

OREGON **BALLET** THEATRE

PRESS CONTACT: Stephanie Chadwick
Chief Growth Officer
PHONE: 503.444.2703
EMAIL: Stephanie.Chadwick@obt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Portland, OR (May 4, 2025)

Oregon Ballet Theatre Announces OBT Encore, a One-Day-Only Gala Fundraiser

Looking Back, Giving Forward: Celebrating Dance, Community, and Company Milestones

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) invites the community to *OBT Encore*, a festive, one-day-only gala fundraiser on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts.

Designed as a vibrant close to OBT's 2025–26 season, *OBT Encore* brings together an afternoon of exceptional dance with celebratory pre- and post-performance receptions featuring food, drink, and opportunities to gather with OBT artists, supporters, and community members.

As part of the festivities, OBT will also honor important company milestones, including dancer promotions and the retirements of Principal Dancers Brian Simcoe and Carly Wheaton.

“This event is about bringing our community together—celebrating our artists, marking meaningful moments in their careers, and supporting the future of ballet at OBT,” said Artistic Director Dani Rowe.

OBT Encore is more than a performance, it is a gala experience. Guests will enjoy:

- A curated performance featuring standout works from recent seasons and a world premiere
- Pre- and post-show receptions with food from Elephant's and beverages from Domaine Willamette and Willamette Valley Vineyards
- Opportunities to celebrate OBT artists, including promotions and career milestones
- A chance to directly support OBT's education and community programs

Entrance is \$250 per person and capacity is limited. Proceeds from the event benefit Oregon Ballet Theatre's education initiatives, which serve students and communities across the region.

The OBT Encore program showcases a dynamic range of works performed by OBT's leading artists, including:

- A new work by Dani Rowe, created for Principal Dancer Brian Simcoe
- *The Dracula pas de deux* by Ben Stevenson
- The women's ensemble from *At Night's Delicious Close*, by Nicolas Blanc

- Balanchine’s *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* as Carly Wheaton’s farewell performance, partnered by Cyrus Shaskan
- A pas de deux from *The Sleeping Beauty* by Christopher Stowell
- Dani Rowe’s *UnSaid*
- The *Rubies pas de deux* by George Balanchine
- *바다 (Bada)* by Kangmi Kim
- *Midnight Sun* by Charlotte Nash
- The “Salad Town” dance from *Princess and the Pea* by Dani Rowe

The performance will culminate with Yuri Possokhov’s *La Valse* pas de deux, selected by Brian Simcoe for his final OBT performance. He will be partnered by Carly Wheaton.

As part of the celebration, OBT will recognize the careers of two beloved Principal Dancers, Brian Simcoe and Carly Wheaton.

Brian Simcoe, who has been with the company since 2004, has played a defining role in shaping OBT’s artistic identity for more than two decades.



Brian Simcoe and Xuan Cheng by Yi Yin

“Brian’s presence in his dancing and his partnering is truly something to behold,” said Principal Dancer Carly Wheaton. “He commits to storytelling so deeply while supporting everyone around him with a calm, steady generosity.”

Carly Wheaton, who joined OBT in 2022, will also take her final bow this season after four impactful years with the company.

“Carly is truly one of a kind,” said Rowe. “Her range, professionalism, and warmth have made her an extraordinary artist and role model within our organization.”



Brian Simcoe and Carly Wheaton by Jingzi Zhao

Together, Simcoe and Wheaton will share the stage one final time during *OBT Encore*, marking a poignant moment within an afternoon of celebration.

Event Details

OBT Encore

Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, OR 97005

Tickets are available at obt.org

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Stephanie.Chadwick@obt.org



The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy of Opsis Architecture.

About Oregon Ballet Theatre

OBT is the largest professional ballet company in Oregon, employing over 300 people and attracting artists from around the globe with our reputation for excellence. The company is rooted in the traditions of classical ballet, with a repertoire that ranges from the great classics to premieres from some of the most exciting choreographic voices in the field today, including our own Artistic Director, Dani Rowe. Our mission is dedicated to the vitality of, and access to, world-class ballet performance and training in our region.

In addition to our 5-show main stage season, we introduce students to ballet and the importance of lifelong movement through our education and community engagement programs, and we train dancers from three years old to 80 years old through the professional and recreational classes at the Oregon Ballet Theatre School. Many of our students go on to successful professional careers at companies including the Joffrey, the Dutch National Ballet, and within our own organization.

World class art, locally made since 1989.