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



January 6, 2016 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## OREGON BALLET THEATRE'S 2016 GALA FUNDRAISER CAPULET'S BALL 2.0 Celebrating the return of James Canfield's sweeping and emotionally powerful Romeo & Juliet

Oregon Ballet Theatre opens its exciting 2016 winter season with *Capulet's Ball 2.0*, a gala event to be held on February 6th at the Leftbank Annex in Portland, Oregon.

*Capulet's Ball 2.0* celebrates the much-anticipated return of Founding Artistic Director James Canfield's *Romeo & Juliet* to the company's repertory. This glittering event is a follow up to *Capulet's Ball 1.0*, the benefit held in honor of the production the last time it was performed by the company in October 2000.

Powered by the unparalleled imagination and creative skills of OBT's production team, *Capulet's Ball 2.0* promises to be a gorgeous and captivating event. The stage is set during the famous scene of *Romeo & Juliet* where the ill-fated lovers meet in the great hall overlooking the Capulet orchard.

The evening's festivities unfold in four acts framed by the mystery and romance of a masked ball. In a unique twist, the company's dancers, as well as numerous luminaries of the arts in Portland, have handcrafted beautiful one-of-a-kind masks to be auctioned off online in advance for guests to wear. Masks may be viewed and purchased at www.obt.org now through January 29<sup>th</sup>.

OBT's Founding Artistic Director and *Romeo & Juliet* choreographer, James Canfield, will be the evenings honored guest.

Oregon Ballet Theatre's annual gala is critical to establishing and securing the ongoing support of individual donors for the company. Last year OBT raised over \$150,000 through this initiative. OBT would like to thank its sponsors - Boeing, Cushman & Wakefield, Goldman Sachs, Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Rogue, and The Standard - for their generous support in helping make *Capulet's Ball 2.0* possible.

CAPULET's BALL 2.0 Saturday February 6, 2016 6pm – midnight Leftbank Annex 101 N Weidler, Portland, Oregon Gala sponsorships and tables are still available. For more information, contact Alison Roper at xxx@obt.org or, to reserve your seat at the ball, email <u>capulet@obt.org</u>

For reservations email <a href="mailto:capulet@obt.org">capulet@obt.org</a>

## ABOUT OREGON BALLET THEATRE:

Oregon Ballet Theatre is committed to sharing our passion for the expressive power of ballet, inspiring an enduring appreciation of dance, and connecting in meaningful ways to our community through excellence in performance, training and educational programs. OBT is the largest professional ballet company in Oregon, employing nearly 200 people and attracting artists from around the globe with a reputation for excellence. The company is rooted in the traditions of classical ballet, with a repertoire that ranges from the great classics to premieres from some of the most exciting choreographic voices in the field today. Our mission is dedicated to the vitality of, and access to, world-class ballet performance and training in our region. Founded in 1989 by James Canfield, a former principal dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, OBT quickly developed a distinctive style and unique repertoire that grew to comprise over 80 ballets. From 2003-2012, under the direction of Christopher Stowell, OBT presented nearly 350 performances and added 51 ballets, including 20 world premieres, to its diverse body of work. In June 2013, OBT was delighted to name Kevin Irving as its third Artistic Director. Irving brings over 25 years of experience performing with and managing world-renowned cultural organizations and dance companies, including The Göteborg Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, and Compañia Nacional de Danza (Spain). He will be working with OBT to develop a unique approach to 21<sup>st</sup> century American ballet that reflects the vigor of the art form as it continues to evolve.