

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

KEVIN IRVING / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SCHOOL OF OREGON BALLET THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR
Anthony Jones, Seasoned Dancer and Ballet Director, Brings Wealth of Professional Experience

October 14, 2013 – Portland, OR

The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre (SOBT) has announced the appointment of Anthony Jones as its new director. Mr. Jones' appointment comes after an extensive international search by SOBT's School Director Search Committee.

"Anthony Jones brings a wealth of knowledge and a unique combination of ballet pedagogy, business management skills and experience as a professional dancer," said Nancy Locke, Chair of SOBT School Director Search Committee and member of the OBT Board of Trustees. "Portland should feel proud to have attracted such a dynamic artist and organizational leader to our region."

A native of Minneapolis, Mr. Jones began his ballet studies at the Minnesota Dance Theatre followed by professional training at the National Ballet School in Toronto and most especially in New York at the School of American Ballet, the official school of New York City Ballet. After his studies, Mr. Jones joined Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, where he was promoted to the rank of soloist. Mr. Jones graduated from New York University (magna cum laude) and subsequently worked for many years at The Frick Collection in New York, while simultaneously holding the position of artistic director of The Huntington Ballet Theatre on Long Island, NY. Since 2010 Mr. Jones has been on the faculty the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden (The Palucca School and University of Dance) in Germany, where he is a teacher of classical ballet.

"The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre provides an exceptional dance education to artists regionally and nationally, and remains a true cultural institution for Portland. It is a great responsibility, but also a

great honor, to be able to pass on this amazing craft to the next generation of dancers,” said Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones looks forward to being part of a new chapter in SOBT and OBT’s history alongside artistic director Kevin Irving, who joined OBT in July of 2013.

“As a teacher I strive to give students the very highest caliber training I can deliver, but I also seek to motivate them, to guide them and to help them find and develop themselves as young dancers while hopefully instilling in them a lifelong love of dance and the arts in general.”

About Oregon Ballet Theatre

Founded in 1989, OBT is the state’s largest full-time professional ballet company, dedicated to creating and preserving the art of ballet through the highest quality performance, training and educational programming. OBT is committed to producing compelling and diverse works that consistently inspire and entice audiences. Annually, OBT offers eleven experiential arts education programs for youth and adults, as well as a professional ballet school for students, ages 4-18. Through all the programs it offers, OBT reaches over 130,000 members of the community each year. For more information about OBT go to: www.obt.org.

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