

PRESS CONTACT: Natasha Kautsky Director of Marketing & Communications 503.227.0977 · <u>natasha.kautsky@obt.org</u> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Portland, OR (October 7, 2022)

Oregon Ballet Theatre Emerges from COVID

Artistically Vibrant, Financially Healthy and Organizationally Strong.

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) has released its <u>2022 Annual Report</u>, revealing an organization that is artistically vibrant, financially healthy, and organizationally strong.

"OBT today is as well-positioned for the future as at any time in our 33-year history," stated Thomas Bruner, executive director and Peter Franc, interim artistic director. "We did not just survive but have emerged from the pandemic vibrant, healthy, and strong."

OBT's 2022 Annual Report includes highlights from the three programmatic areas of the organization – company, school, and community education – as well as its financial condition and progress in advancing equity.

During the limitations of Covid, OBT chose to engage in intensive organizational development work. The results of those efforts are clear, and include the following examples from 2022:

Artistically Vibrant. The Company's 21/22 season was favorably received by critics and 58,000 audience members alike. The School is serving more students with sustained levels of training excellence and a greater variety of curriculum. Community Education is robust, with teaching artists bringing programming to classrooms across the region.

Financially Healthy. OBT is debt-free. The organization completed its eighth consecutive year in the black. The Board-designated building fund remains untouched and growing.

Organizationally Strong. OBT completed a Good Governance initiative to strengthen Board oversight. The organization amplified its diversity, equity, and inclusion work. A One OBT initiative is reducing silos internally and externally. A new Code of Culture is fostering an organizational environment of kindness.

Moving forward, OBT has exciting plans for its future, including:

- expand the company from 26 to 27 dancers
- enhance artistic excellence with the addition of five new company members
- expand both pre-professional and recreational offerings in the School
- grow the scope and impact of community education programming
- expand studio space to facilitate growth of the company and the School
- advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of the organization
- increase earned and contributed revenue to ensure long-term financial sustainability



ABOUT OBT

Founded in 1989, OBT is the nation's 20th largest professional ballet company, employing 250 people and attracting artists from around the globe with its reputation for excellence. 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 and has emerged from COVID exceptionally well-positioned for the future. The nationally acclaimed OBT School is robust, with 300 students from across the country. Education and Community Engagement reaches thousands of students in classrooms across the state, 50% of whom are 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; 2022 was its eighth consecutive year operating in the black financially, and the organization maintains a Board-designated building fund approaching \$5 million. Learn more at obt.org.