

OREGON BALLET THEATRE

PRESS CONTACT: Natasha Kautsky

Director of Marketing & Communications

PHONE: 503.227.0977 | EMAIL: natasha.kautsky@obt.org

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**Oregon Ballet Theatre closes its 2021/22 Season with *The Americans Take Two*
Featuring *Mirror, Mirror* a world premiere from rising star Michelle Manzanales
June 3-11, 2022 Newmark Theatre**



Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) concludes its 2021/22 season with *The Americans Take Two*. The long awaited second installment of its popular Americans series celebrating the unique voices of American choreographers features *Mirror, Mirror* an exciting commission from choreographer Michelle Manzanales paired with the return of two audience favorites: Darrell Grand Moultrie's whimsical *Fluidity of Steel*; and BodyVox founders Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton's *Big Shoes*.

Originally scheduled to open in June of 2020, the performance was cancelled due to the global pandemic. "This show is a milestone for us," says OBT Interim Artistic Director Peter Franc. "Seeing this production come to the stage not only marks the end of a successful season, but also the successful conclusion of a challenging chapter for the organization. In keeping with the resilience of the American spirit we not only survived during this time, but we have thrived. We can't wait to share this performance with you!"

Fluidity of Steel

Choreography: Darrell Grand Moultrie

Music: Ezio Bosso, Kenji Bunch, and Oliver Davis

Fluidity Of Steel examines maleness without conformity as the dancers explore their own identities in the context of a society that often has a narrow view of what masculinity should be. From birth, many American men are told what not to wear, want, or feel. There is a whole range of human emotions and experiences that men are rarely supposed to show: tears, doubt, unrestrained affection. This work aims

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to step beyond those confines by celebrating brotherhood, vulnerability, physicality, and the rich potential of what a man can be.

Mirror, Mirror

Choreography: Michelle Manzanales

Music: Amon Tobin, Henry Green, Nancy Sinatra, Gustavo Santaolalla, Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet, Béla Fleck & Ben Sollee

Mirror, Mirror is inspired by the reflection on our collective "time out" imposed by the global pandemic. As the thick and constant hustle and bustle of life was uniquely stunned, and the initially expected two-week pause lingered for days and days beyond, the mirrors that exist around us became more and more of a presence, encouraging the questioning of what we prioritize in life and the societal contracts we place on ourselves as absolute. Through a series of vignettes, choreographer Michelle Manzanales examines how life forged on through snapshots of this time and celebrates the beauty and complexity of our choices for resiliency.

Big Shoes

Choreography: Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland

Music: Brian Eno, Philip Glass, Alphonse Mouzon,

Big Shoes harkens back to that moment when we dressed in grown-ups' clothes and imagined for the first time the vast road that stretched on ahead, forever beckoning, daring us. Knowing and not knowing, we swaggered and swayed, presumed, and pretended. We filled those shoes, awkwardly clunking around the room, confident and cloying. And then one day those big shoes fit, and the path ahead revealed itself. History relived and born anew, with passion, humor, delight, and grace.

Press photos [HERE](#)

AMERICANS TAKE TWO

June 3 - 11, 2022

Newmark Theatre

Performance Schedule:

Friday, June 3 | 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 4 | 2:00 PM

Saturday, June 4 | 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 5 | 2:00 PM

Thursday, June 9 | 7:30 PM

Friday, June 10 | 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 11 | 7:30 PM

Tickets \$29 - \$103

Special offers for students, seniors, Oregon Trail Card members, and groups of 10+ available. Details [HERE](#)

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

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM | M-F

503-222-5538

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

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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.