



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Portland, OR
November 4, 2022

Oregon Ballet Theatre welcomes Houston Ballet Principal Charles-Louis Yoshiyama to its roster this February with *La Sylphide*

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) is thrilled to announce that Houston Ballet star Charles-Louis Yoshiyama will be joining its roster as a principal dancer effective this February in August Bournonville's romantic masterpiece, *La Sylphide*.

"I am thrilled to welcome a new Principal Dancer as accomplished as Charles" says Interim Artistic Director Peter Franc. "His powerful and dynamic presence will surely delight Portland audiences, enhancing the fabric of our incredible company!"



Yoshiyama trained on scholarship at English National Ballet School and at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. In 2007, he was a finalist at the prestigious Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland and at the Youth American Grand Prix where he received the Outstanding Contemporary Award. He became a principal dancer with Houston Ballet in 2016. A versatile performer, he has danced in contemporary works by the likes of Wayne McGregor and Alexander Ekman as well as major

classical roles including: Prince Rudolf in Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Mayerling*, Des Grieux in MacMillan's *Maonon*, Oberon in John Neumeier's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Albrecht in Stanton Welch's *Giselle*, and as Basilio in Ben Stevenson's *Don Quixote* for which he received high praise:

"Principal Charles-Louis Yoshiyama as Basilio commanded the stage with charisma to spare. His leaps were athletic and beautiful, his partnering smooth and seemingly effortless, and when he was absent for a time in the second act he was missed."

- Margaret Downing, *The Houston Press*



Yoshiyama will make his OBT debut as James in OBT's premiere of *La Sylphide* to be performed February 18 – 25, 2023 at Portland's Keller Auditorium. Details at obt.org.

Photo Charles-Louis Yoshiyama as Basilio in Ben Stevenson's *Don Quixote* taken by Amitiva Sarkar. Additional photos and/or video of Charles-Louis Yoshiyama upon request.

ABOUT OREGON BALLET THEATRE

Founded in 1989, OBT is among the nation's leading professional ballet companies, 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 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 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.