

# OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

KEVIN IRVING / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **OREGON BALLET THEATRE NAMES TWO NEW DIRECTORS**

Oregon Ballet Theatre Executive Director Michael Greer today announced that Camille Spaccavento has been named OBT's Director of Marketing and Communications and Gregory Smith its Director of Development.

"We're very pleased to have two such experienced professionals join our team," he said. "Together, they will be able to build upon this season's extraordinary success and enhance our future ability to attract even higher levels of earned and contributed revenue, as well as increase the visibility of OBT—its productions, its school, and its community engagement efforts—throughout the region and the nation."

Smith, who will join the Company this month, has more than 30 years of nonprofit arts fundraising and leadership experience. He led fundraising efforts to transform a community historic site into a cultural center in Southern California, directed a performing and visual art center in Massachusetts, and was a key staff member of four professional ballet companies. Before returning to Oregon in 2014, he was Executive Director of the Sacramento Ballet. Long-time Oregon ballet lovers may remember him as the founding director of Pacific Ballet Theater, an early precursor to OBT.

"This is an exceptional opportunity," Smith said. "As a former dancer and choreographer, I truly admire the artistic achievements that have been made at OBT and am excited to become part of the team."

Spaccavento, expected to join the Company on May 1, has over 25 years of marketing experience in the performing arts arena with organizations like the New York City Ballet, the New York City Opera, the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, and most recently at Opera Colorado where she revitalized the marketing efforts and achieved exponential growth in attendance and ticket sales.

“I am honored to be joining Oregon Ballet Theatre and most assuredly looking forward to becoming immersed in the arts community in Portland,” Spaccavento commented. “OBT is a company on the move! It has a bright and exciting future in front of it. The prospect of being a part of that, to help contribute to that future is most exciting indeed.”

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## **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, we were delighted to name Kevin Irving as the company’s 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). His tenure has been marked by a commitment to collaborative partnerships with other Portland artists and organizations, including the Portland Art Museum, Multnomah County Library, Kenji Bunch, and Pink Martini. He has expanded the company’s classical repertoire – with the premieres of Ben Stevenson’s *Cinderella*, August Bournonville’s *Napoli*, and Irving’s own update of *Swan Lake* while preserving OBT’s legacy and restoring major works such as James Canfield’s *Romeo & Juliet*. At the same time, he continues to build a diverse body of work with world premieres from internationally acclaimed contemporary choreographers such as Nacho Duato, William Forsythe, Nicolo Fonte, Darrell Grand Moultrie, and Helen Pickett.

OBT’s investment in the community extends far beyond our stages and studios, as we seek to enrich the community and invest in our art form. We provide ballet training to over 800 students through the OBT School, which attracts dancers from as far away as Spain and Japan, and through OBT2, our junior company, which brings professional level performance to underserved audiences throughout Portland.

Our robust Education Outreach programming impacts nearly 40,000 people annually, including thousands of K-12 youth across 21 school districts. Ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access include: scholarships to OBT School, field trip transportation for low income and Title 1 schools, and our Share the Wonder campaign, which provides thousands of tickets to our mainstage performances for those in need.