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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Portland, OR (August 22, 2023)

Oregon Ballet Theatre Presents the Return of Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake*
Featuring the OBT Orchestra led by Guest Conductor Enrique Carreón-Robledo
and San Francisco Ballet Principal Dancer Luke Ingham as Prince Siegfried



Photo by Blaine Truitt Covert

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) opens its 2023/24 Season with Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake* featuring the OBT Orchestra led by Guest Conductor Enrique Carreón-Robledo. Stowell's production debuted in 2006 to sold-out houses at the Keller Auditorium establishing OBT's reputation for highly virtuosic performance and contributing to the vibrancy of Portland's growing arts scene. The *Oregonian* described the premiere as "an event of deep significance to both the city and the company." Last presented in 2013, this production is long overdue for a return to the company's repertory.

Stowell specifically chose a traditional approach for OBT's first production of *Swan Lake* to challenge and mentor the dancers as well as instill Portland with a sense of pride in their achievement. This production offers a glimpse into Marius Petipa's and Lev Ivanov's *Swan Lake* at its 1895 St. Petersburg premiere. At the same time Stowell deftly removes superfluous moments from the original to maintain the momentum of the story. Audiences and critics alike were drawn to Stowell's approach, and the production was a major success for the company. In the 2008 revival as Portland faced a recession and the impact of the national financial crisis, OBT's *Swan Lake* remained a solid investment. Bob Hicks titled his *Oregonian* review, "*Swan Lake* - You can bank on it!"

Stowell, who was OBT's artistic director at the time of the 2006 premiere is excited to return to Portland to stage the work with a new generation of OBT dancers. "In some ways the timing is full circle to the premiere when OBT as a very young company had to prove itself," he says. "Since the considerable set back wrought by the pandemic, OBT and other Portland arts organizations continue to recover. It is my hope that in bringing back this production OBT will once again rise to the occasion - nurturing its dancers to fulfill their possibilities as artists and inspiring Portland audiences to discover and cherish the city's cultural riches."



OBT Artistic Director Danielle Rowe is delighted to welcome Stowell to the studio. “Christopher and I have known each other for years as colleagues and friends. We have a great working dynamic and I’m excited for what we will bring to the stage!”

Joining OBT’s ranks as a guest artist for this production is San Francisco Ballet Principal Luke Ingham who will perform the role of Prince Siegfried. Full casting for *Swan Lake* will be posted to the OBT website one week prior to the opening.

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents *Swan Lake*
October 6 – 14, 2023
Keller Auditorium

Tickets start at \$29 | obt.org/23-24-season/swan-lake

For information about subscriptions, group discounts, and student and senior rush visit
obt.org/boxoffice/discounts

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.