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## Shane Jewell Named Executive Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) Cate Sweeney has announced the appointment of Shane Jewell as the organization's next executive director. His appointment will become effective January 9, 2023 when he will replace current Executive Director, Thomas Bruner, who has chosen to return to his private practice, Bruner Strategies.

Jewell joins OBT with over 20 years of experience in performing arts administration including eight years leading dance companies. Jewell currently serves as the General Manager for [Gibney Company](#) a contemporary dance company based in New York City.

Before Gibney, Jewell was the Executive Director for [Orlando Ballet](#) and [Oklahoma City Ballet](#). Under his leadership, these ballet companies saw increased contributed income, audience attendance, and school enrollment and successfully completed capital campaigns. Both companies are considered within OBT's dance cohort nationally and have pre-professional schools, a combination of experience that fits exactly the profile developed by the Executive Director Search committee for a highly skilled executive with a naturally inspiring leadership style.

Jewell arrives as OBT continues its successful recovery from the setbacks wrought by the pandemic. Under the leadership of Thomas Bruner and Interim Artistic Director Perter Franc, [OBT is on solid artistic and financial footing](#) - a springboard for the future.



*Photo by Shevaun Williams*



"These are exciting times as our artform evolves to meet the needs of our community and serves new audiences. While we are proud of the progress OBT has made, there remains a lot of work ahead," notes Sweeney. "After a thorough search led by Arts Consulting Group (ACG), Shane emerged as the clear leader to usher in OBT's next chapter."

"It is an absolute honor to join the incredible team at Oregon Ballet Theatre during such a momentous time in the organization's trajectory," says Jewell. "I am so excited to immerse in the community and culture of Portland and to work diligently with the dedicated staff and board to help build upon the rich history here while our eyes are firmly fixed on the future."

Jewell's appointment is the first step in a major leadership change at OBT with a permanent artistic director expected to be announced before the end of this year. This transition has been led by two hiring committees for artistic and executive director comprised of OBT Board members, staff and dancers, and community advisors who worked collaboratively with ACG over the last six months on the search.

The OBT Board would like to extend its gratitude to ACG for leading this transparent and equitable process as well as its donors and members of the Executive Director Search Committee: Allison Sneider, Cate Sweeney, co-chairs, Niel DePonte, Cary Jackson, Donna Jackson-Siekmann, Kathleen Lewis, Nolan Lienhart, Allison Lyneham, Darren Marshall, Zuzu Metzler, and Krina Turner.

## ABOUT SHANE JEWELL

Shane Jewell hails from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and has over twenty years of experience working in performing arts administration and producing. He most recently was the General Manager of Gibney Company in New York City, where he built the infrastructure and strategic plan for a newly formed contemporary dance company that performed in NYC and toured internationally. While at Gibney, Shane got to work with such esteemed choreographers as Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Sonya Tayeh, Alan Lucien Øyen, and many more. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the Orlando Ballet, Executive Director of Oklahoma City Ballet, and Executive Director of OK Mozart International Music Festival.

## ABOUT OBT

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. 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](http://obt.org).

## ABOUT ACG

ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement, strategic planning & community engagement, and facilities & program planning services for the arts and culture industry. ACG consultants are located in communities throughout North America to best serve the needs of our clients. ACG team members have decades of combined senior leadership experience in every artistic and cultural discipline and area of functional management expertise.

As specialists in the management of arts and cultural institutions who are personally and passionately committed to the creative industries, ACG is recognized internationally for our expertise, personalized approach, and extraordinary results.