

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE
OBT/25
KEVIN IRVING / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOLIDAY FAVORITE, GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *THE NUTCRACKER*™, RETURNS FOR 17 SHOWS

Includes Three Performances After Christmas • Bouchard and Chavez to Debut as Sugarplum Fairy

Portland, OR (November 3, 2014) This winter, **Oregon Ballet Theatre** presents **George Balanchine's** hugely popular version of ***The Nutcracker*** at the **Keller Auditorium, December 13 - 27, 2014**. As Willamette Week said last year, "such an unabashed ode to joy as *The Nutcracker* hardly exists anymore," and it's clear that our audiences agree. Last season, over 35,000 people made OBT's production of *The Nutcracker* a part of their holiday tradition, and this year, the Ballet is offering three performances right after Christmas to make it even easier for Oregonians to share this magical event with visiting friends and family. The OBT Orchestra, led for the 25th year by Music Director and Conductor Neil DePonte, will perform live at six select performances throughout the run. Eighty-one students from the company's official training ground, the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, will perform the ballet's roles for children.

NEW THIS SEASON: Stepping into a role that demands technical brilliance and generosity of spirit in equal measures, soloists **Candace Bouchard** and **Martina Chavez** will both dance the part of the **Sugarplum Fairy** for the first time this December. Chavez, who was promoted to the rank of soloist after stellar performances in both George Balanchine's *Agon* and Nicolo Fonte's *Never Stop Falling (In Love)* last month, and audience favorite Bouchard will join veteran Sugarplums Xuan Cheng and Ansa Deguchi in performing the iconic role. Additional debuts in featured roles will be posted in the "Casting" section of the Nutcracker site at http://www.obt.org/season_nutcracker.html approximately one week prior to the performance.

Oregon Ballet Theatre, now in its 12th year with Balanchine's version, remains the only company west of the Mississippi licensed to perform his choreography for this classic holiday work. Set to one of Tchaikovsky's most recognizable scores and with sets and costumes designed by Peter Farmer and

lighting by Resident Lighting Designer Michael Mazzola, *The Nutcracker* remains “the Queen of Portland’s holiday season” (The Oregonian, 2004).

PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

Saturday, December 13 – 2:00 pm

Saturday, December 13 – 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 14 – 2:00 pm

Sunday, December 14 – 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 18 – 7:30 pm

Friday, December 19 – 2:00 pm

Friday, December 19 – 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 20 – 2:00 pm

Saturday, December 20 – 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 21 – 2:00 pm

Sunday, December 21 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 23 – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, December 23 – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 24 – 12:00 pm

Friday, December 26 – 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 27 – 2:00 pm

Saturday, December 27 – 7:30 pm

*Performances in **bold** feature **the OBT Orchestra**.

TICKETS

Tickets for **George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker*** are on sale now and range in price from **\$25 to \$144**.

Special 2-show Family Pack subscriptions including both *The Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*, which will be performed at the Keller Auditorium, February 28 to March 7, 2015, go on sale November 17.

For tickets, visit www.obt.org, call 503.222.5538, or visit area Ticketmaster outlets.

Groups larger than 10 can receive discounts up to 30%. Email groupsales@obt.org or call 503.227.0977.

Oregon Ballet Theatre also participates in the **Arts For All** program, providing \$5 tickets to individuals carrying the Oregon Trail Card. For information about this program, please call 503.222.5538.

SPONSORS

George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker* is made possible by the support of presenting sponsors **PCC Structurals, Mentor Graphics, and Wells Fargo**. Media support for OBT/25, Oregon Ballet Theatre’s 25th Anniversary Season, includes **Portland Monthly, The Oregonian and Oregon Live, and Kink 101.9 fm**.

ABOUT GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER™

George Balanchine debuted his Nutcracker, his first full-length story (and, to that date, most expensive) ballet at New York City Center on February 2, 1954. It became a huge hit, creating a decades-long holiday tradition for countless New Yorkers and igniting a Nutcracker craze throughout the United States and Canada. CBS-TV broadcast it nationwide, live, on Christmas Night, 1957 and 1958 (narrated by June Lockhart), and it was made into a Warner Brothers movie with Macaulay Culkin as the Nutcracker/Prince in 1994.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

George Balanchine

Widely regarded as the foremost choreographer in 20th Century ballet, George Balanchine was at the helm of New York City Ballet from its creation in 1948 until his death in 1983. He was born in St. Petersburg in 1904 and found an early outlet for his creativity as a member of the legendary Paris company, Ballets Russes. Later, he worked in Denmark and Britain and with the new Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo before forming his own company, Les Ballets, in Paris. In 1934, Mr. Balanchine co-founded the School of American Ballet in New York. This eventually led to the formation of the prestigious New York City Ballet and the creation of hundreds of diverse works. In 1983, shortly before he died, Mr. Balanchine was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His ballets have become a part of nearly every major company's repertory.

ABOUT OREGON BALLET THEATRE

Founded in 1989, Oregon Ballet Theatre is the state's largest full-time professional ballet company. OBT's mission is to inspire an enduring passion and appreciation for the unique art form of dance through artistic excellence, thrilling live performances, innovative choreography and exceptional educational programs. The nationally and internationally acclaimed Oregon Ballet Theatre is recognized for its dynamic approach to both classical and contemporary ballet. For more information, please visit www.obt.org.
