

# OREGON BALLET THEATRE

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## OREGON BALLET THEATRE TO PERFORM AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER

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**Portland, Ore...** Oregon Ballet Theatre artistic director Christopher Stowell announced today that, fresh on the heels of the company's successful Kennedy Center debut in June, OBT will be represented this September at **New York City Center's annual Fall For Dance festival**.

Now in its fourth year, Fall For Dance assembles more than two dozen companies every autumn from across the country and around the globe for ten days of performances that span a wide and eclectic range of dance genres. OBT is one of just eight ballet companies invited to participate in 2008, joining American Ballet Theatre, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Spain's Compañía Nacional de Danza, Houston Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Ballet, and The Suzanne Farrell Ballet. Other notable festival performers include BeijingDance, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Oregon Ballet Theatre principal dancers **Alison Roper** and **Artur Sultanov** will perform the central pas de deux from **Christopher Wheeldon's RUSH**, the ballet that OBT danced in its entirety last month in Washington, DC.

Created in 2003 for San Francisco Ballet and set to a Bohuslav Martinu score, *RUSH*, in its entirety, employs a corps of five couples, two pair of soloists and a principal couple who dance the section to be excerpted for Fall For Dance. "Elegant, elegiac and dark" (Rita Felciano, in *Dance View Times*), this central pas deux serves as an intimate counterpoint to the bright, fast-paced athleticism that otherwise marks the complete ballet. Spiraling lifts and close partnering throughout contribute to the duet's unbroken drama.

**The Washington Post** called Roper and Sultanov's Kennedy Center performance "smoldering," and **The New York Times** applauded the couple's "unbroken concentration."

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Two weeks after the New York performances, OBT will open its 2008-09 season in Portland with five performances of **Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake***, which will feature Roper and Sultanov as one of the couples performing the lead roles of Odette/Odile and Siegfried.

“To close one season at the Kennedy Center and open the next at City Center, establishes a new and exciting set of expectations for OBT,” said Stowell. “I know it will elicit a new level of inspiring performances by our dancers and result in even greater exposure for OBT.” He added, “City Center holds a special place in my heart. It is the theater where my parents spent the bulk of their dancing careers and where I performed many times with San Francisco Ballet.”

Constructed in 1923 as a fraternal meeting hall, **New York City Center** was renovated in 1943 before reopening as Manhattan's first performing arts center. It was the birthplace of both **the New York City Ballet** and **New York Opera**, and has been a cultural hub for Gothamites for 65 years. Today, as the city's premier dance center, it is the home of **American Ballet Theatre**, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, and **Christopher Wheeldon's Morphoses**.

Fall For Dance takes place **September 17-27, 2008**. Oregon Ballet Theatre is scheduled to perform on **September 20 and 21**. All tickets are \$10 and go on sale September 7. Contact New York City Center for details: [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org) or 212.247.0430.

Oregon Ballet Theatre's season-opening performances of Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake* are **October 11-18** at Portland's Keller Auditorium. The company will also perform the full version of *RUSH* at Keller Auditorium in June of 2009. **Tickets for all 2008-09 programs start at \$19 and are on sale now**. Visit [www.obt.org](http://www.obt.org) or call 503.2.BALLET for details.

Founded in 1989, **OREGON BALLET THEATRE** is a not-for-profit, professional ballet company, with a school, based in Portland, Oregon. On July 1, 2003, **Christopher Stowell** became **OREGON BALLET THEATRE's** artistic director and **Damara Bennett** joined OBT as school director. **OREGON BALLET THEATRE** offers the highest quality ballet, in a repertoire of classic and contemporary work, to the people of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and the United States.

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