

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRODUCTION PHOTOS: obt.org/nutsummersalepresskit

SHOW IMAGE: obt.org/nutsummersalepresskit

VIDEO: Available July 1

July Summer Sale – Save Up To 30%

George Balanchine’s

THE NUTCRACKER®

Featuring 12 performances with The OBT Orchestra*

WHO	Oregon Ballet Theatre
WHAT	July Summer Sale THE NUTCRACKER by George Balanchine
WHEN	July 1-31, 2018
Performances:	Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 pm * Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 pm* Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 pm* Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 pm Friday, December 14 at 7:30 pm* Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 pm* Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 pm* Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 pm* Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 pm Thursday, December 20 at 2:00 pm Thursday, December 20 at 7:30 pm Friday, December 21 at 2:00 pm Friday, December 21 at 7:30 pm* Saturday, December 22 at 2:00 pm* Saturday, December 22 at 7:30 pm* Sunday, December 23 at 2:00 pm* Sunday, December 23 at 7:30 pm Monday, December 24 at 12:00 pm Wednesday, December 26 at 2:00 pm*
WHERE	Keller Auditorium, 222 SW Clay Street, Portland, OR 97201

TICKETS 503.222.5538; or obt.org/SummerSavings with Discount Code: SUGARPLUM; or 0720 SW Bancroft Street, Portland, OR 97239.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Portland, OR | June 20, 2018. Oregon Ballet Theatre is offering its annual July Summer Sale for George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker*®. Patrons of all ages can save up to 30% on single tickets purchased during the sale between July 1-31. This special event is a tradition that OBT is pleased to continue for the coming holiday season. This season marks the 15th annual performance of George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker*®, set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic and familiar score. Among 19 performances, 12 will feature live orchestra. Join the heroine Marie as her toy Nutcracker comes to life, and takes her on a magical adventure – with an evil Mouse King, swirling snowflakes, and the radiant Sugar Plum Fairy. Here’s your chance to delight in one of Portland’s beloved holiday traditions. This July, get the best seats in the house – up to 30% off!

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Born on January 22, 1904, in St. Petersburg, George Balanchine studied ballet and music in Russia before making his way to America. He gained distinction as a young choreographer and cofounded the American Ballet. Balanchine was the cofounder, artistic director, and chief choreographer of the New York City Ballet, and nearly every ballet company in the world has performed his work.

The son of a composer, Balanchine had a robust understanding of music. In 1914, he enrolled at the Mariinsky Theatre’s ballet school. He graduated in 1921 and subsequently attended the Petrograd State Conservatory of Music, leaving the Conservatory after three years.

In 1924, Balanchine was invited to tour Germany as part of the Soviet State Dancers. A year later, he joined Serge Diaghilev’s Ballet Russes. (His birth name, Balanchivadze, was shortened to Balanchine at Diaghilev’s insistence.) At just 21 years old, Balanchine took over as choreographer for the group.

After the Ballet Russes collapsed, Balanchine created the company Les Ballets in 1933. Following a performance, American dance aficionado Lincoln Kirstein approached Balanchine about collaboration, and the two began a 50-year creative partnership, cofounding the School of American Ballet in 1934. The following year, the professional company known as the American Ballet emerged, becoming the official company of New York’s Metropolitan Opera until 1936.

In 1946, Kirstein and Balanchine cofounded a company that would become the New York City Ballet. Balanchine served as Artistic Director of the company, based out of New York State Theater at Lincoln Center. He produced more than 150 works for the company, including *The Nutcracker*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kevin Irving began dancing with jazz classes in his hometown dance school (Long Island, NY), and later joined the school and training ensemble of Alvin Ailey. From 1982 to 1985, he danced with The Elisa Monte Dance Company of New York but, at 24, he took a sharp turn toward classical dance and joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, in Montréal.

Promoted first to soloist and then to principal dancer, Irving became a well-known figure wherever LGBC performed. In 1993, Irving joined Twyla Tharp Dance for a project that included performances at L'Opéra de Paris and the PBS film *In the Upper Room*.

From 1994 to 2002, Irving was ballet master and associate director with Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid, Spain. From 2002 to 2007, he was Artistic Director of The Göteborg Ballet in Sweden. The company, under Irving's tenure as director, was named the most important dance company in Sweden in Ballet International's critics' poll. From 2007 to 2013, he was a frequent guest ballet master with The Royal Danish Ballet, and a guest teacher with numerous other companies and schools. He has staged ballets by Nacho Duato and Nicolo Fonte on companies such as The Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Nederlands Dans Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and The Australian Ballet, among many others. Irving was also Associate Director at Morphoses (2011-2012), coordinating special initiatives aimed at defining the company's unique brand and profile in the dance world. In 2010, Irving founded I-DANCE (Inspiring Dance: American Nation Choreographic Exchange), a nonprofit organization that sent teachers and choreographers to dance communities in Central and South America. He was named Artistic Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre in July 2013.

ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A native of Missouri, Greer spent the early part of his life as a dancer at the world's most prestigious institutions: Interlochen Arts Academy, School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School, and The Royal Ballet School. Upon completing his training, he danced professionally with Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah, under the direction of Jonas Kage.

After retiring from performing, Greer completed an economics degree with emphasis in industrial organization – as an Arturo Schomburg Scholar at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was offered a merit scholarship to continue economics at Stanford University, but declined – to gain international business experience as a Gilman Scholar through the U.S. State Department. Greer then worked with companies in India and China for nine years; he managed teams and operations for several multinational corporations. A Mandarin speaker, he fully enjoyed life in China with his wife and two children.

In 2015, Greer returned to the U.S. and the dance world and directed Portland Ballet in Portland, Maine. Combining considerable business experience with passion for the arts, he worked to increase earned and contributed revenue, which resulted in Portland Ballet's major turnaround. Now, Greer and his family are thrilled to be a part of the Portland, Oregon community. He looks forward to working with Kevin Irving and OBT's exceptional team.

ABOUT OREGON BALLET THEATRE

Oregon Ballet Theatre is committed to sharing 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 repertoire that ranges from the classics to premieres from the most exciting choreographic voices 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 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 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 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.

ABOUT OBT SCHOOL

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. OBT2 provides rigorous training and performance experience to facilitate the transition from student to professional dancer in a small, nurturing environment.

OBT2 is guided daily by Program Director Lisa Sundstrom, within guidelines established by OBT's Artistic Director, Kevin Irving, and the Director of The School of OBT Marion Tonner. OBT2 dancers participate in daily technique class as well as pointe class, men's class, strength and conditioning, pas de deux, and flexibility training. Dancers also take class with OBT's professional company on certain days of the week.

ABOUT EDUCATION OUTREACH

OBT's 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.

THE NUTCRACKER

by George Balanchine

OREGON BALLET THEATRE COMPANY 2018-2019

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| 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

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