FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Portland, OR (January 18, 2022)

OBT celebrates true love with the premiere of Ben Stevenson’s Dracula

This February, Portland is in for a thrilling Valentine’s surprise as Oregon Ballet Theatre presents Ben Stevenson’s Dracula, February 19-26 at the Keller Auditorium. The full-length work was originally created by Stevenson to mark the 100th anniversary of Bram Stoker’s iconic 1897 novel. Franz Liszt’s gothic works, arranged by John Lanchbery, set the perfect haunting tone which the OBT Orchestra will perform live. To celebrate the Dracula premiere, OBT will host its annual gala as part of the opening night festivities.

OBT’s Interim Artistic Director Peter Franc knows that Portlanders enjoy flouting convention. “I thought, ‘why not! Let’s do something new and present Dracula for Valentine’s.’ It’s not your typical looking love story, but at its core that’s what this ballet is still about. So, it’s really very fitting.”

Stevenson is among ballet’s ultimate storytellers. Portland audiences loved his production of Cinderella which OBT presented to sold out houses in 2015 and 2019. Now they will experience a work that The New York Times described as “a spectacle of an order ballet audiences seldom see today” and Dance Magazine proclaimed, “…a Dracula to die for!”

While in keeping with the tradition of a 19th century classical ballet, the production has the feel of a Broadway show; with awe inspiring theatrics, vampire brides soaring through the air, and an exploding chandelier. At the heart of all the spectacle is glorious dancing, requiring both technique and artistry – a demanding blend which OBT’s dancers uniquely possess. “I’m so excited to add this powerhouse production to the OBT repertory,” says Franc, “and am absolutely thrilled to share it with Portland audiences!”

Ben Stevenson’s Dracula
Music by Franz Liszt arranged by John Lanchbery
February 19 – 26, 2022 | Keller Auditorium
All performances accompanied by the OBT Orchestra
Tickets $29 - $115 | Covid protocol details HERE
Purchase online at obt.org or by phone 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM | M-F 503-222-5538

Opening Night Gala
Dracula Awaits – A Full Blooded Affair
February 19, 2022 | 5:30 PM
Drinks. Dinner. Dracula. Dancing
Details and tickets 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.