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2023)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Portland, OR (August 18,

**Oregon Ballet Theatre Names World-Renowned
Dancer and Choreographer Dominic Walsh
to OBT2 Program Director and Principal Instructor**

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) Artistic Director Danielle Rowe and OBT School Director Katarina Svetlova have jointly announced the appointment of world-renowned dancer, choreographer, and stager Dominic Walsh to OBT2 Program Director and Principal Instructor. OBT's junior company OBT2 was founded in 2016 and provides invaluable performance experience to dancers on the cusp of a professional career. The ensemble plays a critical role in main company performances as well as fulfilling OBT's mission to provide access to world class ballet throughout the region – its annual Spring tour reaches communities in Bend, Hood River, Lincoln City, and Astoria and will have its debut at Beaverton's Reser Center next season. In addition to OBT2, Walsh will oversee OBT School's Trainee program for advanced students.

"Dominic's vast and varied career as a principal dancer, choreographer, artistic director, stager, costume designer, teacher, and coach, will no doubt enrich and inspire our dancers, and we're thrilled to have him join the team this season," says Rowe. "We feel confident that with Dominic's experience and breadth of knowledge, we will continue to strengthen the unity between the school and company, providing our dancers with wholistic and high-quality training and preparing them for success in dance and beyond!"



Walsh is from Elgin, Illinois and received his early training in Chicago. He joined Houston Ballet in 1989 and was promoted to principal dancer by 1996. Walsh danced throughout Asia, Europe, and North America and performed all the major classics. Houston Ballet Artistic Director Ben Stevenson created numerous roles for him including Marc Antony in *Cleopatra*.

In 1998, Walsh created his first work for Houston Ballet *Flames of Eros* which won the Choo-San Goh Award for



Choreography. He created three more works for Houston Ballet and in 2002 he founded Dominic Walsh Dance Theater. The company's roster included works by Walsh, and legendary dance makers Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián, Mauro Bigonzetti, and Matthew Bourne. By 2004 Walsh left Houston Ballet to pursue Dominic Walsh Dance Theater full-time. He won a second Choo-San Goh Award in 2007 and received a 2008 Princess Grace Award, both for *The Trilogy: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*. In 2012, he was inducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame.



Walsh continues to receive commissions to set and create works nationally and internationally. He also stages the ballets of his longtime mentor, Ben Stevenson including OBT's highly successful production of Stevenson's *Dracula* in February 2022.

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, and 2022 was its eighth consecutive year operating in the black. Learn more at obt.org.