

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

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Oregon Ballet Theatre reboots its 2021/22 Season with more ballets, more dancers, and more live music!

Following recent changes in artistic leadership, Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) is thrilled to announce enhancements to its originally planned 2021/22 Season programming that will bring more premieres to Portland, more dancers, and more performances with the OBT Orchestra. "With these changes I'm excited to begin building on the decades of successful leadership at OBT toward an exciting future," says Interim Artistic Director Peter Franc.



New programming – four OBT premieres added!

In February OBT is thrilled to present Ben Stevenson's deliciously spine-chilling *Dracula* in place of *Ever After*. A haunting score by Franz Liszt – performed live by the OBT Orchestra! – sets the tone for this immersive fairy tale, with awe-inspiring theatrics, vampire brides, stunning sets, and exquisite dancing. *Dracula* will spook and delight young and old alike, and remind us all of the power of true love.



Dreamland, a program of three incredible ballets – including two OBT premieres! – will replace the reprise of *Beautiful Decay*. We begin with Matjash Mrozewski's *The Lost Dance*. Set to Owen Belton's eerie score, this riveting piece evokes the cinematic world of David Lynch. Next, audience favorite Trey McIntyre takes inspiration from legendary Roy Orbison's impassioned songs to create the achingly romantic ballet *In Dreams*. The program closes with highly charged work from choreographer Danielle Rowe. Her powerful and mesmerizing ballet *Dreamland* springs from a

nightmare of being trapped and clawing to break free.



OBT's fall event *Rhapsody* has transformed into *Face to Face* a full-length program featuring powerful ballets that connect us with human nature. In Ben Stevenson's romantic *Three Preludes*, a cautious studio flirtation transforms into passion as two dancers are swept away by their love. George Balanchine's iconic *The Four Temperaments* adds a thrilling counterpoint. Sparse and mesmerizing, the work explores the ancient notion that human disposition is comprised of a mix of four personality types. But as with all things Balanchine, the ballet is ultimately an expression of

the pure possibility and joy of dancing. The program closes with *SculptedClouds* from rising star Jennifer Archibald. *SculptedClouds* was commissioned for OBT LIVE an outdoor event presented to limited audiences. OBT is excited to bring this work to the Keller Auditorium with full production values!

More dancers and the return of OBT Orchestra

OBT will be returning to the stage with a full roster of 26 company members. OBT welcomes Priyana Acharya, Abigail Concannon, and Charlotte Nash as its newest company artists and Cameron Pelton as company apprentice. The roster of its junior company OBT2 has grown as well to 18 members.

The 2021/22 season will also feature more live music as the OBT Orchestra has been signed to accompany all six *Dracula* performances in addition to their *Nutcracker* dates. On the *Face to Face* program audiences will enjoy Rachmaninoff piano preludes performed live on stage as part of the lovers' story in Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*.

"It's incredible to have this much growth following a year that was so devastating to the arts," says Franc. "Through collective efforts of everyone at OBT, the OBT School and our far reaching Education and Community Engagement department, we have found even more ways to thrive and serve our community. You don't want to miss what's next!"

Photo Credits:

Dracula courtesy Tulsa Ballet photo by Jeremy Charles; *Dreamland* courtesy Ballet Idaho, photo by Mike Reid; *Face to Face* Holly Zimmerman, Mia Leimkuhler, Artur Sultanov, Candace Bouchard, and Andrea Cooper in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, Photo by Blaine Truitt Covert.

2021/22 Season Schedule

FACE TO FACE | October 15-16, 2021

Keller Auditorium

3 performances only!

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER® | December 11 – 26, 2021

Keller Auditorium

15 performances including nine with the OBT Orchestra

DRACULA | February 19 – 26, 2022

Keller Auditorium

All performances with OBT Orchestra

DREAMLAND | April 8 – 10, 2022

Newmark Theatre

THE AMERICANS – TAKE TWO | June 3 – 11, 2022

Newmark Theatre

ON STAGE | June 11 – 12, 2022

Newmark Theatre

OBT 2021/22 season subscriptions are on sale now.

Three packages available:

- Choose Your Own
- Company Package
- Family Package – with reduced pricing for children

Purchase online at obt.org or contact the OBT Box Office. No walk-ups.

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM | M-F

503-222-5538

ABOUT OREGON BALLET THEATRE

Founded in 1989, OBT is the largest professional ballet company in Oregon, employing 250 people and attracting artists from around the globe with its 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. OBT's mission is to share our passion for the expressive power of ballet, inspire an enduring appreciation of dance, and connect to our community through excellence in performance, training, and education.

In addition to the quality of its artistic product, OBT continues to thrive organizationally, even throughout the COVID pandemic. The nationally acclaimed OBT School is robust, with 240 students enrolled last year. Education and Community Engagement reached 34,000 students in classrooms across the state, 50% of whom were youth of color. OBT has a multi-year action plan to advance diversity, equity and inclusion. The

board is actively engaged in oversight, strategy and fundraising. OBT remains debt-free; 2021 will be its seventh consecutive year operating in the black financially, and the organization maintains a board-designated building fund approaching \$5 million. Learn more at [obt.org](https://www.obt.org).