

Arts

# Romeo and Juliet Opens Oregon Ballet Theatre Season

Love, tragedy, passion and youth.... Thus begins Oregon Ballet Theatre's 12<sup>th</sup> exciting season of dance in Portland with *Romeo and Juliet*. Shakespeare's classic drama as brought to life by the vision of OBT Artistic Director James Canfield. Performances take place at Keller Auditorium (formerly the Civic) on October 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and October 15 at 2 p.m.

This ever-popular story returns to OBT's stage with many new and exciting elements, including spoken narrative, the use of tableaux, and an updated and sophisticated lighting design using the latest lighting technology. Additionally, OBT's company of classically trained dancers pro-

vides a fresh and new interpretation of Canfield's choreography while robed in beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century costumes. The hallmarks of



visual richness combined with theatrical presence and pace make this *Romeo and Juliet* a visually stunning jewel among James Canfield's productions.

Tom Gold's performance of Romeo also marks the first time a guest artist from the world-renowned New York City Ballet appears with OBT. Mr. Gold has

been a member of the NYC Ballet since 1986, and has performed as a soloist since 1993. Mr. Gold will perform Oct. 21. Robert Deskins of OBT will dance the role of Romeo on Oct. 20.

The role of Juliet will feature OBT artist Vanessa Thiessen, who first performed the role of Juliet as a 15-year-old apprentice in OBT's prior production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Thiessen is the first apprentice to join the OBT Company after studying at the School of the Oregon Ballet Theatre. Originally from Astoria, Oregon, she has danced lead roles in a number of OBT productions including *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Duo Vivant*. Ms. Thiessen will perform on Oct. 21. Tracy Taylor will dance the role of Juliet on Oct. 20.

Oregon Ballet Theatre is a classically-based, pro-

fessional ballet company and school based in Portland, Oregon, whose mission is to educate and entertain audiences on the local, regional and national level by providing quality professional ballet. Additionally, OBT seeks to encourage the creative talents of

dancers, choreographers, composers, designers and musicians. OBT's new building at 818 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. includes 12,000 square feet of studio and office space. Performances remain at the Keller Auditorium, the Newmark Theater, and PSU's Lincoln Hall.



**BOX OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Saturday:  
Noon to 6pm  
(or close of show)  
Sunday: 2pm to close of show

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**9 am - 4 pm**

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