi Martuza Shaping Her Future

Kathi Martuza, 25, squeezes every last drop out of her movement phrases, mindfully shaping every inch of her athletic and elegant frame with quiet effort. Onstage her slightest gestures are amplified by a chiseled face, muscular body, and sumptuously arched feet. ■ A born principal? You'd think so, but this captivating beauty honed her skills for six years in the corps of San Francisco Ballet before packing her bags for Oregon Ballet Theatre, where she is currently shining in major roles. ■ "She has blossomed into an artist," says Julia Adam, choreographer and former principal with SFB. "And what's fun as a choreographer are the shapes her body creates. It's so curvy and strong." ■ Last year, Martuza's first at OBT, she stole the spotlight in an array of roles including Balanchine's *Duo Concertant* (above with Artur Sultanov) and OBT artistic director Christopher Stowell's sultry, tango-inspired pas de deux in *Adin*. "She's running with everything I'm handing her," says Stowell. "She is really rising to the occasion." ■ www.obt.org —KATE LYDON

On the verge in 2005, DM's 25 to Watch