

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

PRESS CONTACT: Natasha Kautsky
Director of Marketing & Communications
PHONE: 503.227.0977 | EMAIL: natasha.kautsky@obt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Portland, OR (September 13, 2021)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents *Face to Face*

Three powerful works to celebrate human connection and the return to live performance

This fall Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) returns to the Keller Auditorium with *Face to Face*, a program of three powerful works: George Balanchine's iconic *The Four Temperaments*, Ben Stevenson's passionate *Three Preludes*, and a world premiere from Jennifer Archibald that aspires to sculpt the clouds.

"After 18 months away from our home, we are thrilled to be coming face-to-face with our audience again" says Interim Artistic Director Peter Franc. "For this highly-anticipated return to live performance, we bring three works that celebrate our humanity – revealing our passions, our desires, and our dreams through the unique expression of dance."



After 11 years, the return of an audience favorite
George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments* | Music: Paul Hindemith

Last performed in 2010, OBT is thrilled to return one of George Balanchine's masterpieces, *The Four Temperaments*, to the Keller Auditorium. The work is loosely based on the ancient notion that human disposition is formed from a mix of four personality types – melancholic, sanguinic, phlegmatic, and choleric. But as with all things Balanchine, the ballet is ultimately an expression of the pure possibility and joy of dancing.

Balanchine Trust coach, and the cofounder of Pacific Northwest Ballet, Franca Russell returns to stage *The Four Temperaments* which features the entire company, including the debut of OBT's [many new dancers!](#)

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE



An internationally acclaimed ballet comes to Portland
Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes* | Music: Sergei Rachmaninoff

OBT audiences fell in love with Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*. Now the company presents Stevenson's more intimate exploration of romance, *Three Preludes*. Created in 1969, the work was an immediate critical and popular success and has been performed by companies around the world including American Ballet Theatre, and Paris Opera Ballet.

The ballet captures a cautious studio flirtation between two dancers which transforms into passion – their flowing movements increasing in speed and intensity as they are swept away by their love and the music of Rachmaninoff's Preludes performed by a solo pianist. OBT is delighted to bring this intimate yet powerful work to Portland.



A world premiere comes to shine in the Keller
Jennifer Archibald's *SculptedClouds* | Music: Dead Can Dance,
Roger Goula

SculptedClouds is an otherworldly exploration of man's relationship with nature from rising star Jennifer Archibald. Dancers reach for the sky in soaring lifts set to the ethereal beat-driven music of Dead Can Dance and Roger Goula. But the clouds are beyond them – boundless, airy, and free – and will not be controlled.

Last June OBT previewed *SculptedClouds* at OBT LIVE an outdoor event with limited capacity and restricted production value - except for the dramatic natural backdrop of the sky and sunset. OBT is eager to bring this haunting and ethereal work to its full brilliance on the Keller stage.

Face to Face

Friday, October 15 | 7:30 PM, Saturday, October 16 | 2:00 PM, Saturday, October 16 | 7:30 PM

Tickets \$24 - \$105

Purchase online at obt.org or contact the OBT Box Office

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM | M-F

503-222-5538

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

No walk ups at this time. Covid protocol details [HERE](#)

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.