



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Kansas City Ballet***  
***2018-19 Season Continues with***  
KANSAS CITY PREMIERE of Val Caniparoli's  
***Lady of the Camellias***  
*Feb. 15 - 24 at*  
*Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts*



KANSAS CITY, MO (Jan. 14, 2019) — Continuing the 2018-2019 Season, Kansas City Ballet will present the Kansas City debut of Alexandre Dumas' tragic love story *Lady of the Camellias*. With stunning choreography by Val Caniparoli and Frédéric Chopin's romantic score performed by Kansas City Symphony, *Lady of the Camellias* runs February 15-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Kansas City Ballet Presents *Lady of the Camellias* Feb. 15 - 24  
at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

“Even as I accepted my appointment as Artistic Director for Kansas City Ballet six years ago, I envisioned our company would someday be positioned to perform Val Caniparoli’s milestone full-length creation *Lady of the Camellias*,” Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney said. “I am thrilled to present this highly dramatic and tragic tale of Marguerite, a famous courtesan, and Armand, a young countryman, as they become entangled in a forbidden affair ultimately facing heartbreak and loss. Caniparoli’s rendition remains widely popular today among many highly respected ballet companies. The choreography demands a physical technicality and profound artistry from the dancers to express the breadth of emotion in this compelling story. Based on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel *La Dame aux Camellias*, this story has inspired many screen and stage adaptations including the film *Camille*, with Greta Garbo, the opera *La Traviata* and the highly popular film *Moulin Rouge!*. This balletic stage adaptation stands as an equally formidable telling of this world-renowned story.”

Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau is also excited about the music. “The music for *Lady of the Camellias* is every work Chopin wrote for piano and orchestra, with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> piano concerto. Seldom heard in live performance, these works couple the exquisite melodies he is known for with a tour de force of technical demands for pianists. We are fortunate to have two pianists, Sam Beckett and Yee-Sik Wong, sharing the evening, alternating acts. Chopin also wrote a grouping of 13 songs, and our soloists for the 13<sup>th</sup> song – “Melancholy” will be mezzo-soprano Sarah Curtis, and baritone Robert Gibby Brand.”

Tickets are available online at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org), by telephone at 816.931.8993, or in person at the Kansas City Ballet Box Office located at the Bolender Center at 500 W. Pershing Rd.

## *Lady of the Camellias*

**February 15-24, 2019** | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Music: Frédéric Chopin performed by the Kansas City Symphony

Armand, a young countryman meets the ravishing courtesan Marguerite in a chance meeting that leads to a passionate, but doomed love. Val Caniparoli’s popular adaptation of this classic story is set to the romantic score by Frédéric Chopin, and deftly depicts the moving story of beauty, extravagance, jealousy, deception and heartbreak. Alexandre Dumas’ tragic love story has inspired many adaptations, including Greta Garbo’s *Camille* and Baz Luhrman’s *Moulin Rouge!*, but none more popular than Verdi’s opera *La Traviata*.

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at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Fri., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 17	2 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 24	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 the “Select Your Own Seat” capability online at [kcballet.org](http://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](http://kcballet.org).

### **Parking and Downtown Maps**

Information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates can be found online at [kcballet.org/planyourvisit](http://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; ArtsKC and Hotel Phillips, host hotel of Kansas City Ballet, are among the many supporters of Kansas City Ballet’s 2018-2019 season. *Lady of the Camellias* is sponsored in part by: Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation and the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Commerce Bank, Trustee.

### **Season Info and Media**

Visit [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org) for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2018-2019 season and [kauffmancenter.org](http://kauffmancenter.org) for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2018-2019 season can be found [here](#).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS**

### **DANCE SPEAKS: *Lady of the Camellias***

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

5:30-6:00 p.m. | Company Open Rehearsal

6:00-7:00 p.m. | Panel Discussion

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

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As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we offer a unique educational series titled DANCE SPEAKS, held at various community venues.

Guest stager Charla Metzker Whiteley, KC Ballet Music Director and Conductor Ramona Pansegrau, and KC Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney provide an up-close and personal look into bringing Caniparoli's ballet *Lady of the Camellias* to the Kauffman Center stage. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale now. Tickets must be purchased online in advance.

### **Student Discounts to *Lady of the Camellias***

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

### **Senior & Educator Discounts to *Lady of the Camellias***

Seniors age 62 and up or Educators who present valid I.D. at the box office 90 minutes prior to all repertory performances can purchase available rush tickets at a discount up to 40% off single ticket prices 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](http://www.facebook.com/kcballet), on Twitter @kcballet, or on Instagram @kc.ballet. Follow our blog at [www.kcballet.org/blog](http://www.kcballet.org/blog), or watch our channel on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/kansascityballet](http://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 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.

### **BARRE KC Night**

BARRE members may use their discount to save 50% on their BARRE KC Night of *Lady of the Camellias*. They will attend the performance on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a free post-show party with the company dancers at Lidia's at 9:30 p.m. To find out more or to join BARRE, please visit [www.kcbbarre.org](http://www.kcbbarre.org).

# Kansas City Ballet

## Remaining 2018-2019 Season at a Glance

### *Lady of the Camellias*

February 15-24, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Music: Frédéric Chopin performed by the Kansas City Symphony

Armand, a young countryman encounters the ravishing courtesan Marguerite in a chance meeting that leads to a passionate, but doomed love. Val Caniparoli's popular adaptation of this classic story is set to the romantic score by Frédéric Chopin, and deftly depicts the moving story of beauty, extravagance, jealousy, deception and heartbreak. Alexandre Dumas' tragic love story has inspired many adaptations, including Greta Garbo's *Camille* and Baz Luhrman's *Moulin Rouge!*, but none more popular than Verdi's opera *La Traviata*.

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Sat., Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 24	2 p.m.

### New Moves

March 28-31, 2019 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet's most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow's sought-after choreographers today! It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater.

Thurs., March 28	7:30 p.m.
Fri., March 29	10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
Fri., March 29	7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 30	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 31	2 p.m.

### THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE

May 10-19, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

This is Kansas City Ballet's must-see dance event of the season with the works of three of America's most recognized and acclaimed choreographers brought together on stage at the Kauffman Center! Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room* is a tour-de-force of athleticism,

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built on a pulsating score by Philip Glass. William Forsythe's contemporary masterpiece, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, is a high-voltage thrill ride that changed dance forever and became one of Forsythe's signature works. Kansas City native David Parsons founded Parsons Dance and quickly was hailed as a master of contemporary dance. He returns to KC with a world premiere ballet just for you.

<i>WORLD PREMIERE</i>	Choreography: David Parsons	Music: TBA
<i>In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated</i>	Choreography: William Forsythe	Music: Thom Willems
<i>In The Upper Room</i>	Choreography: Twyla Tharp	Music: Philip Glass

Fri., May 10	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 12	2 p.m.
Fri., May 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 18	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 19	2 p.m.

### 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, has truly positioned Kansas City as a destination for dance.

Visit [www.kcballet.org/media/releases](http://www.kcballet.org/media/releases) for more info.

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Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.213.4355 or [publicity@kcballet.org](mailto:publicity@kcballet.org).

Photo Credit: Dancers Emily Mistretta and Lamin Pereira dos Santos. Photography by Kenny Johnson.

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