



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.444.0052
publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

Kansas City Ballet 2016-17 Season Concludes with Director's Choice

Mixed Repertoire of ALL Kansas City Ballet PREMIERES includes
Jerome Robbins' *Interplay*,
Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery*
(Based on Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery") and
George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*
May 12-21 at
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

KANSAS CITY, MO (April 11, 2017) — Concluding the mainstage 59th season Kansas City Ballet will be featuring masters of the past and present: George Balanchine's classical masterpiece *Theme and Variations*, Jerome Robbins' exuberant, jazzy *Interplay*, and contemporary ballet choreographer Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery*, based on Shirley Jackson's shocking short story by the same name. The production will be accompanied by Kansas City

Symphony conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau and runs May 12 through 21 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Artistic Director **Devon Carney** stated, “I love including a mixed repertoire in our season as the diversity of pieces allows our dancers to truly ‘strut their stuff’ and our audiences to experience a broad range of dance styles in one performance. This spring program, all Kansas City Ballet premieres, is no exception. From the playful Robbin’s piece, *Interplay* which includes both neoclassical and contemporary choreography, Val Caniparoli’s *The Lottery* haunting dark narrative and the Balanchine masterpiece, *Theme and Variations* with its exact footwork and grand celebratory finale, our Company will thrill audiences with an exciting array of dance.”

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about this production and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2016-2017 season can be found [here](#).

The program of all Kansas City Ballet premieres will begin with Jerome Robbins’ *Interplay*. This tender and innocent piece, featuring the joyful and jazzy music of Morton Gould’s “Symphony Concertante,” debuted in 1945 to great acclaim. Using the interplay of neoclassical and vernacular choreography, Robbins experimented with patterns and dancers’ playful camaraderie and competition in different formations. Gould’s humor and jazzy orchestration underscores a bluesy time in the 1940s.

The Kansas City premiere by Val Caniparoli of the literary classic *The Lottery* will continue this program. Based on Shirley Jackson’s short story originally published in *The New Yorker* in 1948, this ballet features the original musical composition of Robert Moran and tells the haunting story of the Chosen One. The ballet begins with a joyful gathering as if celebrating a harvest, each dancer carefully gathering stones. With echoes of early Americana and small towns with white picket fences, the ballet descends into somber reality as dancers draw ballots from a black box. Here the ballet presents its unique ending: this is a real live lottery on stage. No dancer knows who will be chosen. Each dancer must be prepared to dance the final variation for the end of the piece on a moment’s notice. Each night, audience members will bear immediate witness to which dancer has become the Chosen One.

The program concludes with George Balanchine’s *Theme and Variations* with the music of Peter Tchaikovsky. This intense ballet is evocative of his Russian heritage with incredible symmetry and outstanding musicality that defines

Balanchine. The ballet opens to reveal a corps of 12 women and a principal couple. As the ballet moves from variation to variation, the solo performances of the ballerina and her partner are interspersed among the corps performances. As in all classical ballets, there is a central pas de deux which builds to the climactic finale for the entire cast of 26 dancers.

Director's Choice

May 12-21, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

The Lottery is presented by special arrangement with the children of Shirley Jackson and Literal Media.

Interplay

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Music: Morton Gould

The Lottery

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Music: Robert Moran

Theme and Variations

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

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

Sat., May 13 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 14 2 p.m.

Fri., May 19 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 20 7:30 p.m.

Sun., May 21 2 p.m.

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 "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.

Parking and Downtown Maps

Information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates can be found online at <http://www.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 \$8 per car and may be purchased in advance or upon arrival (cash only at the gate).

Sponsors

Director's Choice supporting sponsor is OneLife Fitness with additional support by Wendy and George Powell III.

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 59th season.

DANCE SPEAKS: RESTAGING A BALLET

Roles, Rules and Responsibilities

Friday, April 28, 2017, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing, KCMO 64108

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we are offering a unique lecture series called Dance Speaks. This series is intended to provide in-depth, behind-the-scenes insight into the creative process choreographers and dancers embark on before the curtain rises. This Dance Speaks will feature Judith Fugate (stager for George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*) and Maria "Maiqui" Manosa (stager for Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery*).

Held at Kansas City Ballet's home, the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, this insightful educational event will provide a unique perspective for anyone interested in ballet.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at www.kcballet.org or 816.931.8993.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Discounts

Student Rush tickets are available for \$15 (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 www.facebook.com/kcballet and following @kcballet on Twitter. Follow our blog at kcballet.org/blog, or our channel on YouTube by visiting www.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.

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 and 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

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

Following its Kennedy Center premiere in Washington, D.C., Devon Carney's acclaimed holiday production returns to KC for its third season. Presented by Bank of America.

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.

Kansas City Ballet Presents **Director's Choice** May 12-21
at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

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

New Moves

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

A unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase new emerging choreographers both locally, some from within Kansas City Ballet, and from the national dance scene. No subscriptions available for these performances.

Thurs., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
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.

Diamonds

April 6, 7 and 8

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

<i>Diamonds</i>	Choreography: George Balanchine	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky
<i>Premiere</i>	Choreography: Matthew Neenan	Music: TBA
<i>Petite Mort</i>	Choreography: Jiří Kylián	Music: W. A. Mozart

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

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>World Premiere</i>	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.

*WORLD PREMIERE of
The Wizard of Oz*

May 11-20, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
World Premiere Choreography: Septime Webre
Music: Matthew Pierce performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 12	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 13	2 p.m.
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.

About Kansas City Ballet

To make 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 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.

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

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