



DEVON CARNEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

Kansas City Ballet
2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee Season
Continues with
60th Anniversary Dance Festival
Kansas City Ballet's Celebration of Dance

Diamonds April 6-8 and *The Man in Black* April 13-15 at
The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 7, 2018) — The Diamond Jubilee Season will continue with the 60th Anniversary Dance Festival featuring six Kansas City premiere ballets over two weekends including George Balanchine's *Diamonds* April 6-8 and James Kudelka's *The Man in Black* April 13-15 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Single tickets are on sale now. Buy online at kcballet.org or call the Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816.931.8993.

Week one includes George Balanchine's *Diamonds*, Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort* and *The Uneven* by Matthew Neenan. Week two features James Kudelka's *The Man in Black*

performed to songs sung by Johnny Cash, Stanton Welch's *Play* danced to music by Moby, and a WORLD PREMIERE by Andrea Schermoly called *Klein Perspectives*.

The *Diamonds* program will be accompanied by Kansas City Symphony conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau.

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney stated, "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 world premieres by Andrea Schermoly and Matthew Neenan. These are all captivating and forward thinking works, which allow our repertoire to grow."

60th Anniversary Dance Festival

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

Diamonds

April 6, 7 and 8

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Diamonds
The Uneven
Petite Mort

Choreography: George Balanchine

Choreography: Matthew Neenan

Choreography: Jiří Kylián

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Music: Philip Glass

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fri., April 6 7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 7 7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 8 2 p.m.

Diamonds

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.

Petit Mort

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. Sam Beckett will play piano for this piece.

The Uneven

Matthew Neenan's ballet, *The Uneven*, is set to Philip Glass' Double Concerto for violin and cello. It will be performed by Noah Geller Kansas City Symphony Concertmaster and Mark Gibbs Kansas City Symphony principal cellist. This work received its world premiere by Kansas City Ballet at last fall's New Dance Partners, a collaboration where

the Johnson County Community College's Carlsen Center commissions choreographers to create original works for local dance companies.

Diamonds is sponsored in part through a generous gift by George and Wendy Powell Fund of The Kuehn Foundation. *Petit Mort* is presented by Dana Seeley / The Seeley Foundation and supported by Linda Lighton and Lynn Adkins, The Lighton Fund, and G. Mark Sappington and David S. McGee, D.C. Special thanks to George H. Langworthy, Sr. for his gift to JCCC in support of the Matthew Neenan work. The 60th Anniversary Dance Festival is sponsored in part by Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, David H. Hughes, Jr., Onelife Fitness — Kansas City Ballet's Official Fitness Club and PT Partners, The Official Physical Rehabilitation Provider to Kansas City Ballet.

The Man in Black

April 13, 14 and 15

<i>The Man in Black</i>	Choreography: James Kudelka	Music: Johnny Cash
<i>Play</i>	Choreography: Stanton Welch	Music: Moby
<i>Klein Perspectives</i>	Choreography: Andrea Schermoly Music: J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, Olafur Arnold's Chopin Project	

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."

Klein Perspectives

Andrea Schermoly's piece *Klein Perspectives*, will be set to a soundscape created by Jonathan Denmark of J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, and Olafur Arnold's Chopin Project. Her piece is a collection of movement vignettes inspired by the art works of Yves Klein. It's an exploration of emotional tones, mis/communication and relationships with ourselves and others.

The Man In Black is presented by Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts. The Anniversary Dance Festival is sponsored in part by Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, David H. Hughes, Jr., Onelife

Fitness — Kansas City Ballet’s Official Fitness Club and PT Partners, The Official Physical Rehabilitation Provider to Kansas City Ballet.

Ticket Information

Tickets may be purchased by telephone at 816.931.8993, in person at the Kansas City Ballet Box Office located at the Bolender Center at 500 W. Pershing Rd. (west of Union Station) or with the “Select Your Own Seat” capability online at kcballet.org. Tickets also may be purchased at the Kauffman Center Box Office and website. Visit the Kansas City Ballet website for more information about performance times, seating options and parking at kcballet.org.

Tickets are on sale now or save 15% off single tickets with a 2017-2018 mini-season subscription. Subscribe today or call the Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816.931.8993. First weekend subscribers see *Diamonds* and second weekend subscribers see *The Man in Black*. To get both shows, simply add to your package and save 60% on the added show!

Parking and Downtown Maps

Information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates can be found online at kcballet.org/planyourvisit. The Arts District parking garage, immediately south of and underneath the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is the primary parking garage for Kansas City Ballet patrons. Event parking is \$10 per car and may be purchased in advance or upon arrival.

Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation; Kansas City Ballet Guild; the Missouri Arts Council; The Arts Council of Greater Kansas City and Hotel Phillips, host hotel of Kansas City Ballet, also are among the many supporters of Kansas City Ballet’s 60th season.

Season Info and Media

Visit kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2017-2018 Diamond Jubilee 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](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Student Discounts

Student Rush tickets are available, two for \$19 (with valid ID, one ticket per ID) 90-minutes prior to curtain at all performances based on availability.

Social Media

Kansas City Ballet’s website is mobile and ticket-purchase friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page at facebook.com/kcballet and following @kcballet on Twitter. Follow our blog at kcballet.org/blog, or on YouTube by visiting youtube.com/kansascityballet.

Belger Footnote Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members views on the choreography, history, design elements and music prior to each repertory performance. These informal discussions are free for all ticket holders and are held at the theatre **one hour prior to curtain** for Kansas City Ballet repertory shows.

Dance Speaks

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

Mozart and Cash: Boots & Foils

5 p.m. | Open Rehearsal and Reception

6:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we offer a unique educational series titled DANCE SPEAKS. This series, is intended to provide an up-close and personal look into the creative process choreographers and dance artists embark upon before ballets reach the stage. KC Ballet's Artistic Director Devon Carney will speak with stager Elke Schepers and choreographer James Kudelka about their ballets to provide a different perspective for those interested in music and ballet! Tickets are \$15 and on sale now. They must be purchased online in advance. Includes an open rehearsal and reception! Seats are available for \$15 and \$12 for KCB Subscribers online at <https://ticketing.kcballet.org/auxiliary/Reserve.aspx?p=12644>.

Kansas City Ballet

2017-2018 Season at a Glance Upcoming Productions

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993

Single tickets for all performances are on sale now. Purchase tickets online at kcballet.org.

Peter Pan

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

Choreography: World premiere choreography by Artistic Director Devon Carney

Music: Carmon DeLeone performed by Kansas City Symphony

J.M. Barrie's classic swashbuckling adventure of the Lost Boys and their nemesis Captain Hook makes its Kansas City premiere with all-new choreography by Artistic Director, Devon Carney. This full-length ballet brings the timeless classic to life, telling the family adventure for those who never want to grow up. The magical Peter Pan flies into the Darling family nursery, urging Wendy, John and Michael to join him in Never Never Land.

Fri., May 11 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 12 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 13 2 p.m.

Kansas City Ballet Presents *Anniversary Dance Festival Diamonds* April 6-8
And *The Man in Black* April 13-15 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Wed., May 16	7:30 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.

Dance Speaks

April 25, 2018 | The Coterie Theatre | Crown Center

The Ballet *Peter Pan*

6:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion

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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 engagement 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.

Visit kcballet.org/media/releases for more info.

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