



For Immediate Release:

Oregon International Ballet Academy Brings “Stages of Beauty” to the Reser

“beautiful... a touching story through artistic, intimate and graceful moves”
— *The Desert Sun* on Ye Li’s choreography

PORTLAND, OR (May 19, 2023): This June, the Oregon International Ballet Academy (OIBA) offers *Stages of Beauty* at Beaverton’s Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, featuring the second act of Tchaikovsky’s beloved *Swan Lake*, plus the World Premiere of a new work by Executive Director Ye Li. Guest artists from Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) will dance lead roles alongside OIBA students, elevating this production to the professional level that characterizes OIBA’s incredible work.

With a choreography career gaining national attention, Ye Li (pictured right with OIBA co-founder Xuan Cheng, photo by Yi Yin) maximizes his roles here in Oregon to create some of his most striking and large-scale work (photo lower right by Jingzi Zhao). His new piece *Player* reflects stages of growth and the interconnectivity of our choices. By engaging OIBA’s youngest dancers at the start of the piece to showcase the playfulness of childhood and the games of chance and choice children engage with, Li lays a meaningful and relatable foundation. The work then gradually cycles through dances with increasingly older children, showcasing how the decisions we make and the directions we take in our lives play out through myriad possibilities until the piece culminates with the stunning movements of guest actress Sarah Smith and soloists from OBT.

To complement this new work, more than forty-seven OIBA students and ten top-level student soloists will bring joy and beauty to the stage within the context of the full second act of *Swan Lake*, specially choreographed by Artistic Director Xuan Cheng, recently appointed Ballet Mistress of the world-renowned Hong Kong Ballet. Guest dancers include OBT principal Brian Simcoe, Nicholas Sakai, Isichel Perez Rivero, and rising stars Medea Cullumbine-Robertson and Isaac Lee.



Oregon International Ballet Academy presents

Stages of Beauty

Choreography and production by Ye Li & Xuan Cheng

WHEN: Thursday, June 22 at 7pm & Friday, June 23 at 7pm

WHERE: Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, Beaverton

TICKETS: <https://thereser.org/event/stages-of-beauty/>

"With our star teachers guiding these students in top-notch training, and choreography uniquely adapted to our student body, our young dancers radiate pure beauty and joy. We couldn't be happier to share this experience with the greater community through an ongoing partnership with the incredible Patricia Reser Center!"

- OIBA Artistic Director Xuan Cheng



Photo by Yi Yin

Oregon International Ballet Academy

Through excellence in ballet instruction and uniquely nurturing mentorship, OIBA teachers instill beauty, confidence, health, love and responsibility, inspiring students to fulfill their dreams. At once a world-class institution and a warm international family, OIBA has produced original, professional performances including classical ballet and contemporary work, often with live music, every year since its founding. The experiences and connections of Directors Xuan Cheng and Ye Li provide students with a platform to perform on stages around the world, allowing each dancer an opportunity to explore a similar journey of their own happiness onstage. Since the school was founded in 2015, OIBA-trained students have won positions in The School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West Academy, Kirov Academy of Ballet, The Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and more. Learn more and read director biographies at oiballet.org.

**For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:
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