



Devon Carney, Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Kansas City Premieres of
The Three Musketeers, Swan Lake,
Rite of Spring and
WORLD PREMIERE of The Nutcracker*
Highlight Kansas City Ballet's
2015-16 Season at
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
*KC Premieres Include Works by Helen Pickett and Yuri Possokhov
and World Premiere by Victor Plotnikov*

KANSAS CITY, MO (January 26, 2015) — Kansas City Ballet today announced the 2015-2016 season. The 58th season will commence with the Kansas City Premiere of *The Three Musketeers*, choreography by André Prokofsky and music by Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Guy Woolfenden, to be followed by the unveiling of Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney's all new production of *The Nutcracker*. Following the holiday classic, the winter program will feature the Kansas City premiere of *Swan Lake*, choreography by

Devon Carney, after Marius Petipa with the beloved music of Tchaikovsky. The 2015-16 season will finish with a joyful spring program featuring Kansas City Premieres of Adam Houghland's *The Rite of Spring*, works by choreographers Helen Pickett and Yuri Possokhov, as well as a world premiere by Viktor Plotnikov.

In discussing the significance of this, his second season, Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney is at once reflective and invigorated. "This current year, the 2014-2015 season—the first to bear my signature with regard to repertory selection, has been very satisfying. As I began considering the 2015-2016 season, I was thrilled to realize that some of the ballets I was choosing I had initially thought would take another year or more before the company was ready to take them on. Now I see that it makes perfect sense to include these works for the coming year. That is a testament to how much these artists have achieved and how committed they are to excellence and artistic growth."

"Each of these productions," Carney continues, "has been carefully chosen with both audience appeal and artistic challenge in mind. The season as a whole, I believe, will provide any observer with the realization that the artists of Kansas City Ballet are equally adept with the challenges of contemporary work and the technical complexities of the classical, full-length story ballets."

All performances at The Kauffman Center will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2015-2016 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2015-2016 season can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets/>

Kansas City Ballet

2015-2016 Season at a Glance

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.2232

Single tickets for all performances, including Nutcracker, will go on sale in late summer.

Purchase tickets online at www.kcballet.org.

The Three Musketeers

October 9-18, 2015 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

A rollicking ballet of swashbuckling, swordplay and daring in the French court of Louis XIII. With every major role danced by men, *The Three Musketeers* is sure to thrill families. All for one and one for all!

The Three Musketeers Choreography: André Prokovsky Music: Giuseppe Verdi
arranged by Guy Woolfenden

Fri., Oct. 9	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 10	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 11	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 17	2 p.m.(*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 18	2 p.m.

* No subscriptions are available for this performance

The Nutcracker

December 5-24, 2015 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony
Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney presents an all new production of this favorite holiday classic. Presented by Bank of America.

The Nutcracker Choreography: Devon Carney Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Sat., Dec. 5	2 p.m. (*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6	1 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 10	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 19	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 20	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 22	7:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

Swan Lake

Feb. 19-28, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

This stunning Kansas City premiere production of *Swan Lake* from Artistic Director Devon Carney, choreographed to the enchanting music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky, is a rare opportunity to enjoy one of ballet's true romantic classics.

<i>Swan Lake</i>	Choreography: Devon Carney after Marius Petipa	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
Fri., Feb. 19	7:30 p.m.	
Sat., Feb. 20	7:30 p.m.	
Sun., Feb. 21	2 p.m.	
Thur. Feb. 25	7:30 p.m.	
Fri., Feb. 26	7:30 p.m.	
Sat., Feb. 27	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	
Sun., Feb. 28	2 p.m.	

New Moves

April 1-9, 2016 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves is a unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers both from within Kansas City Ballet and from the national dance scene.

Rite of Spring

May 6-15, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Presenting Kansas City premieres classics from Adam Hougland and more....

<i>Petal</i>	Choreography: Helen Pickett	Music: Thomas Newman and Philip Glass
<i>World Premiere</i>	Choreography: Viktor Plotnikov	Music: Antonín Dvořák
<i>Diving into the Lilacs</i>	Choreography: Yuri Possokhov	Music: Boris Tchaikovsky
<i>Rite of Spring</i>	Choreography: Adam Hougland	Music: Igor Stravinsky

Fri., May 6	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 7	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 8	2 p.m.
Fri., May 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 14	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 15	2 p.m.

MORE about the 2015-2016 Season

The Three Musketeers

October 9-18, 2015

The Three Musketeers, with choreography by André Prokovsky and music of Giuseppe Verdi arranged by Guy Woolfenden, has charmed and delighted audiences since its premiere by the Australian Ballet in 1980. This decidedly

rollicking comedy of swashbuckling and swordplay in the French court of Louis XIII features King Louis VIII's royal guards, the three musketeers, who are joined by the fourth musketeer, D'Artagnan, as they are challenged to save the reputation of the Queen Consort of France, Anne of Austria from an evil plot by Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter.

Prokovsky is known for adapting masterpieces of world literature to the dance stage as seen in *Dr. Zhivago*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Anna Karenina*. He wanted a ballet that would give the men a chance to shine. This lighthearted production features a 90-minute, family-friendly ballet infused with lots of swordplay, slapstick humor and bravura male dancing. The production also showcases lush sets, as designed by Peter Farmer.

The Nutcracker

December 5-24, 2015

Premiering in 2015, *The Nutcracker* choreographed by Devon Carney, promises to be a traditional yet boisterous, adventurous, and reimagined new production.

"In my wildest dreams I could never have imagined that I could assemble some of the greatest design talent the ballet world has to offer to create this amazing new production. Each is truly known for being one of, if not THE, best in the industry. The joy of seeing the holidays through a child's eye will permeate throughout. I promise audiences a new and joyous holiday classic."

The design team includes Alain Vaës (set), Holly Hynes (costume), Trad A Burns (lighting), and a unique puppet design by Paul Mesner.

Since moving to the United States from his native France, Alain Vaës has worked as an artist, set designer and as an author and illustrator of children's books. He has designed sets and costumes for 25 productions including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, and *The Nutcracker* mainly for New York City Ballet but for Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Flanders, and the Royal Danish Theater to name a few.

Holly Hynes, for more than twenty years the director of costumes for New York City Ballet, has earned a reputation as one of the leading costume designers for ballet in the world. She has created designs for the likes of Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala Theatre Ballet, National Ballet of Canada and more. Ms. Hynes' work was previously seen in Kansas City with *Tom Sawyer, a Ballet in Three Acts* which had its world premiere at the Ballet's inaugural season at the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Trad A Burns has designed lighting for more than 400 productions in ballet companies around the world including New York City Ballet and American

Ballet Theater as well as designing for dramatic theatre, musicals and for several world renowned theme parks.

Paul Mesner, a Kansas City treasure, began his studies in puppetry at the age of twelve. His interests lead him to study as one of fifteen puppet-artists from around the world at the International Institute of Puppetry in France. During his career, Paul Mesner has received the highest honor in puppetry, the UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence, three different times.

The Nutcracker, featuring the music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky and choreography of Devon Carney, will be offered for 22 public performances and two matinees for schools. This two-act ballet will be familiar with the same story line and Victorian-era ambiance but will take a new and refreshing look into the tale. Kansas City Ballet dancers, plus more than 175 local students ages 7 to 17 selected from Kansas City Ballet School, will perform E.T.A. Hoffman's story. *The Nutcracker* is sponsored by Bank of America.

Swan Lake

February 19-28, 2016

A Kansas City Ballet Premiere, *Swan Lake* is perhaps the most iconic and beloved ballet of all time. The choreography will be by Artistic Director Devon Carney after famed 19th century choreographer Marius Petipa. The familiar and mesmerizing score is by Peter I. Tchaikovsky.

Swan Lake presents the classic story of the beautiful Swan Queen Odette, her passionate Prince Siegfried, and the love that unites them for all eternity. Based on Russian folktales with themes like good versus evil, the power of love and the fate of innocence, Swan Lake blends Tchaikovsky's magnificent melodies and the mesmerizing flocks of dancers in an unforgettable spectacle for the senses.

This version of *Swan Lake* traces its origins back to 1895. In *Swan Lake* the lead role of Odette is the queen of a flock of swans, represented by numerous female corps de ballet dancers. A signature of famed choreographer Marius Petipa was lavish corps de ballet scenes. There will be up to 24 swans onstage instead of the 12 that is more typically seen in regional single-company productions.

Cynthia Gregory, famed prima ballerina with American Ballet Theater and considered one of the finest interpreters of the dual role of Odette/Odile, will be

in Kansas City to coach the female leads in this complex and technically and artistically challenging role.

Rite of Spring

May 6-15, 2016

The spring program will feature all Kansas City premieres.

The program will begin with a Kansas City premiere, *Diving into the Lilacs* with choreography by Yuri Possokhov and music of Boris Tchaikovsky (no relation to Peter), is from his *Sinfonietta for String Orchestra*. This Kansas City premiere provides a sweeping showcase of lush dancing for three enchanting couples and a corps of eight. Possokhov joined the Artistic Staff at San Francisco Ballet as a choreographer in residence after retiring from a highly successful dance career that spanned the globe. His work has been performed both nationally and internationally with companies like San Francisco Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre and Royal Danish Ballet. Possokhov's vibrant *Firebird* was performed by Kansas City Ballet in 2009.

A world premiere by Viktor Plotnikov set to the music of Antonín Dvořák will follow. Known for his more contemporary and intense aesthetic, Plotnikov has been choreographing for Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, the Bolshoi Ballet and others, with considerable success. Plotnikov was a soloist with Donetsk Ballet Company in the Ukraine and held principal dancer positions at Ballet Mississippi and Tulsa Ballet Theatre between 1990 and 1993, before joining Boston Ballet as a principal dancer in 1993, where he performed until 2006.

The spring program continues with *Petal*, by noted and extremely sought after choreographer, Helen Pickett. *Petal* is known for its gorgeous vivid primary colors and extremely challenging choreography. After dancing with William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt for more than a decade, Pickett embarked on an amazing and varied career path that not only includes choreography, but also acting and teaching. Commissioners include: Royal Ballet of Flanders, Ballet West, Boston Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and more. Since 2012, Pickett has been Resident Choreographer for Atlanta Ballet. In 2014, for her ballet, *The Exiled*, she was named Best Choreographer in Atlanta. And in 2015, Pickett premieres her first full-length ballet, *Camino Real*, based on the play by Tennessee Williams.

Rite of Spring

The spring program will conclude with another Kansas City premiere, *Rite of Spring*, choreographed by Adam Hougland and featuring the music of Igor Stravinsky.

Rite of Spring holds an iconic place in the world of ballet, famously inciting riots when it first appeared in 1913 with the Ballet Russes. Angry patrons — bewildered by Stravinsky's strange music and maybe more so by Vaslav Nijinsky's primitive choreography — famously rose up in rebellion several minutes into the performance. Punches were thrown and the police were called in. Artist Valentine Gross Hugo, recalling that "it was as if the theater had been shaken by an earthquake."

Adam Houglund, named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" choreographers in 2011, has accomplished the challenging feat of making this historical musical milestone accessible to today's audience without depriving it of its punch. He has won The Princess Grace Award for Choreography, The Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography, a New York State Council for the Arts Commissioning Grant and was one of *Pointe Magazine's* 10 VIP's of 2006.

New Moves

April 1-9, 2016

New Moves is a unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers both from within Kansas City Ballet and from the national dance scene.

"**New Moves** is a chance for audiences to see the next big choreographer *before* they are considered the next big choreographer," Carney said. "It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Todd Bolender Center's intimate Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers, together reaching the very edge, discover bold new ways of expression."

An important part of Kansas City Ballet's mission is to enrich lives by offering a variety of programming designed to develop dance artists and enthusiasts. **New Moves** offers behind-the-scenes access and brings you closer to the artists and performances. The 2015-2016 subscription does not include **New Moves**. Subscribers may buy **New Moves** tickets at a 20% discount before they go on sale to the general public.

Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City Ballet Guild, the Missouri Arts Council—a state agency and the Arts Council of Greater Kansas City, support Kansas City Ballet's 58th season.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Season Subscriber Information

For this stirring and unique 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 Series Subscription comprised of *The Three Musketeers*, *Swan Lake* and *Rite of Spring* shows, season ticket patrons enjoy a patron 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. Subscribers save up to 20% 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.

2015-2016 season tickets range in price from \$117 to \$285 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.

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 600+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through its professional company, its Second Company (KCB II and Trainees) and its many community outreach and education programs such as Reach Out and Dance (ROAD) and DanceINFORMances 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 has truly positioned Kansas City as a Destination for Dance.

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