

PRESS CONTACT:

Natasha Kautsky
Director of Marketing & Communications
PHONE: 503.227.0977
EMAIL: natasha.kautsky@obt.org



OBT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON ENDS ON A DRAMATIC NOTE WITH IMPACT

*Four Powerful Works, Including a World Premiere from Darrell Grand Moultrie,
set to music by Portland's Kenji Bunch of fEARnoMUSIC*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Portland, OR (March 4, 2015) - In the final program of **Oregon Ballet Theatre's 25th Anniversary Season**, IMPACT, the company shows how the emotional, social, and artistic aspects of dance can create an experience that moves the audience and transcends the art form. Running **April 16th through 25th, 2015** at the intimate **Newmark Theatre**, IMPACT opens with a world premiere work by one of the most sought-after choreographers in dance right now: Princess Grace Fellowship winner **Darrell Grand Moultrie**. The piece will be set to music by acclaimed composer and Artistic Director of Portland's fEARnoMUSIC, **Kenji Bunch**.

Moultrie's work brings an innate sense of timing and theatricality that defies categorization, as shown by past commissions from renowned ballet companies, as well as superstars like Savion Glover and Beyoncé. Referring to his approach as "genre jumping," Moultrie explains that it is the residue from his unique background growing up in New York City, where he was exposed to so many dance forms and forced to respect them. He finds that classically trained dancers welcome this versatility. **"Ballet dancers now are not just one thing anymore," Moultrie explains. "They really want to explore!"**

Following Moultrie's premiere, the IMPACT program celebrates founding OBT Resident Choreographer **Dennis Spaight**, with the return of **Crayola** to the OBT stage for the first time in nearly 2 decades. *Crayola* will be performed by the young artists of OBT2, a new initiative launched to create avenues for accessibility within the community, as well as more performing opportunities for dancers in the early stages of their professional careers. **Nicolo Fonte's Presto**, with music by Italian composer Ezio Bosso, depends on the virtuoso abilities of the company's most compelling dancers, and serves as the perfect companion to *Crayola*.

Closing the show is the company premiere of **Nacho Duato's** potent and emotionally gripping **Rassemblement**. Set to songs by Haitian artist Toto Bissainthe and drawn from the stories of slaves longing for their homeland, this extremely physical piece is danced barefoot – a new experience for many of OBT's dancers. *Rassemblement* captures the universal human instinct to strive for freedom in the face of subjugation. Audiences will surely feel the full historical significance of this work even as they are swept away by the exhilarating movement of Duato's choreography, recently introduced to Portland in last season's *Por Vos Muero* and *Cor Perdut*.

While IMPACT significantly broadens the OBT repertory with three new works by choreographers that are in high demand internationally, the most important aspect for Artistic Director Kevin Irving is its effect on the community. "Art must engage with the public in a way that creates conversations. The works in this program are not simply to be admired for their beauty and technical achievement; they may just compel us to consider the world in a different way. In this way we remain a vital part of our community."

TICKETS

Tickets for **IMPACT** are on sale now and range in price from **\$29 to \$144**. 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.

PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

Thursday, April 16 – 7:30pm

Friday, April 17 – 7:30pm

Saturday, April 18 – 2:00pm

Saturday, April 18 – 7:30pm

Sunday, April 19 – 2:00pm

Thursday, April 23 – 7:30pm

Friday, April 24 – 7:30pm

Saturday, April 25 – 7:30pm

SPONSORS

IMPACT is made possible by the support of presenting sponsors **Turtledove Clemens, The Boeing Company, and Work for Art**. 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**.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

NEW FACES AMONG THE ARTISTS

Darrell Grand Moultrie is one of America's very diverse and much sought-after choreographers and master teachers. A recipient of a Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award, he is one of the few choreographers working in the theater, modern, ballet, and commercial dance genres simultaneously.

Darrell has created and staged multiple works for The Juilliard School, Colorado Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, BalletMet Columbus, Ailey2, Sacramento Ballet, and Milwaukee Ballet. His work has also been commissioned by North Carolina Dance Theatre, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Atlanta Ballet, The August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Tulsa Ballet, Richmond Ballet, and Smuin Ballet. He has taught and choreographed at many universities throughout America such as Ailey B.F.A, Fordham, Point Park University, CalArts, New York University, and Stanford University.

Most recently, Grammy Award winning recording artist Beyoncé selected Darrell as one of her choreographers for her "Mrs. Carter" World Tour. He also recently collaborated with Tony Award winning hooper Savion Glover on a new dance project, and choreographed the original musical *Witness Uganda*, directed by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus.

As a performer, Darrell was seen in *West Side Story* in Milan, Italy, at the world famous La Scala Opera House. He has also appeared on Broadway in the smash hits *Hairspray: The Musical* with Harvey Fierstein, and *Aida* where he understudied the role of Mereb, performing opposite Toni Braxton. Darrell was also an original cast member of the Tony Award winning musical, *Billy Elliot*. Darrell is a proud New Yorker, born and raised in Harlem. He is a graduate of Laguardia High School and The Juilliard School.

Kenji Bunch has emerged as one of the most prominent, prolific, and versatile American composers of his generation. His music has been performed by over forty orchestras in premiere venues on six continents. His works are regularly broadcast on radio worldwide, and have been recorded numerous times.

Widely recognized for performing his own groundbreaking works for viola, Kenji is a versatile musician with a deep interest in vernacular American traditions and improvisation. He also plays bluegrass fiddle, sings, and is a frequent guest performer with many prominent rock, jazz, folk, and experimental artists. A native of Portland, Oregon, Kenji graduated from The Juilliard School and currently lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife, pianist Monica Ohuchi, and their rescued pit bull, Coffee.

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.
