

PRESS CONTACT:

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**ANNOUNCING OBT'S 2015|16 SEASON****OREGON BALLET THEATRE MOVES INTO THE FUTURE BY EMBRACING THE PAST**

Oregon Ballet Theatre is proud to announce its 2015|16 season. "If there is one unifying theme this year," observes Artistic Director Kevin Irving, "it is that the future includes and embraces the past." Now in its 26th year the company continues to break new ground by adding three premieres to its repertory from choreographers that span generations including: August Bournonville's vibrant Act III from *Napoli*, Nicolo Fonte's haunting full-evening work *Beautiful Decay*, and a not yet titled world premiere from audience favorite James Kudelka. These ground breaking works are primed by the return to the OBT stage of a ballet from the company's storied past – OBT is thrilled to present James Canfield's *Romeo & Juliet*. Finally, no ballet season would be complete without the rich tradition of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* which is reinvigorated every time it is performed with the enthusiasm of the young dancers from the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre.

OBT's 26th season begins with its fall program, *Amore Italiano* – a high-spirited double-bill that revels in a love affair with the culture and especially the music of Italy. James Kudelka (creator of the acclaimed *Almost Mozart*) returns to Portland to choreograph a new work based on the beautiful music of Boccherini. Next, OBT presents for the first time ever Act III of *Napoli* – a signature work by the 19th century Danish choreographer, August Bournonville. Known for its exceptional male solos and lively Tarantella, Bournonville's *Napoli* is a joyful, sunny spectacle! The work features the entire company, plus members of the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, and to add a bit of Portland flare – violinist Aaron Meyer and his ensemble will celebrate Italy in their own unique fashion.

The winter program will set hearts on fire with the passion of a love that recognizes no boundaries, and is intensified by Prokofiev's sublime score. Oregon Ballet Theatre proudly returns James Canfield's signature work *Romeo & Juliet* to the repertory for the first time in 15 years. Originally created for Pacific Ballet Theatre (OBT's precursor) in 1989, Canfield's inspired and rousing telling of this most-romantic-of-foes was a mainstay in the OBT repertory for many years.

Oregon Ballet Theatre closes its season with Nicolo Fonte's *Beautiful Decay*, a full-evening work in two parts that is exciting and haunting in equal measure. Nicolo Fonte follows last season's breathtaking collaboration with Pink Martini (*Never Stop Falling (In Love)*) with a production that juxtaposes the daring athleticism and technical prowess for which he is so well known, against the stark reality that with age comes a more fragile state – a state that nonetheless still resonates with the power and beauty of distant youth. Guest artists (and Portland contemporary dance icons) Susan Banyas and Gregg Bielemeier join the artists of Oregon Ballet Theatre, embodying Fonte's theme that we carry all of our ages inside ourselves at all times.

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

3 show packages start at \$66
www.obt.org, call 503.222.5538

PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

Amore Italiano:

Saturday, October 10 – 7:30
Sunday, October 11 – 2:00
Thursday, October 15 – 7:30
Friday, October 16 – 7:30
Saturday, October 17 – 7:30

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker:

Saturday, December 12– 2:00 orchestra
Saturday, December 12 – 7:30 orchestra
Sunday, December 13 – 2:00 orchestra
Sunday, December 13 – 7:30
Thursday, December 17 – 7:30
Friday, December 18 – 2:00
Friday, December 18 – 7:30
Saturday, December 19 – 2:00 orchestra
Saturday, December 19 – 7:30 orchestra
Sunday, December 20 – 2:00 orchestra
Sunday, December 20 – 7:30
Tuesday, December 22 – 7:30
Wednesday, December 23 – 2:00
Wednesday, December 23 – 7:30
Thursday, December 24 – 12:00
Saturday, December 26 – 2:00
Saturday, December 26 – 7:30

Romeo & Juliet – All performances w/ OBT Orchestra

Saturday, February 27 – 7:30
Sunday, February 28 – 2:00
Thursday, March 3 – 7:30
Friday, March 4 – 7:30
Saturday, March 5 – 2:00
Saturday, March 5 – 7:30

Beautiful Decay

Thursday, April 14 – 7:30
Friday, April 15 – 7:30
Saturday, April 16 – 2:00
Saturday, April 16 – 7:30
Sunday, April 17 – 2:00
Thursday, April 21 – 7:30
Friday, April 22 – 7:30
Saturday, April 23 – 7:30

SESON SPONSORS

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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.
