



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Kansas City Ballet
Announces
Record-Breaking 2015-2016 Season
Board of Directors Extend Contracts of
Artistic Director Devon Carney and
Executive Director Jeffrey Bentley***

KANSAS CITY, MO (July 26, 2016) — Claire Brand, President of the Board of Directors for Kansas City Ballet, today announced the contract extensions for the Kansas City Ballet leadership at the conclusion of a record-breaking and critically acclaimed 2015-2016 season marked by the highest attendance and ticket revenue in its 58-year history. Both executives have agreed to multi-year contract renewals.

The 2015-2016 season achieved the best box office revenue ever. Kansas City Ballet also achieved another milestone in 81% capacity sold throughout the season. 17 performances of the 24 performance run of *The Nutcracker* were sold out, and 7 of the 9 performances of *Swan Lake* sold out. Every performance of New Moves in the Frost Studio at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity were sold out.

Other significant achievements include:

- KC Ballet reached more than 90,000 people throughout 2015-2016 through outreach, dance education and training, and professional repertory, holiday and school performances, plus many more through KC Ballet's Web site and social media presence.

- **Kansas City Ballet has grown to an all-time high** with:
 - 29 dancers, 6 KCB II dancers and 9 trainees, all of whom together comprise the performing ensemble of Kansas City Ballet
 - 64 full-time and part-time staff
 - 450 volunteers who invest 12,500 hours annually

- ***The Three Musketeers* launched the season with rave reviews:** “...Dashing heroics, beautiful ladies, swordplay and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments.”
— *The Kansas City Star*

- **The All-New World Premiere of *The Nutcracker* opened and became an immediate hit.** With over 95% sold to capacity and \$2.56M in sales, *The Nutcracker* smashed records, generating \$700,000 in ticket sales more than the previous year and received rave reviews.

“World premiere of Kansas City Ballet’s new *Nutcracker* is a visual spectacle.”
— *Kansas City Star*

“...Kansas City Ballet’s new *Nutcracker* is boisterous, busy dazzling fun.”
— *KC Independent*

“ The company’s artistic director, Devon Carney, has made the holiday classic a snow-dipped, candied Christmas dream..”
— *The Pitch Weekly*

- **34,600 people** of all ages attended *The Nutcracker* marking it as the highest attendance in its Kansas City Ballet history.

- **Kansas City Ballet engaged designers with international credentials** to create this new *The Nutcracker*.

- **New Moves at the Bolender Center with six WORLD PREMIERES** hit an all-time high in sales at over \$28,000.

- ***Swan Lake* delivered with 96% sold to capacity for 9 performances and breaking sales records of \$674,000.** Critical reviews were equally glowing.

“ Kansas City Ballet creates magical *Swan Lake* with stunning lead and practiced corps.”
— *Kansas City Star*

“...A masterful performance, and one that deserved the torrent of applause that followed.”
— *KC Stage*

- ***Rite of Spring*, the spring mixed repertory, exceeded goal by 10%** and featured a WORLD PREMIERE and three Company PREMIERES.

- **19,500 people** were reached through Kansas City Ballet Outreach/Education programs and events.

Brand stated, "The Board voted unanimously to renew their contracts following this extremely successful season. They are a great team who have accomplished so very much in just the three short years since Devon assumed the Artistic Leadership. We want to ensure they have the full support of the Board in moving forward to complete even more in the future."

Bentley stated, "This season's success is truly not just about Kansas City Ballet but also about the community which has clearly demonstrated a commitment to this art form, These results speak to the vitality of our audiences and the strong and growing interest in ballet and our Company."

"I could not be more thrilled with this season," Carney stated. "I am so proud of what our Company has achieved. Our dancers were challenged in ways they could not have imagined and they exceeded all my expectations. This year's repertoire and performance quality were at an all-time high. And more people than ever are experiencing ballet and seem pleased with the results. But just wait. We're only getting started."

Kansas City Ballet 2016-2017 Season at a Glance

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993

Single tickets for all performances will go on sale Mon., Aug. 15. *The Nutcracker* tickets will go on sale Mon., Aug. 29. Purchase tickets online at www.kcballet.org.

Kansas City Dance Day

Aug. 27, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity
Kansas City's 6th annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

October 7-16, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Bruce Wells

Music: Felix Mendelssohn with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 9	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 16	2 p.m.

The Nutcracker

December 3-24, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City Ballet's critically-acclaimed production of this favorite holiday classic.
Presented by Bank of America.

Sat., Dec. 3	2 p.m. (*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 10	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 17	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 18	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

New Moves

February 16-19, 2017 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

A unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers both locally, some from within Kansas City Ballet, and from the national dance scene. No subscriptions available for these performances.

Thurs., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 18	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 19	2 p.m.

The Sleeping Beauty

March 31-April 9, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney after Marius Petipa

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., March 31	7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 1	7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 2	2 p.m.
Thur. April 6	7:30 p.m.
Fri., April 7	7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 8	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 9	2 p.m.

***The Lottery* (Based on Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery”)**

May 12-21, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Presented by special arrangement with the children of Shirley Jackson and Literal Media

Interplay

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Music: Morton Gould

The Lottery

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Music: Robert Moran

Theme and Variations

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Fri., May 12 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 13 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 14 2 p.m.

Fri., May 19 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 20 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 21 2 p.m.

About Kansas City Ballet

To make Kansas City a destination for dance

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 29-member professional ballet company under the leadership of Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company’s mission is to establish Kansas City Ballet as an indispensable asset in its community through exceptional performances, excellence in dance training and quality community education programs for all ages.

Kansas City Ballet is home to Kansas City Ballet School with an enrollment of 1800+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through our professional company, our second company (comprised of KCB II and Trainees) and our many community educational and outreach programs, such as Reach Out and Dance (ROAD) we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

Our home, the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, in conjunction with our Resident Company status at the world-class Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, truly has positioned Kansas City as a destination for dance.

Visit kcballet.org/media/releases for more info.

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