

KansasCityBallet

Devon Carney, Artistic Director

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Ballet Master James Jordan Accepts Post as Ballet Master for Sarasota Ballet

Jordan to stay through 2013-14 Season and will return to stage *The Nutcracker* next season

Kansas City, MO (April 10, 2014)— Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced Ballet Master James Jordan has accepted a post as Ballet Master for Sarasota Ballet in Florida. Jordan will remain at Kansas City Ballet through the 2013-14 season and will return for the final year of Todd Bolender's *The Nutcracker* this coming December. Jordan has dedicated nearly 30 years of service to Kansas City, first as a member of the Company from 1981-1987 and then as Ballet Master from 1991 to the present.

“James has a national reputation as a stager for the ballets of Antony Tudor, working with companies around the country. His recent work with The Sarasota Ballet, which has a deep commitment to the Tudor works, afforded them the opportunity to see his value and shared passion for the historical works of Tudor and others. It was clear that the artistic values both Jordan and The Sarasota Ballet artistic leadership share, provided a natural progression for both parties,” stated Carney. “That said, he will be dearly missed. While technically the role of the Ballet Master is to assist with scheduling and the rehearsals for the Company, James was so, so much more than that. He truly was the ‘glue’ that held us all together. We wish him the best.”

“How rewarding it is to see this beautiful company thriving in the studios and theatre it deserves,” said Jordan. “I will always cherish my years with Kansas City Ballet and I am confident that Devon Carney will lead the organization onward and upward.”

Devon Carney will begin the search for the new Ballet Master immediately.

Hailing from Staunton, Virginia, Jordan began his formal dance training at the Richmond Ballet during his freshmen year at Virginia Commonwealth University's Theatre Department. Three years later, he was recruited by Todd Bolender at North Carolina School for the Arts for his first company of dancers in Kansas City. During and after those next seven years with Kansas City Ballet, Jordan also performed in Santa Fe and in the New York area. His career then led him to press relations for public television, prior to his return to Kansas City in 1991

as ballet master. In 2000, he received his B.F.A. in dance from the UMKC Conservatory of Dance. Jordan works with students in the Kansas City Ballet School and stages the ballets of Todd Bolender and Antony Tudor in Kansas City and across the nation.

For the complete bio and photos, please visit www.kcballet.org.

About Kansas City Ballet

To make Kansas City a destination for dance

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 28-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 more than 600 children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those ages 12 and up who are simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through its professional company, its second company KCB II and its many community service 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 on the campus of Union Station, 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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For further information, please visit our Web site at www.kcballet.org.**

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