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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

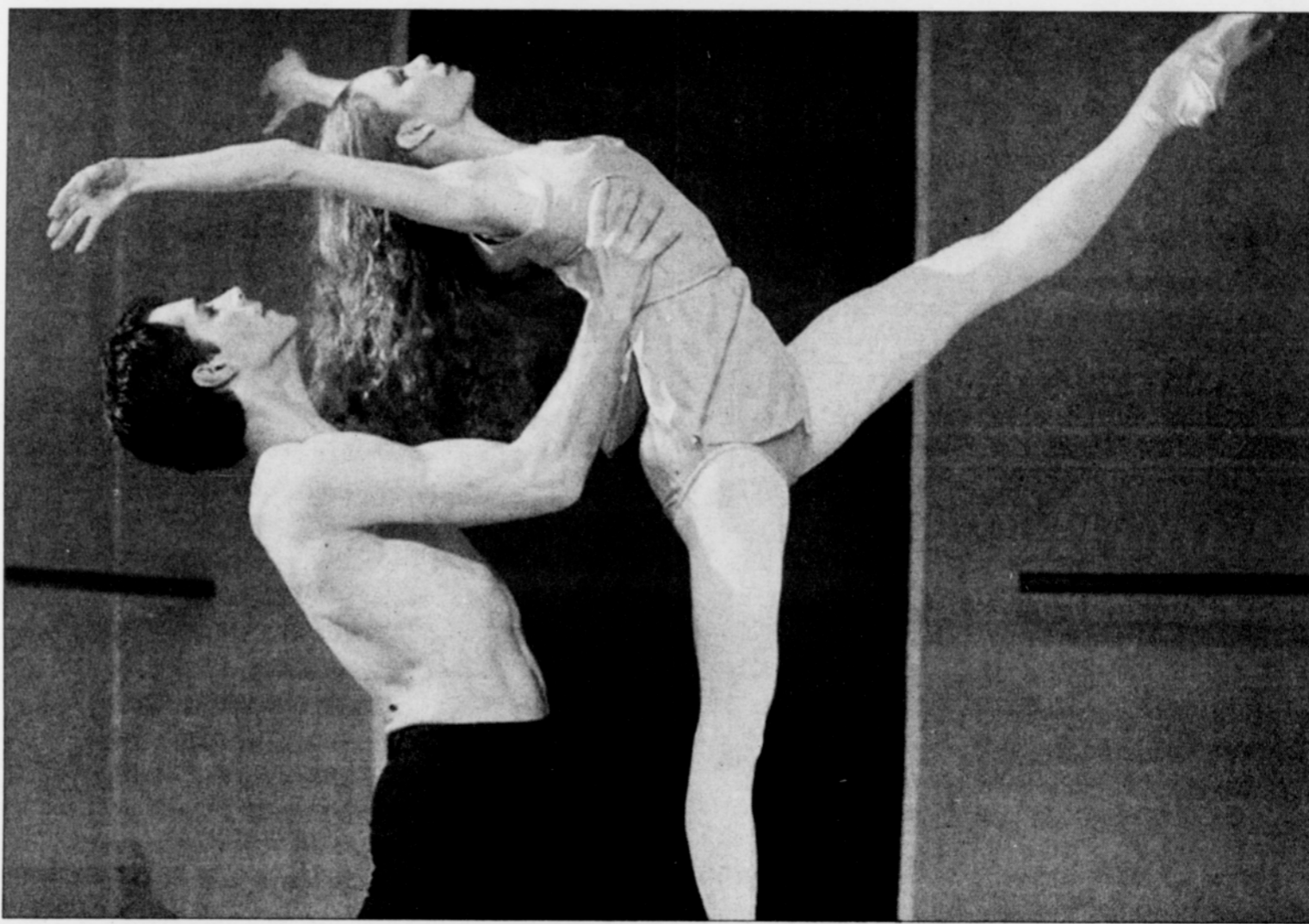


PHOTO BY BLAINE TRUITT COVERT

Principal Dancers Gavin Larsen and Artur Sultanov in Oregon Ballet Theatre's 2008 production of Jerome Robbins' *Afternoon of a Faun*.

## A Welcome and Farewell

### Final performance for hometown legend

Artur Sultanov, the tall Russian-trained principal dancer who left the San Francisco Ballet in 2003 to join Oregon Ballet Theatre alongside Artistic Director Christopher

Stowell, has announced that he will retire following his work at Dance United on Saturday, June 9 at Keller Auditorium.

Dance United's season finale celebration will also give Oregon the opportunity to welcome an international ballet legend, New York City Ballet principal dancer Wendy Whelan.

For his final performance, Sultanov will reprise (with Alison Roper) of the "Je ne taime pas" pas de deux from Christopher Wheeldon's *Kurt Weill-inspired There Where She Loved*.

Stowell said Sultanov has been one of the defining artists of the last decade.

"What I hoped for when asking him to join OBT in my first season here was a well-proportioned stalwart foil for Alison Roper but the dynamic, passionate, funny dance animal that he became surpassed I think even his expectations," Stowell said.

Sultanov has recently founded the Russian Ballet Academy in Hillsboro with his wife, Cynthia, and will be opening a new branch in Lake Oswego this summer.



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