

OREGON BALLET THEATRE

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**OREGON BALLET THEATRE ANNOUNCES
NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AS IT
ENTERS ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

Portland, Ore... Today, Oregon Ballet Theatre's Board of Directors announced the creation of a new organizational structure for the company as it enters its 20th-anniversary season. Changes include a reconfigured management team that will be led by Artistic Director Christopher Stowell. Current Executive Director Jon Ulsh, who successfully guided the company for the past three and a half years, is stepping down but will remain available to OBT to help assure a smooth transition. The company's Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wells, will oversee administrative functions and manage OBT's budget. Wells will report to both Stowell and the Board's Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees will take a more direct role in the company's fundraising efforts, with Director of Marketing Erik Jones managing day-to-day development department operations, reporting to Christopher Stowell.

"The Board of Trustees wants to thank Jon Ulsh for his tremendous contribution and dedication to OBT over the last three years," said Chair Kathleen Curtis Cosgrove. "We are very appreciative of his role in institutionalizing some of the best management practices we will continue to rely on going forward."

In June, when Oregon Ballet Theatre announced that a negative cash flow threatened to put the company out of business, Portlanders along with the larger North American dance community rallied to save the organization. This overwhelming show of support confirmed the need to finish the internal evaluation and restructuring of OBT's business operations. Since that time, the trustees, management, staff and artists of the company have worked together to implement a 28% reduction to OBT's budget and have put in place conservative financial forecasting models that will guide future planning. Oregon Ballet Theatre is committed to delivering innovative and exciting new programming within realistic financial parameters.

Christopher Stowell, speaking of his expanded responsibilities within the company said, "I'm looking forward to this new role and will work diligently to further the artistic vision of Oregon Ballet Theatre while implementing the financial controls that will assure the viability of OBT for generations to come."

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