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2018/19 SEASON ANNOUNCED

In the midst of a 2017/18 season that is proving to be one of the most successful ever, Artistic Director Kevin Irving today announced an extraordinary 2018/19 Season that promises ballet lovers more full-length productions, increased orchestral accompaniment, a brand-new production, a world premiere, a new multi-year initiative, and a four-production subscription package. The new season marks Oregon Ballet Theatre's 29th season and Kevin Irving's 6th as Artistic Director.

"The 2018/19 season builds on the incredible success of the current season and celebrates both the rich history of ballet and its exciting promise for the years ahead, as we connect the past to the future with works that span three centuries. It's a season that highlights the inspiring artistic and technical excellence of the Company in a way that will thrill our quickly growing audience," he said.

Napoli

October 6-13, 2018

Keller Auditorium

All performances feature the Oregon Ballet Orchestra

The season opens with August Bournonville's vivid depiction of Neapolitan street life. Audiences went wild in 2015 when OBT presented the final act of *Napoli*. Now the powerful story of triumphant young loves comes to the stage in its full glory.

Oregon Ballet Theatre becomes the first U.S. company to build and stage a production of the fiery, full-length work that was originally created in 1842 for the Denmark's Royal Ballet and that has remained popular for over 175 years. A hallmark of classicism, *Napoli* is infused by the warm naturalism that is typical of the Danish style.

Cinderella

February 16-23, 2019

Keller Auditorium

All performances feature the Oregon Ballet Orchestra

One of the world's most popular works, ***Cinderella*** thrills audiences with its magical, uplifting tale of the love between a cruelly treated young woman and a prince, and one unforgettable evening. Set against Prokofiev's lush score, Ben Stevenson's choreography provides a light touch, creating an evening of pure entertainment and palpable joy—the perfect mix of music, theater, and ballet.

Last presented to sell-out audiences in 2015 when the work entered the OBT repertoire, ***Cinderella*** returns by popular demand, certain to bring joy and happiness to audiences of all ages.

Director's Choice

April 11-14, 2019

Newmark Theatre

***bringingoutsidein* / Barbuto**

***Presto* / Fonte**

***Jardi Tancat* / Duato**

***Giants Before Us* / Fonte**

The spring ballet season begins in the skilled hands of Artistic Director Kevin Irving as the Company moves to the intimate surroundings of the Newmark Theatre, and he curates a collection of contemporary favorites.

The powerful lineup of some of the Company's most crowd-pleasing works begins with Gioconda Barbuto's ***bringingoutsidein***, a stand-out hit in 2017 when it was one of three OBT commissions for the season's *Choreography XX*. The program features two works by Resident Choreographer Nicolo Fonte; the first, ***Presto***, is a riveting burst of athleticism for two couples that will leave audiences breathless. Famed Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato's earthy work, ***Jardi Tancat***, is a powerful immersion in a Mediterranean world where people work the barren land, praying to God for rain, set to a series of haunting Catalan folk songs sung by the incomparable Maria del Mar Bonet. Resident Choreographer Nicolo Fonte's second work of the program—the 2015 season's wildly popular ***Giants Before Us***—mixes extreme physicality of movement and the romanticism of an earlier era of dance.

The performances of *Giants Before Us* mark the final performances of one of the Company's most admired performers, Principal Dancer Chauncey Parsons, who retires after 11 seasons with the Company.

The Americans

June 7-15, 2019

Newmark Theatre

***Night Creature* / Ailey**

***Robust American Love* / McIntyre**

World Premiere / Hampton and Roland

Oregon Ballet Theatre premieres the first in a multi-season summer initiative designed to highlight the unique voice and to explore the rich history of American choreographers.

“OBT opens a new door,” said Artistic Director Kevin Irving, “using dance to explore who we are as Americans, where we’ve come from, and where we’re headed. And who better to lead that effort than one of the nation’s premiere choreographers—Alvin Ailey?”

At once wistful and vibrant, Ailey’s ***Night Creature*** is “. . . a bubbly champagne cocktail of dance, the perfect fusion of Ailey’s buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington’s sparkling music.” Trey McIntyre’s ***Robust American Love*** follows that with a dance-scape that evokes the exploration and freedom of the Wild West, with music by Seattle’s famed indie folk band, **Fleet Foxes**. “[McIntyre] knows how to hit all our pleasure buttons,” noted *The Washington Post*. The program closes with a world premiere from BodyVox co-founders and Portland legends **Jamey Hampton** and **Ashley Roland**.

In addition to the above subscription productions, subscribers will be able to add two additional productions:

George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker®

December 8 – 26, 2018

Keller Auditorium

In December Oregon Ballet Theatre celebrates their 15th annual performance of *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker®*—the classic story of a young girl and her Nutcracker Prince as they fight an evil Mouse King, dance with snowflakes, and adventure to the Land of Sweets.

This holiday favorite features an expanded number of performances with the OBT Orchestra performing Tchaikovsky’s brilliant score.

Annual School Performance

June 15 - 16, 2019

Newmark Theatre

Oregon Ballet Theatre School’s Annual Performance showcases the energy, artistry, and technique of their students in a performance that Critical Dance calls a “Home Run.” This performance is especially popular with families and classical dance lovers.

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

Season subscriptions to all four productions, with savings up to 20% off regularly priced tickets, are available now and begin as low as \$104. Current season subscribers will receive their renewal packages on March 12 and have until April 23 to renew their season subscriptions. These renewals enjoy up to 30% savings off regularly priced tickets.

More details on the 2018/19 season can be found at: www.obt.org/1819-season

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 Compañía 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.

FULL SEASON SCHEDULE

NAPOLI

October 6-13, 2018

Keller Auditorium

All performances feature the OBТ Orchestra

October 6 / 7:30 pm

October 7 / 2:00 pm

October 11 / 7:30 pm

October 12 / 7:30 pm

October 13 / 7:30 pm

THE NUTCRACKER

December 8-26, 2018

Keller Auditorium

May be added to subscription packages

***Performance with OBТ Orchestra**

December 8 / 2:00 pm *

December 8 / 7:30 pm *

December 9 / 2:00 pm *

December 13 / 7:30 pm

December 14 / 7:30 pm *

December 15 / 2:00 pm *

December 15 / 7:30 pm *

December 16 / 2:00 pm *

December 16 / 7:30 pm

December 20 / 2:00 pm

December 20 / 7:30 pm

December 21 / 2:00 pm

December 21 / 7:30 pm *

December 22 / 2:00 pm *

December 22 / 7:30 pm *

December 23 / 2:00 pm *

December 23 / 7:30 pm

December 24 / 12:00 pm

December 26 / 2:00 pm *

CINDERELLA

February 16-23, 2019

Keller Auditorium

All performances feature the OBТ Orchestra

February 16 / 2:00 pm

February 16 / 7:30 pm

February 17 / 2:00 pm

February 21 / 7:30 pm

February 22 / 7:30 pm

February 23 / 2:00 pm

February 23 / 7:30 pm

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

April 11-14, 2019

Newmark Theatre

April 11 / 7:30 pm

April 12 / 7:30 pm

April 13 / 2:00 pm

April 13 / 7:30 pm

April 14 / 2:00 pm

THE AMERICANS

June 7-15, 2019

Newmark Theatre

June 7 / 7:30 pm

June 8 / 7:30 pm

June 9 / 2:00 pm

June 13 / 7:30 pm

June 14 / 7:30 pm

June 15 / 7:30 pm

ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

June 15-16, 2019

Newmark Theatre

May be added to subscription packages

June 15 / 1:00 pm

June 16 / 1:00 pm