



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.444.0052
publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

**Kansas City Ballet's
Diamond Jubilee Anniversary
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 Wizard of Oz***

*Kansas City Ballet INVITED to Present The Nutcracker
for 7 performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the
Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.*

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 13, 2017) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the Diamond Jubilee Season, which will open with the WORLD PREMIERE choreography of Devon Carney's *Romeo & Juliet*, the **Anniversary Dance Festival** with six Kansas City premieres in two weekends featuring George Balanchine's *Diamonds* and James Kudelka's *The Man in Black*, and the WORLD PREMIERE of Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*.

The season also sees the annual return of *The Nutcracker*, including a limited engagement at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and **New Moves**.

In discussing the 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Season, Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney said, “I cannot wait to present this 60th 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 our 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 with an eye to the future, as we are transported 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 to the entire 60th Anniversary Season.”

Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley spoke of the unique partnership that brought *The Wizard of Oz* Project to reality. “More and more, companies are seeking creative ways to produce large-scale productions on limited budgets. *Oz* is a wonderful example of just such an approach. We have partnered with two other highly respected ballet companies, Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Artistic Director Andre Lewis and Colorado Ballet, Artistic Director Gil Boggs. These three esteemed artistic institutions will each present this remarkable production in their communities over the next two years. No single company would have been able to produce a project of this size and complexity and Kansas City Ballet is honored to have them as partners.”

Reflecting on this noteworthy anniversary of the company he has led for nearly the past two decades, Bentley continued, “For a professional ballet company in a midsize city in our country to be able to celebrate a 60th anniversary is almost startling. The odds seem insurmountable. It takes many committed people over a long period of time to mold a small, cheeky company into a community cultural institution. But that is in fact what has happened here. Volunteers, board members, artists, staff, businesses, philanthropic leaders and so many more have staked a claim for this company’s success long before there was reliable evidence of its eventual arrival. It took faith. And this year, as we reflect on where this company has travelled and where it has

Kansas City Ballet Announces Diamond Jubilee Season
Celebrating 60 years of Dance Excellence

arrived and where it continues to move, we see the resounding benefit that faith has wrought.”

The 2017-2018 Kansas City Ballet season is full of momentous occasions. In addition to a stunning series of performances in Kansas City to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Season, the Company has been invited to tour to Washington D.C. and present seven *The Nutcracker* performances at the world-renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, November 22, 24-26, 2017. The Kennedy Center selects one outstanding ballet company to present their unique version of the cherished ballet. In recent years, The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West and American Ballet Theatre have brought their *Nutcracker* to The Kennedy Center — and now Kansas City Ballet joins this group of esteemed American ballet companies.

Immediately following will be the return of Kansas City Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* to the Kauffman Center from Dec. 7 through 24, 2017. This will mark the 45th season that Kansas City Ballet has presented a version of this cherished event.

Following this holiday classic, Kansas City Ballet will continue its *New Moves* series at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. *New Moves* is an intimate performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers.

Rounding out the season will be the *Anniversary Dance Festival* featuring two weekends of Kansas City Premieres. Week one includes George Balanchine’s *Diamonds*, Jiří Kylián’s *Petite Mort* and a world premiere by Matthew Neenan. Week two features James Kudelka’s *The Man in Black*, Stanton Welch’s *Play* and a world premiere by Andrea Schermoly.

Concluding the mainstage season Kansas City Ballet will present the WORLD PREMIERE of *The Wizard of Oz*, choreography by Septime Webre and music of Matthew Pierce. This artistic team is responsible for the critically acclaimed *ALICE (in wonderland)* performed by Kansas City Ballet in 2014.

All but *The Man in Black* 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.

Visit kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2017-2018 season and kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2017-2018 season can be found [here](#).

Kansas City Ballet

2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee Season

Subscriptions are available now at the Kansas City Ballet ticket office **816.931.8993** or online at 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.

Kansas City Dance Day

Aug. 26, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Kansas City's 7th annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family.

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 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.

The Nutcracker

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

New Moves

February 15-19, 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.

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.

Diamonds

April 6, 7 and 8

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Diamonds Choreography: George Balanchine Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

World Premiere Choreography: Matthew Neenan Music: TBA

Petite Mort Choreography: Jiří Kylián Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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

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

Sun., April 8 2 p.m.

George Balanchine's *Diamonds*, with music of Peter 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 *Jewels* and is a glorious culmination of beauty and elegance.

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.

The Man in Black

April 13, 14 and 15

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

Play Choreography: Stanton Welch Music: Moby

World Premiere Choreography: Andrea Schermoly Music: TBA

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

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

Sun., April 15 2 p.m.

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."

WORLD PREMIERE of The Wizard of Oz

May 11-20, 2018

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce

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 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.

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 60th 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 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.

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.

###

Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.444.0052 or publicity@kcballet.org.