

OREGON BALLET THEATRE

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2011/2012 COMPANY PROMOTIONS AND ADDITIONS

PRINCIPAL DANCERS

PROMOTED Brett Bauer received his training at National Ballet School of Canada, Kirov Academy and San Francisco Ballet School. Brett performed with San Francisco Ballet from 2002 to 2010 when he joined Oregon Ballet Theatre. He has been featured in works by Yuri Possokhov, Paul Taylor, George Balanchine, and Helgi Tomasson, among others.

NEW! Xuan Cheng has danced with Guangzhou Ballet of China, La La La Human Steps and most recently with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Her roles include Juliet in Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo and Juliet*, Princess Lena in Christian Spucks *Leonce and Lena* and the Sugar Plum Fairy in Fernand Nault's *The Nutcracker*, among others. In 2006, she was awarded the Gold medal at the National Tao Li Bei Dance Competition in China. She joins Oregon Ballet Theatre as a Principal Dancer.

NEW! Haiyan Wu was born in Beijing, China. Haiyan graduated from The Beijing Dance Academy. After she danced with The National Ballet of China she joined Miami City Ballet as a Principal Dancer in 2003. She is the Gold Medal winner of The Shanghai International Ballet Competition in 2002 and the Gold Medal winner of the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi in 2004. She was named one of the top 10 performers of Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center in 2010. She has performed all over the world including France, Russia, Denmark, Turkey, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Wu is married to Yang Zou.

NEW! Yang Zou was born in Changsha, China. Yang began his ballet training at Guangzhou Art School when he was 12 and danced with Guangzhou Ballet for five years. Then he joined Miami City Ballet as a soloist in 2005 and was promoted to Principal Soloist in 2008. He is the Silver Medal winner of the 3rd Shanghai International Ballet Competition in 2004 and the Bronze Medal winner of the National Ballet Competition in China in 2003. He has performed all over the world including Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Australia and Peru. Zou is married to Haiyan Wu.

SOLOISTS

NEW! Ye Li began his career as a soloist at the Guangzhou Ballet of China as a Soloist, and most recently danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. He has been featured in Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo and Juliet*, Ohad Narin's *Minus One* and Mats Ek's *Sleeping Beauty*, among others. He received the Award of Excellent Performance in the Second Shanghai International Ballet Competition. He joins Oregon Ballet Theatre as a Soloist.

PROMOTED Brian Simcoe began his training in Southern Oregon under the direction of Sylvia Bolton, and also studied with the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet School and Long Beach Ballet Arts Center. At OBT, he has appeared in Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake*, Lar Lubovitch's *Concerto Six Twenty Two*, as the Cavalier in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and *Who Cares?*, and the leading role in Jerome Robbins' *Afternoon of a Faun*.

PROMOTED Lucas Threefoot is from Portland, Oregon. He studied at the School of OBT, the School of American Ballet and San Francisco Ballet School. Lucas joined the company in 2007 after dancing with OBT as an apprentice during the 2006-2007 season. His leading roles include Bluebird in Christopher Stowell's *The Sleeping Beauty*, the Cavalier in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, and Christopher Stowell's *The Rite of Spring*.

Company Artists

NEW! Michael Breeden is a native of Lexington, Kentucky. He began his training at the Lexington Ballet and continued at Central Pennsylvania Ballet, School of American Ballet and San Francisco Ballet School. He danced with Boston Ballet II before joining Miami City Ballet where he danced principal roles in works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor.

PROMOTED Adam Hartley joins the company as a Company Artist after two years as an Apprentice. He was born in Orange, California and studied at Pacific Coast Academy of Dance with Victor and Tatiana Kasatsky. During his time with the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, he danced leading roles in the school's annual performance. Such roles include Franz in Kent Stowell's *Coppelia*, the leading man in George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* pas de deux, and the leading man in George Balanchine's *La Source*.

NEW! Michael Linsmeier grew up on a small dairy farm in Wisconsin, and began his training with the Jean Wolfmeyer School of Dance. He attended the Virginia School of the Arts during high school. After graduating he joined the Milwaukee Ballet Company, and danced there for seven years. This is Michael's inaugural season with Oregon Ballet Theatre.

NEW! Neil Marshall was born in New York City, NY. He trained there at the School of American Ballet under teachers Peter Boal, Richard Rapp and Olga Kostritzky. He went on to perform with Pennsylvania Ballet, Suzanne Farrell Ballet and Miami City Ballet where he has performed principal roles in the works of George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, Trey McIntyre and John Cranko.

NEW! Kate Oderkirk joins OBT for her first season after dancing with Tulsa Ballet Theater for 5 years, most recently as a Soloist. Her repertoire includes featured roles in works choreographed by George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Jorma Elo, Nacho Duato, Twyla Tharp, Hans Van Manen and Jerome Robbins. She trained at Westside Academy of Ballet under Yvonne Mounsey, Rosemary Valaire and Collen Neary, and as a trainee at San Francisco Ballet School.

PROMOTED Olivia Ornelas was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and studied under Sharon Meko at Ballet Etudes and at Mary Moe Adams Royal Ballet Academy. Olivia joins the company after three years, first being a member of the school's Professional Division and later an Apprentice. During her time with the school, Olivia has performed leading roles in the annual performance including the soloist woman in George Balanchine's *La Source*, as *GW* in Robert Henry Johnson's *Road to the Yellow Carnival*, in Christopher Stowell's *Within Range* and *Peter and the Wolf* (the Cat), and as one of the couples in George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*