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# Kansas City Ballet

## 2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee Season

### Calendar of Events

***Celebrating 60 Years of Dance Excellence***  
***Featuring a Season of Premieres:***  
**Romeo & Juliet, Petite Mort,**  
**The Man in Black, and the World Premiere of**  
**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**

***Kansas City Ballet Invited to Present The Nutcracker***  
***for 7 performances at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.***

KANSAS CITY, MO (Aug. 8, 2017) —Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney announced the Company's Diamond Jubilee Season marking its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of producing excellence in dance performance and training. **Carney's World Premiere** choreography of *Romeo & Juliet* with music by Sergei Prokofiev will provide a stunning opening to the season.

Following a prestigious invitation to perform the Company's *The Nutcracker* at the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**, the annual holiday event will return to the Kauffman Center in December for 21 performances. February will see the return of *New Moves*, a series of new choreography performed across four days at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. This project, devoted to introducing new choreographic voices to our community has developed a strong following since its inception and has become one of the popular, reliably sold out events of the year.

In celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Carney has added additional “mixed repertory” programming, creating the *Anniversary Dance Festival* featuring **SIX** Kansas City Premieres across two weekends in April. Jiri Kylian’s *Petite Mort*, George Balanchine’s *Diamonds*, James Kudelka’s *The Man in Black* (music by **Johnny Cash**) are only half of the amazing offerings patrons will experience during this first ever festival format presentation.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary will close with the world premiere of a stunning new production of *THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ*. This \$1,000,000 production, choreographed by **Septime Webre**, the creator of *Alice (in wonderland)* seen by Kansas City audiences in 2014, is the product of a unique partnership between three of North America’s professional ballet companies (Kansas City Ballet, Colorado Ballet and Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet). New sets and costumes, with original music by Matthew Pierce (also of *Alice* fame) tell the classic tale through dance, puppetry, video projection and other state of the art devices. A family event not to be missed!

Single tickets for *Romeo & Juliet*, Dance Festival and New Moves will be available to the public on Monday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m. Ticket for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* go on sale on Jan. 8, 2018. Tickets for *The Nutcracker* will be available to the public on Monday, Aug. 28 at 6 a.m. Purchase tickets online at [kcballet.org/](http://kcballet.org/) or through the Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993. As a benefit, those who subscribe to the 2017-2018 season are able to buy additional tickets to all shows at a discount now.

In discussing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Season, Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney said, “I cannot wait to present this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season to our audiences. There are so many special events this year that I know all will enjoy: The season begins with my world premiere choreographic interpretation of Shakespeare’s poignant tale of star-crossed lovers, *Romeo & Juliet*.”

“We have the honor of being invited to bring our recently created world-class production of *The Nutcracker* to the country’s national theatre, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. for a limited engagement. We return home to the Kauffman Center to enchant and enthrall our Kansas City audiences once again.”

“Our Diamond Jubilee Season continues with another annual audience favorite, **New Moves**, a choreographic incubator for new and emerging creative voices from the local, regional and national dance scenes who will all be constructing brand new works on the highly talented Kansas City Ballet artists.”

“Also, I am thrilled to bring to our audiences a unique two-week experience packed with more dance than ever before. In celebration of this special year we will present the **Anniversary Dance Festival**. There will be a master work by George Balanchine, and Kansas City premieres by internationally recognized creators Stanton Welch, James Kudelka and Jiří Kylián, as well as premieres by Andrea Schermoly and Matthew Neenan. These are all engaging and forward thinking works, which allow our repertoire to grow.”

“To conclude our breakthrough season we will soar to new heights, as we are

transported to the magical world of *The Wonderful 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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.”

All performances at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau except the second weekend of the Dance Festival.

Visit [Kansas City Ballet](#) for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s Diamond Jubilee Season. High resolution photos and artwork of the 2017-2018 season can be found [here](#).

## Kansas City Ballet 2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee Season

### Kansas City Dance Day

August 26, 2017 | 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Kansas City’s 7<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family. To register for classes or for more information, please visit our website at [kcballet.org](#).

FREE classes starting at 9:15 a.m.

FREE youth dance performances from 12 noon through 1:00 p.m.

FREE world dance performances from 1:30 p.m. through 2:30 p.m.

FREE local dance performances starting at 3 p.m. (including Kansas City Ballet open rehearsal)

### New Dance Partners

September 22-23, 2017 | 8 p.m. | Yardley Hall, 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. This year, Kansas City Ballet, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company, and Störling Dance Company are the collaborative partners. For more information, please visit [New Dance Partners](#).

### Dance Speaks

September 27, 2017 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

***Artistic Director Devon Carney and Romeo & Juliet. Legacy Remembered & Renewed***

5 p.m. | Open Rehearsal and Reception

6:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

Guest speakers provide special insight on the ballet *Romeo & Juliet*. Panel discussion with audience Q & A. Includes an open rehearsal and reception!

## Facebook Live

October 5, 2017 | time TBA | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Watch Kansas City Ballet LIVE in rehearsal for *Romeo & Juliet*.

## The Diamond Ball

October 7, 2017 | 6:30pm | InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza  
Enjoy a fabulous evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to celebrate the Ballet's 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee season. Presented by Kansas City Ballet Guild, proceeds from this event benefit Kansas City Ballet and School. [kcbguild.org](http://kcbguild.org)

## *Romeo & Juliet*

October 13-22, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
World Premiere Choreography: Devon Carney  
Music: Sergei Prokofiev performed by Kansas City Symphony

William Shakespeare's romantic tragedy ranks among the world's most enduring love stories. Artistic Director, Devon Carney brings us his world premiere choreographic interpretation of this classic masterpiece with soaring choreography and sweeping characters. Don't miss one of the most popular ballets in the world, the fateful embrace of star-crossed lovers.

Fri., Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 15	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 20	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 22	2 p.m.

## Kansas City Youth Ballet Fall Performance

November 3-5, 2017 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Kansas City Youth Ballet is the performing ensemble of Kansas City Ballet School.

## Facebook Live

November 30, 2017 | time TBA | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Watch Kansas City Ballet LIVE in rehearsal for *The Nutcracker*.

## *The Nutcracker*

November 22-26, 2017 | Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.  
AND  
December 7-24, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
Choreography: Devon Carney  
Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony  
Sponsored by Bank of America

Following its Kennedy Center premiere in Washington, D.C., Devon Carney's acclaimed holiday production returns to KC for its third season. The classic, Victorian-era story by

E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Prince and Dr. Drosselmeier is wrapped with exquisite costumes, grand sets and captivating choreography. See your children's wonder ignite and feel the glimmer once more as your childhood dreams return and inspire you to IMAGINE AGAIN.

Thurs., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 10	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

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

## Dance Speaks

January 17, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. | location TBA

### New Voices, New Moves

Guest speakers provide special insight on new works from Kansas City Ballet's New Moves program. Panel discussion, Q & A, and more!

## Facebook Live

February 8, 2018 | time TBA | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Watch Kansas City Ballet LIVE in rehearsal for New Moves.

## New Moves

February 15-18, 2018 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves is the chance for audiences to see the Kansas City Ballet company and tomorrow's sought after choreographers in an up-close, intimate space. A visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's intimate Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Come see our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers together discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power and passion of never before seen new creations out on the edge! This event will sell out!

Thurs., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16	10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
Fri., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 17	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 18	2 p.m.

## Dance Speaks

February 28, 2018 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5 p.m. | Open Rehearsal and Reception

6:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

Devon Carney and guest speakers provide special insight on a world premiere ballet from Kansas City Ballet. Panel discussion with audience Q & A. Includes an open rehearsal and reception!

## Kansas City Youth Ballet Spring Performance

March 9-11, 2018 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance and Creativity

Kansas City Youth Ballet is the performing ensemble of Kansas City Ballet School.

## The BARRE Soiree

March 10, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. | location TBA

Don't miss the newest Ballet party/fundraiser – Presented by BARRE KC, proceeds help fund Kansas City Ballet's Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) program. [barrekc.org](http://barrekc.org)

## Dance Speaks

March 28, 2018 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

**Kylián and Kudelka: It Takes Two!**

5 p.m. | Open Rehearsal and Reception

6:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

Guest speakers provide special insight on two company premieres from Kansas City Ballet. Panel discussion with audience Q & A. Includes an open rehearsal and reception!

## Facebook Live

March 29, 2018 | time TBA | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Watch Kansas City Ballet LIVE in rehearsal for the Dance Festival.

## Anniversary Dance Festival

April 6-15, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

The 2017-2018 season continues with the Anniversary Dance Festival, featuring two weekends of two separate programs of World and Kansas City Premieres.

First weekend subscribers see *Diamonds* and second weekend subscribers see *The Man in Black*. The add-on option to see both Festival weekend programs is at a 60% savings for subscribers.

### *Diamonds*

April 6, 7 and 8

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

*World Premiere*      Choreography: Matthew Neenan      Music: TBA

*Petite Mort*              Choreography: Jiří Kylián              Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Diamonds* Choreography: George Balanchine Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Fri., April 6 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 7 7:30 p.m.

Sun., April 8 2 p.m.

According to Alastair Macaulay from *The New York Times*, **Matthew Neenan** makes dancers look vulnerable, openhearted and, above all, marvelously free. And he uses music to release different social and psychological layers in them. Macaulay calls the cofounder of BalletX a strange original of American ballet. Neenan will set a **world premiere** on the dancers of Kansas City Ballet.

*Petite Mort*, translated from French, means “little death” and it passionately depicts the vulnerability of our lives. Choreographer Jiří Kylián holds world-wide acclaim and has been one of the most influential voices in the progression of dance in past decades. Featuring the music of W.A. Mozart, *Petite Mort* is an absolute “must see” in this Kansas City premiere.

George Balanchine’s *Diamonds*, with music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky, recalls the order and grandeur of Imperial Russia and the Maryinsky Theater, where Balanchine was trained. It is the third and final ballet of Balanchine’s only full length ballet *Jewels* and is a glorious culmination of beauty and elegance.

### The Man in Black

April 13, 14 and 15

*World Premiere* Choreography: Andrea Schermoly Music: World Premiere by Rob Fidel

*The Man in Black* Choreography: James Kudelka Music: Johnny Cash

*Play* Choreography: Stanton Welch Music: Moby

Fri., April 13 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 14 7:30 p.m.

Sun., April 15 2 p.m.

### *World Premiere*

Andrea Schermoly danced professionally with Boston Ballet and Netherlands Dance Theater in Holland and has choreographed professionally for a number of dance companies including a new work as an emerging choreographer on Kansas City Ballet’s 2015 New Moves program and now this work for the company. Schermoly recently told *KC Studio* regarding her choreographic influences and her creative process. “I am inspired,” she said, “by the driving forces of humanity, the importance of psychologically questioning ourselves and our purpose. I am always on a quest to explore our inner being.” The composer, Rob Fidel, will be performing his world premiere commission live during these performances!

## *The Man in Black*

Flannel shirts, cowboy boots and jeans never looked so good in this tribute to rockabilly, Johnny Cash. James Kudelka's hit ballet is an ode to the human spirit and a unique blend of country-western dance. *The Toronto Star* called *The Man in Black* "a work so inventive, so alert to the music and their lyrics, and so deeply moving."

## *Play*

The music of techno master Moby is the backdrop for Stanton Welch's ballet of everyday city life...the daily routines of our lives. *The Columbus Dispatch* said that it "has the hustle and bustle of a New York street as well as a humorous eye ... [Play] quickly caught the audience in its grasp."

## Dance Speaks

April 25, 2018 | 6:30 p.m. | Kansas City Public Library – Central Branch

### **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**

Devon Carney and Septime Webre provide special insight on Webre's world premiere ballet for Kansas City Ballet. Panel discussion with audience Q & A.

## Facebook Live

May 3, 2018 | time TBA | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity  
Watch Kansas City Ballet LIVE in rehearsal of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

### *WORLD PREMIERE of*

## *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

May 11-20, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce, commissioned score

Performed by Kansas City Symphony

From the creator of *Alice (in wonderland)*, comes the world premiere of L. Frank Baum's acclaimed story of family, friendship and courage. Join Dorothy on her fantastical journey to the Emerald City. There's no place like home, and this new production makes its debut in the most perfect of places: Kansas City.

### *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

Fri., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 12	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 13	2 p.m.
Thurs., May 17	7:30 p.m.
Fri., May 18	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 19	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 20	2 p.m.



## Kansas City Ballet School Spring Performance

May 15 | 7 p.m. | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

### 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 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee season.

### Season Subscriber Information

For the Diamond Jubilee 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 *Romeo & Juliet*, Anniversary Dance Festival (week one subscribers, *Diamonds* and week two subscribers, *The Man in Black*) and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, season ticket patrons enjoy 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. The add-on option for both Festival weekend programs is at a 60% savings. For parents, subscriptions for children under 21 are half price with an adult subscription order.

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 \$142 to \$305 for the 3-ballet package. The add-on option to see both Festival weekend programs is at a 60% savings.

### 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 service 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.

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