

Christopher Stowell

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Accomplished and collaborative leader in the dance world with thirty-two years experience as a professional dancer, choreographer, educator and high-level cultural administrator. Extensive personal and professional relationships built across national and international worlds of dance. A history of facilitating effective communication between artists, administrative staff, trustees, donors and supporters. A recognized artistic and creative leader with a proven track record of success both artistically and administratively.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1984 – 85 School of American Ballet
1978 – 84 Pacific Northwest Ballet School

Teachers included: Stanley Williams, Perry Brunson, Francia Russell, Kent Stowell, Pavel Rotaru, Terry Westmoreland, Peter Martins, Richard Rapp, Andrei Kramarevsky, Irina Jacobson, David Howard

EXPERIENCE

2017 - to present Associate Artistic Director, The National Ballet of Canada
2012 - 2016 Choreographer, Teacher, Repetiteur, Coach- International
2014 - 2015 Assistant to the Artistic Director, San Francisco Ballet
2003 – 2012 Artistic Director, Oregon Ballet Theatre
2001 – 2003 Teacher, Repetiteur, Choreographer & Assistant Opera Director
1985 – 2001 Principal Dancer, San Francisco Ballet

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA (2017-PRESENT)

- Oversee artistic staff- ballet masters and scheduling manager
- Integral part of Executive Management Team- collaborate with the Artistic Director, Executive Director and all department heads
- Participate in long term planning- programming, touring, partnerships, fundraising and outreach projects
- Participate in developing the artistic vision for the organization with the Artistic Director, including planning artistic programming and casting
- Collaborate with and support all guest choreographers, repetiteurs and teachers on artistic matters
- Stage and rehearse select ballets at the Artistic Director's request
- Primary company teacher and coach to principal dancers
- Represent the National Ballet of Canada at national and international conferences and competitions- The Canadian Arts Summit (2017, 2018), The Equity Project, Prix de Lausanne (2018), Beijing International Ballet Competition (2017)

ASSISTANT TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – SAN FRANCISCO BALLET (2014-2015)

- Liaised between the artistic and administrative sides of the organization regarding long- term planning, budgeting, programming and touring.
- Company teacher and coach to principal dancers
- Member of the executive team
- Provided regular reporting at board meetings

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - OREGON BALLET THEATRE (2003-2012)

Became Oregon Ballet Theatre's second Artistic Director in 2003 and grew the size, scope and focus of the company. Responsible for an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million, a 5-program season in Portland, with an average of 50 performances (at home, and on tour).

Specific artistic achievements include:

- Presented 50 masterpieces of the contemporary classical repertoire and new works during nine seasons in Portland, including works by Ashton, Balanchine, Robbins, Kudelka, Wheeldon, Possokhov, Forsythe, McIntyre, Kent Stowell, Martins, Adam, Fonte, Lubovitch, Tomasson, Mrozewski, Neenan, Lidberg;
- Expanded roster of company dancers and put in place extensive apprentice program;
- Toured to: Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Fall for Dance in New York City, Savannah Music Festival, Chicago Dancing Festival, Laguna Dance Festival, Seattle Dance Festival, and OBT's first international tour to Seoul, South Korea;
- Conceived and created a gala of international dance, DANCE UNITED, bringing together dancers from many American and international ballet companies. Originally planned as a fund-raising event to benefit Oregon Ballet Theatre, the performances proved so popular they have since become a tradition in Portland;
- Arranged community collaborations with: White Bird Dance, Portland Art Museum, Oregon Symphony, Body Vox and Rumpus Room Dance;
- Recognizing Stowell's interest in encouraging young choreographers, OBT was one of the first ballet companies selected for the Robbins Foundation funded "New Essential Works Project."

In addition to significant artistic achievements, administrative duties and roles were also a key part of the work as Artistic Director: specific administrative successes include:

- Developed, launched and led a three-year fundraising initiative. The campaign had three objectives: debt reduction, a cash reserve, and a production fund for a new Nutcracker. Over half a million dollars was raised in one month;
- Concentrated on developing excellent relationships between artistic and administrative staffs, integrating two sides of organization around a common vision;
- Dramatically strengthened relationships with Music Director and union orchestra, instituting changes to make live music a crucial component of OBT's performances;
- Served on Search Committee for Executive Director;
- Served on numerous Board Committees, including Executive, Finance and Development boards;
- In 2010 participated in designing a new, comprehensive contract for Company dancers – combining the terms of the AGMA basic contract with specific language designed to address OBT management and artist concerns;

- Worked jointly with Board and administrative and production staff, participated in creation and execution of annual budgets;
- Established relationships with local donors while personally developing relationships with national foundations including the Schubert and Robbins Foundations;
- Expanded outreach and community engagement programs, including:
 - OBT Lab - introduction to ballet for kindergarten and first grade students in Oregon public schools, also offering scholarships to the School of OBT to talented children;
 - Dance Talks - lecture series with dance luminaries, aligned with each performance series. Guests have included: Merrill Ashley, Bart Cook, Alexander Grant, Margaret Barbieri, Franca Russell, Kent Stowell, James Kudelka, Yuri Possokhov and Lola de Avila;
 - Performance Perspectives - dramatically expanded series of lectures before each performance;
 - Student Performance Series – fully-staged performances in the theater for public school students, including a complete study guide to prepare teachers and students.

The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre was also under the auspices of the Artistic Director and significant improvements to the school were achieved while OBT's Artistic Director: specific successes include:

- Hired a new School Director
- Together with new School Director, reconceived and redesigned the direction of the School, including:
 - Implemented comprehensive new curriculum
 - Increased enrollment
 - Developed pre-professional and apprentice program linking School and Company
- Added to the School's repertoire for annual performances works by: Balanchine, Robbins, Kent Stowell, Wells, McIntyre, Christensen.

CHOREOGRAPHY

2015	Mad Scene 2.0	Short Film For The SF Dance Film Festival
2014	Cipher	Los Angeles Ballet
2014	A Second Front	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2012	Ekho	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2011	Carmen	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2010	Sleeping Beauty	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2010	A Holiday Revue	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2009	Rite of Spring	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2008	Tolstoy's Waltz	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2008	Pas de Deux Parisien	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2007	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2006	Swan Lake	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2005	Eyes on You	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2004	Adin	Oregon Ballet Theatre
2004	Quick Time	Pacific Northwest Ballet
2003	Zais	Pacific Northwest Ballet
2001	Zais Workshop	New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute
2001	Hexodus	Pennsylvania Ballet
2000	Opus 50	San Francisco Ballet

2000	A Revealing Glimpse into the Obvious	Diablo Ballet
1999	La Captive	Diablo Ballet
1999	Sonata #1	Diablo Ballet
1998	Estampie	Diablo Ballet
1995	Karelia Suite	Choreographic Workshop San Francisco Ballet
1994	Tchaikovsky Dances	Choreographic Workshop San Francisco Ballet
1993	Titled	Choreographic Workshop San Francisco Ballet

TEACHING

2016	National Ballet of Canada, The Royal Danish Ballet
2015	The Dutch National Ballet, The Royal Ballet School
2014	San Francisco Ballet, Beijing Dance Academy
2013	Cincinnati Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders
2012	Guangzhou Ballet of China
2001	Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet - Carlisle, PA
1999	Step Works - Nagoya, Japan
1998	Step Works - Nagoya, Japan
1998 - 2002	Pacific Northwest Ballet Company and School
1997 - 2001	San Francisco Ballet Company and School
1996 - 2003	City Ballet School, San Francisco

OPERA

2002	Choreographer, Eugene Onegin - Opera Pacific, Orange County, CA
2001	Assistant Director, The Tale of Genji - Opera Theater of St. Louis tour to Tokyo, Japan

STAGINGS

2017	Tarantella (Balanchine)- National Ballet of Canada
2017	Stravinsky Violin Concerto (Balanchine)- Dutch National Ballet
2016	Who Cares? (Balanchine) - Silicon Valley Ballet
2015	Rush (Wheeldon)- Royal Ballet School
2014	Brahms Schoenberg Quartet (Balanchine)- San Francisco Ballet
2014	Rush (Wheeldon)- Beijing Dance Academy
2003	Pacific (Morris)- Grand Theatre de Geneve

Ongoing representative of the George Balanchine Trust

PERFORMER

1990 – 2001	Principal Dancer	San Francisco Ballet
1987 – 1990	Soloist	San Francisco Ballet
1985 – 1987	Corps de Ballet	San Francisco Ballet

LEADING ROLES CREATED ON CHRISTOPHER STOWELL:

- Tomasson: Con Brio, Handel a Celebration, Meistens Mozart, Romeo and Juliet, Giselle, Sonata
Morris: Pacific, Sandpaper Ballet; Kudelka: Some Women and Men; Forsythe: New Sleep
Bintley: The Dance House; Caniparoli: Connotations, Pulcinella, Ciao Marcello;

- Balanchine Repertoire – leading interpreter of the principal roles in Tarantella, Agon, Rubies, Theme and Variations, Ballo della Regina, Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, The Four Temperaments, Symphony in C, Stars and Stripes;
- Full-length roles include Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet, Alain in La Fille Mal Gardée, Bluebird in The Sleeping Beauty, Pas de Trois in Swan Lake, Cassio in Othello, Sugar Plum Fairy’s Cavalier in The Nutcracker, Gürn in La Sylphide;
- Repertoire also included leading roles in works by Robbins, Tetley, Kylian, Lander, Martins, Smuin & choreographers above;
- Repetiteurs included: Tomasson, Grant, Tetley, Bolender, Amiel, H. Watts, Russell, Hendl, Ashley, Redpath, Neary, Tuggle, and Douglas.

PANELIST

2012 Executive Campaign Committee, Schools & Arts Together! – ballot measure #26-146 to establish a public fund for arts education in Portland, OR

2002 Panelist, Dance Program, National Endowment for the Arts

OTHER

2013 Dance East Rural Retreat- United Kingdom
Participant in an international think tank looking at the future of ballet and dance. Other participants have included representatives from The Royal Ballet, Australian Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Houston Ballet. Participation is by invitation only.

2005 Dance East Rural Retreat

2000 Continuing education courses at UC Berkeley, including writing and History of Opera

REFERENCES: AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST