

# KansasCityBallet

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## ***DRACULA* and *CINDERELLA plus* WORLD PREMIERE HIGHLIGHT KANSAS CITY BALLET'S 2013-2014 SEASON**

**Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free* and William Whitener's *Triple Play* enhance 56<sup>th</sup> Season**

**KANSAS CITY, MO (January 27, 2013)** — Kansas City Ballet today announced the selections to be presented during its 56<sup>th</sup> season. The year begins with a World Premiere full-company work by Los Angeles based choreographer **Jodie Gates**, **George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante***, **Jerome Robbins** hugely popular ***Fancy Free*** with music by **Leonard Bernstein** and a new creation by **William Whitener**, the company's departing artistic director. Following its annual production of the holiday classic ***The Nutcracker***, the highly anticipated Kansas City premieres of British choreographer **Michael Pink's *DRACULA*** and Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director **Victoria Morgan's *CINDERELLA*** will finish out the Winter and Spring seasons.

Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley stated, "There is palpable excitement within our organization surrounding the upcoming season. It is essential that the company continue to build upon its past successes, offering our audience programs that are balanced and engaging, designed to satisfy both seasoned patrons and newcomers to the art form. We believe this array of proven classics, new works, and provocative dance/theater finds its mark."

"The promise of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts continues to be realized through large-scale production opportunities, increased performances and ever-growing audiences," Bentley continued. "I thoroughly anticipate this coming year will again see a dynamic expansion in demand for world class dancing."

The entire 2013-14 season will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by renowned Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

Visit [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org) for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2013-2014 season and [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.

# Kansas City Ballet

## 2013-2014 Season at a Glance

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.2232

Purchase tickets online at [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org).

### *Fall Performances*

October 11-20, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Presenting classics from Balanchine, Robbins and Bernstein, plus both Kansas City and world premiere ballets.

<i>Allegro Brillante</i>	Choreography: George Balanchine	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
<i>Triple Play</i>	Choreography: William Whitener	Music: Francis Poulenc
<i>Fancy Free</i>	Choreography: Jerome Robbins	Music: Leonard Bernstein
<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Jodie Gates	Music: J. S. Bach

Fri., Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 12	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 13	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 19	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 20	2 p.m.

### *The Nutcracker*

December 7-24, 2013 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition continues with the presentation of Todd Bolender's delightful family classic *The Nutcracker*.

<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Choreography: Todd Bolender	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
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Sat., Dec. 7	2 p.m. (*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 8	1 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 14	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 15	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 22	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(\*) Sugar Plum Fairy Luncheon

### *Winter Performances*

February 21-March 2, 2014 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

The classic gothic horror story becomes a frightening and bravura work of dance theatre filled with sensuality and danger.

***Dracula***

Choreography: Michael Pink

Music: Philip Feeney

Fri., Feb. 21 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Feb. 22 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., Feb. 23 2 p.m.  
Thurs. Feb. 27 7:30 p.m.  
Fri., Feb. 28 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Mar. 1 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., Mar. 2 2 p.m.

***Spring Performances***

May 9-18, 2014 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
The delightful fairy tale of the young girl who unexpectedly finds true love and proves that dreams really do come true.

***Cinderella***

Choreography: Victoria Morgan

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

Fri., May 9 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 10 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., May 11 2 p.m.  
Fri., May 16 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., May 17 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., May 18 2 p.m.

## **MORE about the 2013-2014 Season**

***Fall Performances*****October 11-20, 2013**

When Jerome Robbins's *Fancy Free*, the precursor to the Broadway musical and film *On The Town*, premiered in 1944, it proved to be one of the most exciting evenings in the history of dance in America, marking the emergence of two new American treasures. Jerome Robbins, an original member of American Ballet Theatre, created the choreography, working closely with a young, then unknown composer, Leonard Bernstein. Following the success of the ballet, it was translated into a musical comedy *On The Town*, which was subsequently adapted for the screen starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra. The setting is New York City on a hot summer night with three sailors on shore leave. They pick up two girls and a fight develops. Each sailor dances to win the favor of a girl, revealing his individual character. When the girls are unable to choose, they slip away. The sailors make up, but when a third girl passes their way, the audience is left wondering whether they have learned their lesson.

Scheduled as a **World Premiere** at the Johnson County Community College in September 2013, a piece by prolific choreographer Jodie Gates, featuring the music of J. S. Bach precedes the Fall Performances. Jodie Gates is a 30-year veteran choreographer, director, producer and dancer. Characterized by vivid articulation and rich musicality, her work has been called “visually compelling, powerful, beautiful”, by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and praised for “showing considerable skill at construction, moving dancers seamlessly on and off stage”, from the *New York Times*.

“This is an exciting time for the Kansas City Ballet and for the thriving performing arts scene in the community which now is home to one of the most innovative performing arts venues in the country, the Kauffman Center,” Gates said. “I am thrilled and honored to be creating my first full-company work for Kansas City Ballet. This will be a celebratory ballet steeped in tradition, yet it also challenges the dancers’ athleticism and explores the boundaries of neoclassical ballet. I look forward to working with the dancers in the studio and collaborating with the entire Kansas City Ballet artistic and production team!”

**Allegro Brillante**, George Balanchine’s neoclassical ballet set to Peter I. Tchaikovsky’s *Piano Concerto No. 3* for piano and orchestra, might be aptly subtitled “Appassionata.” The music, originally for symphonic use, was the last Tchaikovsky composed. It is melodically and stylistically reminiscent of much of his work, with a brisk vigor which motivates the dance. The choreography, like the music, is Russian and romantic, evidenced throughout in expansiveness of movement and gesture with dazzling speed. According to Balanchine, **Allegro Brillante** “contains everything I knew about the classical ballet—in thirteen minutes.”

The World Premiere of **Triple Play** is choreographed by William Whitener, who will be returning to stage this piece, following his departure as Artistic Director (1996-2013) at Kansas City Ballet. It features a piano solo, **Three Novelettes**, by Francis Poulenc, which will be performed on stage by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

“During one of my daily company ballet classes, Ramona played this gorgeous piece by composer Francis Poulenc,” said Whitener. “I found a recording in my library and was intrigued by its whimsy and poignancy. At that moment, I decided to create a dance for two about the multifarious nature of pairing, performed off-pointe by the woman.”

## ***The Nutcracker*** **December 7-24, 2013**

Kansas City Ballet will present Kansas City’s favorite holiday tradition, **The Nutcracker**, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. **The Nutcracker**, featuring the music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky and choreography of Todd Bolender, returns for 18 public performances and two matinees for schools. This two-act ballet continues to delight audiences with its magnificent sets, costumes and special effects. Three casts of Kansas City Ballet dancers, plus more than 225 local youngsters ages 7 to 17 selected from Kansas City Ballet School, will perform E.T.A. Hoffman’s story. **The Nutcracker tickets will go on sale to the public Oct. 21, 2013.**

## ***Winter Performances*** **Feb. 21 - March 2, 2014**

The Winter Performances will feature the highly anticipated evening-length **Kansas City Premiere** of Michael Pink's *Dracula*. Created in 1996 by Michael Pink, Artistic Director of Milwaukee Ballet Company, this three-act drama has won critical acclaim in England, Australia and North America. According to *The Rocky Mountain News*, Michael Pink's *Dracula* is "a bravura work of theatre – a taut, dark tale that happens to speak in the language of dance." Choreographer Michael Pink states, "*Dracula* is unlike any other ballet. It's sinister and sensual at the same time; breathtaking yet horrific. The show has developed somewhat of a cult following, breaking box office records all over the world. I'm thrilled to be bringing it to Kansas City Ballet for the first time."

Based on Bram Stoker's classic gothic horror story, *Dracula* is a frightening tale of the nocturnal Count who survives on the blood of the living. Audiences will be mesmerized as they venture into the dark and eerie world of the famous Count Dracula. With the combination of dramatic choreography by Michael Pink, an original, haunting score by Philip Feeney and dark sets and costumes by Lez Brotherston, *Dracula* delivers sensuality and danger in a dance narrative combining story-enhancing sound effects like the beating heart that opens the show and the frightened voices of the humans Dracula is stalking. Accompanied by Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau, featuring Philip Feeney's score, the dramatic music and cinematic scenery will captivate audience members from curtain rise to curtain fall.

## ***Spring Performances*** **May 9-18, 2014**

Closing the 2013- 2014 season will be the beloved and enchanting evening-length **Kansas City Premiere, Cinderella**, choreographed by Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director Victoria Morgan and featuring the gorgeous score of Prokofiev. *Cinderella* features a delightful cast including children from Kansas City Ballet School, fairies weaving spells of wonderment, and riotous bumbling characters to complete this entertaining performance. *Dance Magazine* opined, "Inspiring! And as direct as Prokofiev's music, it was Victoria Morgan's thoughtful choreography harmonized with the Cincinnati Ballet production of *Cinderella* into a hosanna of hope." *The Cincinnati Enquirer* stated, "*Cinderella* captures the spirit of the fairy tale. ... A sweet magic is captured in Victoria Morgan's vision of the classic."

The ballet is faithful to the beloved 1697 tale by Charles Perrault, in which the heroine's father fails to protect his daughter from the wickedness of a stepmother and two stepsisters. After the intervention of her Fairy Godmother, however, the underappreciated Cinderella is transformed into a beautiful young woman who finds love in the arms of a Prince.

“One thing I have loved about *Cinderella* is the fact that it is a joy to choreograph to such amazing music,” Victoria Morgan stated. “Prokofiev is simply one of those composers that ignite movement. His serious music is glorious and his silly music is cleverly unexpected and makes you laugh. And that part, both the serious and the humorous, is what is so great—it is a ballet full of extremes and breadth. The icing on the cake for me personally is that the Kauffman Center has been such a nationally talked about theatre, to have my work on that stage sounds thrilling. And of course Kansas City Ballet has a great national reputation.”

## **Sponsors**

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation supports Kansas City Ballet’s 56<sup>th</sup> season.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Season Subscriber Information**

For this stirring and unique season in the Kauffman Center, a Series Subscription Package is suggested for best seating. Season ticket patrons enjoy a 3-show series including the three Fall, Winter, and Spring repertory shows, with the option to add on their tickets for Kansas City’s favorite holiday tradition, *The Nutcracker* before tickets go on sale to the public.

All season series include major savings and patron benefits including: priority seating in the Kauffman Center, ticket discounts, savings on single ticket prices, free ticket exchanges and the chance to purchase discounted tickets for *The Nutcracker*. Subscribers save up to 25% off individual show tickets. Parents, note this great opportunity to introduce the arts to your children; patrons under 21 can purchase season tickets for half price with an adult subscription order.

2013-14 season tickets range in price from \$66 to \$297 for the 3-show package. For ticket information, please call the Kansas City Ballet ticket office at 816.931.2232 or visit our website at [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org).

### **About Kansas City Ballet**

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 28-member professional ballet company currently under the direction of Artistic Director William Whitener and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company’s mission is to offer our community, region and dance profession, dance experiences of the highest quality. Kansas City Ballet is home to the Kansas City Ballet School for 600 children and adults, offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those seeking a healthy lifestyle. Through our professional company, school and community outreach programs such as ROAD, Project X, and Dance INFORMances, we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance. Our new home, Kansas City Ballet’s Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity at Union Station, in conjunction with our new stage at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is poised to make Kansas City and Kansas City Ballet a true destination for dance.

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