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**CINDERELLA COMES TO OREGON BALLET THEATRE FOR THE FIRST TIME**

*The Classic Story In Three Colorful Acts • Features the OBT Orchestra For Every Performance*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Portland, OR** (February 5, 2015) - In celebration of **Oregon Ballet Theatre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, a new full-length ballet will join the company's diverse repertoire. For the first time, Oregon Ballet Theatre will dance **Cinderella** at the Keller Auditorium, February 28 through March 7, 2015. All performances will feature the OBT Orchestra. Colorful and full of magic, Ben Stevenson's version of this classic tale is one of the ballet world's most popular, performed by companies worldwide including American Ballet Theatre and Queensland Ballet of Australia.

From the hilarity of Cinderella's Ugly Stepsisters to the fantasy of her Fairy Godmother, the opulent pumpkin carriage to the despair of losing one precious glass slipper, audiences will fall in love with *Cinderella*. "It's hard to imagine a more romantic or thrilling addition to the repertoire of Oregon Ballet Theatre than Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*. We are so lucky to be able to bring this work to our audience here in Portland; Mr. Stevenson's achievement in marrying the traditions of high classical ballet to the bawdy music hall is something completely novel and uplifting." said **OBT's Artistic Director, Kevin Irving**. Dance Australia says, "The choreography is fluid, seamlessly flowing from one section to the next and purely classic in its form." The love-at-first-sight romance between Cinderella and her Prince Charming will prove an entrancing experience for adults and children alike, and we're thrilled to feature the **OBT Orchestra**, under the steady baton of **Maestro Neil DePonte**, for all six memorable performances.

**TICKETS**

Tickets for **Cinderella** are on sale now and range in price from **\$27 to \$144**. For tickets, visit [www.obt.org](http://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](mailto: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.

**PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES**

Saturday, February 28 at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 1 at 2:00pm

Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 6 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 7 at 2:00pm

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\*All performances feature **the OBT Orchestra**.

## SPONSORS

*Cinderella* is made possible by the support of presenting sponsors **The Standard** and **Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation**. Media support for OBT/25, Oregon Ballet Theatre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season includes **Portland Monthly**, **The Oregonian** and **Oregon Live**, and **Kink 101.9 fm**.

## ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER - Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.



Photo by Ellen Appel

Ben Stevenson began his dance training in London, England, at the Arts Educational School. After graduation he was invited to join Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, now known as the Royal Ballet. He then joined the London Festival Ballet where he eventually became a Principal Dancer. Mr. Stevenson has directed several companies including Harkness Ballet, the National Ballet in Washington D.C., and Houston Ballet. It was under his direction that Houston Ballet grew to be one of the most respected ballet companies in the country and around the world. Mr. Stevenson is now the current Artistic Director of Texas Ballet Theater.

Besides being a successful director, Mr. Stevenson is an accomplished choreographer having received numerous awards including three gold medals at the International Ballet Competition and his work has been set on multiple companies around the world. For his contributions to the world of international dance, he was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. He was also presented with the Dance Magazine Award, which is one of the most prestigious honors in the American dance scene.

## 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](http://www.obt.org).

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