

On Stage

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon Ballet Theater's (OBT) "Dance Near the Edge" program will feature the world premiere of Artistic Director James Canfield's first new dance work of the millennium, *Illuminations*, and Portland-based choreographer Trey McIntyre's percussion-laced *Curupira*. As a special treat to audiences, OBT will showcase the talents of two nationally recognized female students from The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre, who will each be partnered by a male member of the professional company in a different classical pas de deux. "Dance Near the Edge" will be performed through March 11 at the Portland Civic Auditorium.

James Canfield's dynamic world-premiere ballet, *Illuminations*, is set to a collection of contemporary dance recordings—including Peace Orchestra, Ucerworld, Malcolm McLaren, Terre Thaemlitz, Thievery Corporation and Strange Voices—juxtaposed throughout the work with excerpts from Johann Sebastian Bach's Chaconne from the "violin partita No. 2 in D minor," performed live by Portland violinist Aaron Meyer. Alternately edgy, quiet and intense, *Illuminations* is embodied by a subtle and abstract spiritual theme and explores the nature of personal relationships and human emotions. Through Canfield's exquisite and renowned use of the pas de deux—as well as solo and ensemble passages—he illuminates the individual and group talents of the company dancers. *Illuminations* is made possible in part by a generous gift from Cindy and Duncan Campbell.

Canfield has created over 25 original dance works, spanning from

James Canfield's First New Dance Work of the Millennium

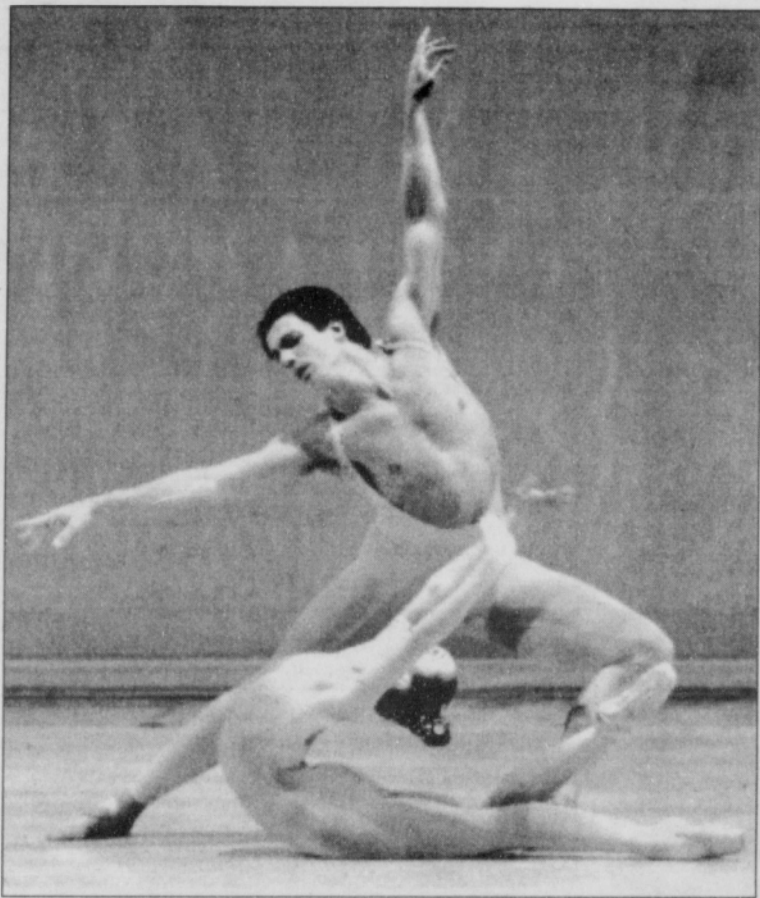


PHOTO BY J. DAVID STRAUB

classical pas de deux to ensemble rock ballets to full-length story ballets. Since Oregon Ballet Theatre's inception in 1989, his dance works have not only become an integral part of the Company's repertoire, but have been performed by dance companies across the country, including the Washington Ballet, Ballet West, Milwaukee Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Tulsa Ballet Theatre, and the David Taylor

Dance Theatre in Colorado. Three of his works received popular and critical acclaim during OBT's New York City debut last summer, moving the New York Post to write, "Canfield has done wonders in 10 short years."

Tickets for "Dance Near the Edge," priced from \$12.50 to \$76.50, are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased through the OBT Ticket Office (1120 SW Tenth Avenue in downtown Portland) by calling 503-2-BALLET (503-222-5538) or toll free at 1-888-922-5538, Monday through Friday from 9 am. to 5 pm. Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster (503-790-2787), G.I. Joe's stores, and the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (1111 SW Broadway, downtown Portland).

Oregon Ballet Theatre will present the world premiere of Artistic Director James Canfield's "Illuminations," during "Dance Near the Edge," through March 11 at the Portland Civic Auditorium.

What's Next?

JAMES CANFIELD'S
first new work of 2000
together with Trey McIntyre's *Curupira*.

March 3-11
Dance Near the Edge

"The dance scene in Portland is remarkably vital, thanks to...Oregon Ballet Theatre."
— The New York Times

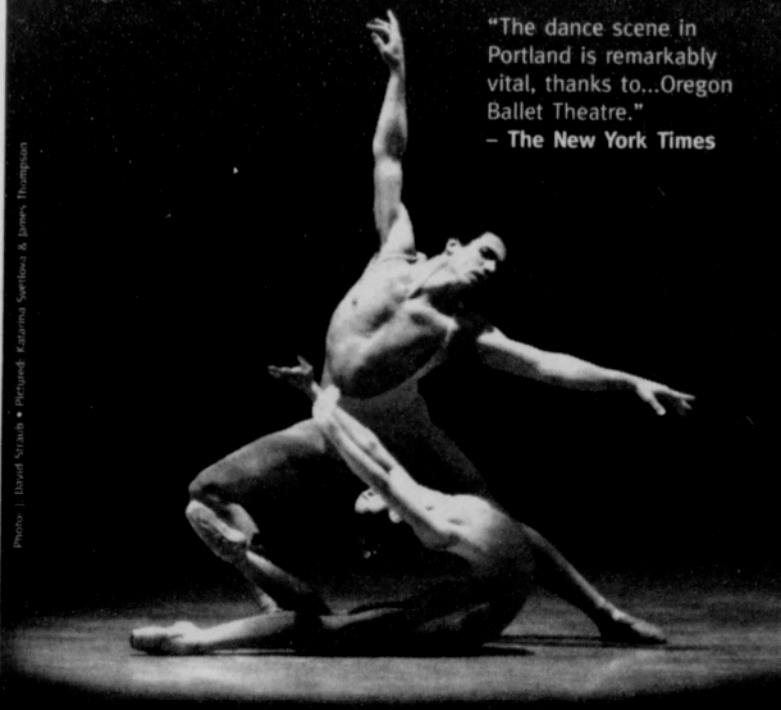


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Oregon Ballet Theatre
JAMES CANFIELD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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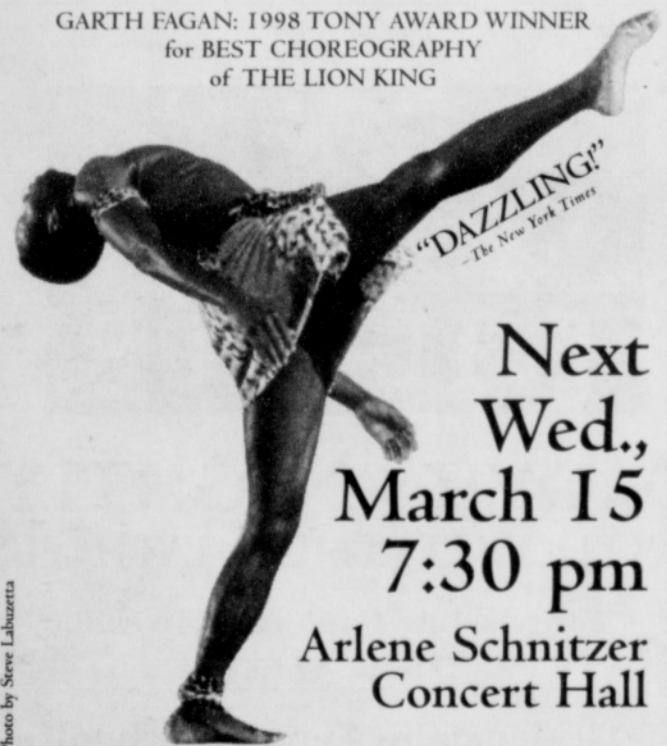


Photo by Steve Labuzetta

Next
Wed.,
March 15
7:30 pm
Arlene Schnitzer
Concert Hall

Tickets at Performing Arts Center, SW Broadway and Main,
and Fred Meyer FASTIXX, 224-8499/800-992-8499.
Discounts for students/seniors/ groups 8 or more. Info: (503) 245-1600.

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