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**Kansas City Ballet  
Announces 2018-2019 Season:  
World Premiere Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*,  
Kansas City Premiere Val Caniparoli's  
*Lady of the Camellias*, and  
Tharp / Parsons / Forsythe.  
Plus return of *The Nutcracker* and New Moves.**

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 9, 2018) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the 2018-2019 Season which opens with the WORLD PREMIERE of Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, continues with the KANSAS CITY PREMIERE of Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, and closes with the contemporary mixed repertoire of three celebrated American choreographers Tharp / Parsons / Forsythe. The season also includes the annual return of *The Nutcracker* and New Moves.

Subscriptions are available now at the Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993 or online at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org). Subscription tickets are a 20% savings on single ticket prices and range from \$137 to \$297 for the 3-ballet package.

Devon Carney said: "To open our 2018-2019 season, we will transport our audiences to new heights, as we journey to the magical world of *The Wizard of Oz*. Join us for this world premiere production choreographed by Septime Webre, creator of the huge 2014 hit *Alice (in wonderland)*. Heading down that yellow brick road will certainly bring with it exciting and wonderful adventures for the entire family."

“This production of *The Wizard of Oz* is noteworthy in the sense that it’s a partnership between colleagues - three of North America’s respected professional ballet companies, Kansas City Ballet, Colorado Ballet and Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet,” Kansas City Ballet Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley said. “We share equally in the cost of making the production (which is in excess of \$1,000,000) but the arrangement allows 100% of the box office revenue in each of our communities to be retained by the home company. It may well become the wave of the future since not-for-profit arts organizations are always looking to reduce costs while adding to the audience experience.”

In addition to *The Wizard of Oz*, Kansas City Ballet’s season includes works for the company from proven choreographers.

“Even as I accepted my appointment as Artistic Director for Kansas City Ballet five years ago, I envisioned our company would someday be positioned to perform Val Caniparoli’s milestone full-length creation *Lady of the Camellias*,” Carney said. “I am thrilled to present this highly dramatic and tragic tale of Marguerite, a famous courtesan, and Armand, a young countryman, as they become entangled in a forbidden affair ultimately facing heartbreak and loss. Caniparoli’s rendition remains widely popular today among many highly respected ballet companies. The choreography demands a physical technicality and profound artistry from the dancers to express the breadth of emotion in this compelling story. Based on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel *La Dame aux Camellias*, this story has inspired many screen and stage adaptations including the film *Camille*, with Greta Garbo, the opera *La Traviata* and the highly popular film *Moulin Rouge!*. This balletic stage adaptation stands as an equally formidable telling of this world-renowned story.”

Carney also wants this season’s programming to challenge and inspire the artists to new heights with world-renowned works by some of the greatest living choreographers. His chosen list of respected signature creations includes: Twyla Tharp’s *In The Upper Room*, William Forsythe’s *In The Middle, Somewhat Elevated* as well as a world premiere creation for KCB by internationally recognized Kansas City native David Parsons. “This blockbuster line up of exciting innovated works have radically influenced the dance world and will be a landmark series that will be quite memorable for dancers and audiences alike,” Carney said.

*The Wizard of Oz* and *Lady of the Camellias* will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

Visit [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org) for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2018-2019 season and [kauffmancenter.org](http://kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2018-2019 season can be found [here](#).

# Kansas City Ballet 2018-2019 Season

## Kansas City Dance Day

Aug. 25, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Kansas City's 8<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family.

## New Dance Partners

Sept. 21-22, 2018 | Johnson County Community College

New Dance Partners, a project for new work in dance, has been produced by the Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College since 2013 to further artistic growth in dance by creating new work and encouraging collaboration between Kansas City arts organizations. Local, professional dance companies are featured and new works, commissioned on their behalf, are set by renowned choreographers.

## World Premiere

### *The Wizard of Oz*

October 12-21, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce performed by Kansas City Symphony

The much anticipated world premiere by Septime Webre, the creator of *Alice (in wonderland)*, will take audiences on a fantastical journey to the Emerald City. Filled with all the familiarity of the classic movie—Dorothy and Toto swept to Oz join up with three unlikely heroes to see the Wizard, their triumph over the Wicked Witch, and the quest to return home—yet realized with a bold, new spectacle of music, costumes, sets, projections and special effects. This is *the* must-see family event of the season.

Story lines and visual elements from the MGM Motion Picture THE WIZARD OF OZ provided by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

Fri., Oct. 12	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 14	2 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 17	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 18	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 18	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Fri., Oct. 19	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 20	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 21	2 p.m.

Funding partners include: Hall Family Foundation, Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation, William T. Kemper Foundation-Commerce Bank, n.a. Trustee, Arvin Gottlieb Foundation-UMB Bank, n.a. trustee, and Francis Family Foundation.

## *The Nutcracker*

November 30-December 23, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony

Sponsored by Bank of America

Last year, Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* awed Kennedy Center audiences in Washington, D.C., and was hailed as "positively oozing charm" by *The Washington Post*, and is "especially lovely with its bright, fresh décor." The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Dr. Drosselmeier and the Sugar Plum Fairy is a magical theatrical experience wrapped with exquisite costumes, grand sets and captivating choreography. Let your wonder ignite and feel the glimmer once more as your childhood dreams return and inspire you to IMAGINE AGAIN.

Fri., Nov. 30	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Fri., Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 1	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 2	1 p.m.
Thurs. Dec 6	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Thurs. Dec 6	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 8	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 9	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 12	TBD Sensory Show
Thurs., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 14	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Fri., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 15	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 16	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 23	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

(\* ) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

## *Lady of the Camellias*

February 15-24, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Music: Frédéric Chopin performed by the Kansas City Symphony

Armand, a young countryman meets the ravishing courtesan Marguerite in a chance meeting that leads to a passionate, but doomed love. Val Caniparoli's popular adaptation of this classic story is set to the romantic score by Frédéric Chopin, and deftly depicts the moving story of beauty, extravagance, jealousy, deception and heartbreak. Alexandre Dumas' tragic love story has inspired many adaptations, including Greta Garbo's *Camille* and Baz Luhrman's *Moulin Rouge!*, but none more popular than Verdi's opera *La Traviata*.

Fri., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 17	2 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 24	2 p.m.

## **New Moves**

March 28-31, 2019 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance and Creativity

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet's most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow's sought after choreographers today! It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Come see our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power and passion of never before seen dance creations!

Thurs., March 28	7:30 p.m.
Fri., March 29	10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
Fri., March 29	7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 30	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 31	2 p.m.

## THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE

May 10-19, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

This is Kansas City Ballet's must-see dance event of the season with the works of three of America's most recognized and acclaimed choreographers brought together on stage at the Kauffman Center! Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room* is a tour-de-force of athleticism, built on a pulsating score by Philip Glass. William Forsythe's contemporary masterpiece, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, is a high-voltage thrill ride that changed dance forever and became one of Forsythe's signature works. Kansas City native, David Parsons founded Parsons Dance and quickly was hailed as a master of contemporary dance. He returns to KC with a world premiere ballet just for you.

**WORLD PREMIERE**      Choreography: David Parsons      Music: TBA

### *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*

Choreography: William Forsythe      Music: Thom Willems

*In The Upper Room*      Choreography: Twyla Tharp      Music: Philip Glass

Fri., May 10	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 12	2 p.m.
Fri., May 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 18	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 19	2 p.m.

## Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City Ballet Guild, the Missouri Arts Council—a state agency, and ArtsKC support Kansas City Ballet's 2018-2019 Season.

## Season Subscriber Information

For the 2018-2019 Season in the Kauffman Center, a Series Subscription Package is suggested for best pricing and seating. In addition to saving up to 20% off single ticket prices by purchasing a 3-Show Subscription, season ticket patrons enjoy benefits including: priority seating in the Kauffman Center, savings on additional single ticket prices, free ticket exchanges and the chance to purchase discounted tickets for *The Nutcracker* and *New Moves* before they go on sale to the public. For parents, subscriptions for children under 21 are half price with an adult subscription order.

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## About Kansas City Ballet

### *Making Kansas City a destination for dance*

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 30-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 2000+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through the professional company, second company (KCB II & Trainees), and community programs for all ages, 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.

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