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Oklahoma International Dance Festival Returns to OKC: A Transformative Summer of Dance with World-Class Faculty and Dynamic Performances at The Magnolia

Oklahoma City, OK – July 16, 2025 — The Oklahoma International Dance Festival (OIDF) is set to captivate Oklahoma City once again, running from July 21 to August 2, 2025. Now in its sixth year, this premier festival serves as a vibrant hub for dancers of all backgrounds, uniting a diverse array of international faculty and emerging talent to foster a community of artistic expression.

This year's festival advances the themes of collaboration, versatility, and artistic growth, encouraging participants to explore new dimensions of creativity and connection in diverse performance spaces. With a special emphasis on contemporary ballet and innovative choreographic exchange, dancers can look forward to rigorous training and exhilarating experimentation, culminating in public performances at The Magnolia (Broadway & NW 7th, OKC).

Immerse Yourself in the Intensive Program & Experience Live Performances

Designed for ages 15 and older, OIDF's two-week intensive will immerse participants in a rich curriculum of ballet, modern, jazz, African dance, and choreography, led by an exceptional lineup of international educators. Dancers from across Oklahoma, neighboring states, and even South America will converge for this transformative experience.

Highlighting the festival are two exciting performances at The Magnolia:

- **Choreography Showcase: Friday, August 1 at 8:00 p.m.**
Featuring captivating works from both local and out-of-state choreographers, this event embodies the collaborative spirit of OIDF.



- Closing Performance: Saturday, August 2 at 8:00 p.m.
A powerful culmination of the intensive, this performance premieres original works developed by faculty and students alike.

Meet Our Esteemed 2025 Faculty

OIDF proudly introduces an extraordinary group of master teachers and choreographers:

- Vincent Gros (France/Spain) – Ballet Master of Ballet de Catalunya, celebrated for his depth of classical technique and contemporary versatility.
- Alba Nadal (Spain/Germany) – Former soloist with the Royal Danish Ballet, known for her expressive artistry and pedagogical excellence.
- Kevin O'Day (USA/Germany) – Internationally sought-after choreographer with over 80 ballets for companies such as New York City Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens.
- Raffaele Irace (Italy/Germany) – Director of Gallus Theater in Frankfurt - Germany and Solocoreografico Festival, brings deep experience from Forsythe's legacy and European contemporary scenes.
- Karen Boyd Bethel (USA) – A former Radio City Rockette and musical theatre choreographer, infusing storytelling and technique across genres.
- Ayinde Hurrey (USA) – Performer, educator, and founder of Hurrey-UP Performing Arts, presenting rich West African dance and drumming traditions.
- Austin Hartel (USA/Paraguay) – OIDF's Artistic Director and former Pilobolus dancer, whose global career blends physicality, theatricality, and community.

"Bringing together this remarkable faculty allows us to foster an atmosphere of mutual learning and artistic risk-taking," says Austin Hartel. "Our festival thrives on meaningful exchange and encourages us all to grow through creativity and performance."

Commitment to Accessibility and Engagement

OIDF is dedicated to making world-class dance education accessible. Thanks to the support of Allied Arts, Oklahoma Arts Council, private donors, and especially the Kirkpatrick Foundation, the festival offers substantial scholarships to dancers from a wide range of backgrounds. As the Oklahoma International Dance Festival prepares to welcome dancers and artists from across the globe, it proudly recognizes the Kirkpatrick Foundation as a vital force behind its vision of access, excellence, and community engagement.

"There would be no Oklahoma International Dance Festival in its current form without the Kirkpatrick Foundation," said Artistic Director Austin Hartel. "Their commitment to the arts



has helped us create a platform for growth, transformation, and opportunity. It's not just funding—it's belief. And that belief uplifts an entire community."

Founded in 1955 by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, the Foundation has long been one of Oklahoma's most influential philanthropic institutions. With a mission to support arts and culture, animal well-being, and environmental stewardship, it has played a key role in launching and sustaining cultural landmarks such as the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma Contemporary, and Lyric Theatre. OIDF's mission to bring world-class dance training to Oklahoma aligns deeply with these values—offering access, elevating talent, and enriching our state's creative identity.

Free Community Days for Young Dancers

OIDF will host free Community Day classes for youth dancers (ages 9–15) at Oklahoma Contemporary on:

- Saturday, July 26
- Saturday, August 2

These full-day sessions (10:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.) include classes in Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and African Dance. Pre-registration is encouraged. Dancers should bring lunch, water, and appropriate attire.

The Impact of OIDF in the Dance Community

OIDF is more than a festival—it's a springboard for artistic and personal evolution. Dancers emerge from the experience with not only enhanced technique, but a deeper understanding of their creative voice and place within the global dance ecosystem. The festival has become a conduit for meaningful connections, with alumni forming ongoing collaborations across continents and communities. Each year, the stories of growth—from scholarship recipients to emerging choreographers—demonstrate the powerful ripple effect OIDF has on individual lives and the broader dance world.

About Oklahoma International Dance Festival

The Oklahoma International Dance Festival is a nonprofit organization committed to delivering high-caliber dance education, fostering cross-cultural artistic exchange, and strengthening Oklahoma's cultural landscape. Through its annual summer intensive, performances, and community programs, OIDF brings together world-renowned faculty and aspiring dancers from around the world. The festival is rooted in the belief that access to



exceptional training and mentorship should be available to all, and it continues to expand opportunities for dancers to learn, perform, and thrive in an inclusive, artistically rigorous environment.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

For schedule, ticketing, and registration, visit: www.okdancefest.org

Press materials & images available at: <https://www.okdancefest.org/press-materials>

Onward with movement,

Thyrsa Da Rosa

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Oklahoma International Dance Festival