

# OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

KEVIN IRVING / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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High Res photos may be obtained at:

[http://www.obt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OBT\\_2018\\_Dancer\\_Promotion\\_Press\\_Release\\_Photos\\_HighRes.zip](http://www.obt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OBT_2018_Dancer_Promotion_Press_Release_Photos_HighRes.zip)

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## **OREGON BALLET THEATRE PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED ALONG WITH OTHER ROSTER CHANGES**

### **OBT promotes four dancers, welcomes six dancers, and bids farewell to six departing dancers**

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) Artistic Director Kevin Irving has announced a number of important changes to the Company's dancer roster effective at the beginning of the 2018/19 season, which opens with the first full production premiere in the United States of August Bournonville's *Napoli*, October 2018.

"It's one of the greatest pleasures an Artistic Director has to reward current dancers with promotions and to welcome new dancers to the company," he said. "These changes reflect the growing strength of the OBT roster and will help us reach even higher levels of artistry. We also thank departing dancers for their contributions to this Company and wish them great success in their future endeavors."

Dancer promotions include **Anza Capizzi**, from Soloist to Principal Dancer; **Katherine Monogue**, Company Artist to Soloist; **Kelsie Nobriga**, Company Artist to Soloist; and **Theodore Watler**, Apprentice to Company Artist.

Capizzi (formerly Deguchi), from Nagoya, Japan, joined OBT as an apprentice in 2003 and was promoted to soloist in 2007. She distinguished herself as a ravishing Juliet in OBT Founding Artistic Director James Canfield's *Romeo and Juliet* (2016) and, most recently, in the title role of Septime Webre's blockbuster *Alice (in wonderland)*. Monogue, company member since 2014 and an apprentice before that, exploded on the stage in William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* (2016)—in the role made famous by Sylvie Guillem—and has proven herself a vibrant Dew Drop in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* along with numerous other

parts. Nobriga, also previously an apprentice with OBT, created a searing image in Nicolo Fonte's *Beautiful Decay* (2016) and made a tremendous debut as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, dancing with OBT Principal Dancer Peter Franc. Watler, originally engaged as a member of OBT2, the company's junior performing ensemble, has fast-tracked himself first into an apprentice position and now as a full company member.

Joining the Company are **Matthew Pawlicki-Sinclair** as Soloist; **Abigail Diedrich** and **Hannah Davis** as Company Artists; and **Theodore Skye Stouber**, **Zuzu Metzler**, and **Marc LaPierre** as Apprentices.

Pawlicki-Sinclair has performed with great distinction since 2016 with the Dutch National Ballet. Stouber is a Portland native who previously performed with OBT in *Alice (in wonderland)*. Both Diedrich and Davis are graduates of OBT2 and current apprentices with the company earning their first professional contracts. Metzler is a current member of OBT2 and a former OBT School student. LaPierre joins the company from the Los Angeles Ballet.

Dancers departing OBT are Principal Dancer **Jacqueline Straughan**, Soloist **Martina Chavez**, Company Artists **Keenan English**, **Avery Reiners** and **Paige Wilkie**, and Apprentice **Andrew Wingert**.

## OREGON BALLET THEATRE 2018/19 DANCER ROSTER

### Principals

Ansa Capizzi  
Xuan Cheng  
Peter Franc  
Chauncey Parsons  
Brian Simcoe

### Soloists

Eva Burton  
Katherine Monogue  
Kelsie Nobriga  
Michael Linsmeier  
Matthew Pawlicki-Sinclair

### Company Artists

Thomas Baker  
Hannah Davis  
Abigail Diedrich  
Adam Hartley  
Makino Hayashi  
Christopher Kaiser  
Jessica Lind  
Kimberly Nobriga  
Emily Parker  
Colby Parsons  
Theodore Watler

### Apprentices

Alexa Domenden  
Marc LaPierre  
Zuzu Metzler  
Theodore Skye Stouber

Dancer photos may be obtained at:

[http://www.obt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OBT\\_2018\\_Dancer\\_Promotion\\_Press\\_Release\\_Photos\\_HighRes.zip](http://www.obt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OBT_2018_Dancer_Promotion_Press_Release_Photos_HighRes.zip)

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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 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 and 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.