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# Kansas City Ballet Presents “New Moves”

Original Works in Intimate Setting  
Feb. 16-19  
at the Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

KANSAS CITY, MO (Jan. 9, 2017) — Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the choreographers chosen for **New Moves**, a unique performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase emerging choreographers, both from the national dance scene as well as locally within Kansas City Ballet. **New Moves** is presented to provide time and space for choreographers to create world premiere works with accomplished professional dancers. **New Moves** will feature choreographers Andi Abernathy and Stephanie Ruch, Artistic Directors of HEARTLINES Dance Company; Gabrielle Lamb; Yury Yanowsky; and KCB Company Dancers Michael Davis, James Kirby Rogers, Gustavo Ribeiro, and Molly Wagner.

Performances of **New Moves** will be held at the Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 pm. Seats are \$35. Buy tickets online at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org) or 816.931.8993.

“**New Moves** is a chance for audiences to see the next big name in choreography before they are considered the next big choreographer,” Carney said. “It is a very up-close, visceral experience for audience and dancer alike. This series will highlight new

choreographic talents while revealing the raw athletic strength and artistic energies of the dancers who will perform to all world premiere works.”

## ***New Moves***

February 16-19, 2017 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance and 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. Seats are \$35. Buy tickets online at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org) or 816.931.8993.

Thurs., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 18	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 19	2 p.m.

Andi Abernathy and Stephanie Ruch, Gabrielle Lamb, Yury Yanowsky, and KCB Company Dancers Michael Davis, James Kirby Rogers, Gustavo Ribeiro, and Molly Wagner

Choreography: Andi Abernathy and Stephanie Ruch  
Music: Nebulo, “Asht” and Jo Lampert, “Joga (Cover)”

Choreography: Michael Davis  
Music: Joseph Maurice Ravel

Choreography: Gabrielle Lamb  
Music: Henry Purcell

Choreography: Gustavo Ribeiro  
Music: Philip Glass’s “Secret Agent”

Choreography: James Kirby Rogers  
Music: W. A. Mozart

Choreography: Molly Wagner  
Music: Frederic Chopin *Nocturne in C Minor, Op. 48*, musical accompaniment performed by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau

Choreography: Yury Yanowsky  
Music: a mix from Lucas Vidal, Mozart and Brahms

Bonus Pre-show Performance:  
Kansas City Ballet’s Second Company will perform a work by Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye with music by Bach.

**Andi Abernathy** grew up training at Priscilla and Dana’s, and now teaches modern, hip-hop, ballet and jazz. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Ms. Abernathy is known throughout the United

States for her choreography, which has received several awards and recognitions at regional and national levels. She has choreographed for numerous college and high school dance teams throughout the Midwest as well as multiple Showbiz National Opening Numbers. Ms. Abernathy has also worked in Los Angeles, among many other places, with nationally known choreographers including Doug Caldwell, Mark Meismer, Chris Jacobsen, and Dee Caspary. She judges for many dance competitions and showcases, and is currently a staff member of "The Sessions." She and her sister, Stephanie Ruch, are co-artistic directors of Heartlines Dance Company which they started in 2015 in Kansas City.

**Michael Davis** began his ballet training at the Marya Kennett Dance Centre in Goshen, New York, at the age of 10. After attending summer courses at The Rock School for Dance Education in Pennsylvania, he was accepted into their year-round residency program on a merit scholarship. Upon graduating from The Rock School, he joined Oregon Ballet Theatre in 2007 and danced for two years under the direction of Christopher Stowell and Damara Bennett. Mr. Davis has performed in various works by George Balanchine, Twyla Tharp, Jerome Robbins, and Christopher Wheeldon.

**Gabrielle Lamb**, winner of a 2014 Princess Grace Award for Choreography, is a New York City-based choreographer and dancer, as well as, the artistic director of Pigeonwing Dance. Born in Savannah, Ga., she was trained at the Boston Ballet School and joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal in 2000, earning her soloist promotion in 2003. At the invitation of choreographer Christopher Wheeldon she moved to New York City in 2009 to join his company Morphoses.

Ms. Lamb, who began choreographing in 2005, has won the National Choreographic Competition of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 2009 as well as in 2013, First Prizes in Milwaukee Ballet's Genesis International Choreographic Competition and Western Michigan University's National Choreographic Competition. She was named winner of the Banff Centre's 2014-2015 Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award; and in 2014 she was honored with a New York City Center Choreography Fellowship. In the April/May 2015 issue of *Pointe Magazine*, Ms. Lamb was featured as one of the top three rising choreographers on the international dance scene.

Her choreography and dance films have been presented by, among others: Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Ballet Austin, Hubbard Street 2, Milwaukee Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet Concert Group (NYC), Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Ballet Memphis.

**Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye** was born in Maine and began his training with Andrei Bossov. Upon graduating from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Mr. Nye danced for Festival Ballet Providence, Eugene Ballet Company and Ballet Idaho. Ryan was chosen to participate in the 2005 Banff Summer Arts Festival where he created roles in Sabrina Matthews' *Losing Ground* and Peter Quanz's *Quanz by Quanz*. He has been featured in Jessica Lang's *Splendid Isolations*, Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free* and Michael Pink's *Dracula*. He has performed Ballets by Hans van Manen, Rudy van Dantzig, Vicente Nebrada, Mark Godden, Jodie Gates and George Balanchine.

**Gustavo Ribeiro** was born in Vitoria, Brazil. He began his ballet training at age 12 at Expressao e Arte Studio de Danca. Mr. Ribeiro graduated from Orlando Ballet School in 2014 and quickly began his professional career with the prestigious Washington Ballet under the direction of Septime Webre. Mr. Ribeiro was the youngest dancer to join Alberta Ballet as a company member where he performed featured roles in 2015-2016. He has received many top honors and dance awards in Brazil, USA, and Canada. He was a Youth America Grand Prix finalist and a TOP 12 in New York. He was offered full scholarships to study at Palucca Hochschule for TanzDresden, Houston Ballet II, and Joffrey Academy of Dance among others. Mr. Ribeiro has earned many awards for excellence in choreography both for soloists and ensembles. He is also a certified teacher for the ABT National Training curriculum.

Mr. Ribeiro has performed many principal roles and worked with well-known choreographers including: Servy Gallardo's *La Bayadère* (Solor), Angel Corella's *Don Quixote* (Lead Gypsy), Septime Webre's *Sleeping Beauty* (Blue Bird), *The Nutcracker* and *Alice in Wonderland*, Emily Hildebrand's *Le Corsaire* (Ali), Kirk Peterson's *Swan Lake*, Aszure Barton's *Happy Little Things*, Jean Grand Maitre's *Romeo and Juliet* (Paris) and *The Nutcracker*. This is his first season with Kansas City Ballet.

**James Kirby Rogers** started his ballet training at the age of 9 at the Academy of Ballet in San Francisco, under the directorship of Richard Gibson and Zory Karah. He then continued his training at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts under Susan Jaffe, Jared Redick and Mikhail Tchoupakov. He finally completed his training at Houston Ballet II under Claudio Munoz and Sabrina Lenzi. In 2015, Mr. Rogers was a finalist at Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) New York where he danced the Prince Siegfried Black Swan Variation from *Swan Lake*. As a student he danced numerous principal roles including the lead in *Allegro Brillante* by George Balanchine, and the Father in John Neumeier's *Yondering*. Mr. Rogers joined Kansas City Ballet in 2016.

**Stephanie Ruch**, a native of Kansas City, Missouri, started her dancing career at age 3 at Priscilla and Dana's. She continued training in jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical, modern, and hip-hop until she graduated high school. Throughout these 15 years, she was the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships at dance conventions, competitions, etc. She is one of the two modern teachers at P\*D and also teaches jazz, ballet, hip-hop, and lyrical. Ms. Ruch and her sister, teach and choreograph together at the studio and also set dances on high school dance teams and college university dancers. She travels and assists choreographer Chris Jacobsen around the country. Ms. Ruch is a graduate of UMKC Conservatory of Music & Dance with a BFA in Dance Performance. She has been a member of Kansas City's-based companies Wylliams/Henry Dance and Seamless Dance Theatre. She has also performed in Sonya Tayeh's company and is a staff member of "The Sessions." Ms. Ruch loves the classroom process of seeing individuals grow and mature into becoming their own artist. She and her sister, Andi Abernathy, are co-artistic directors of Heartlines Dance Company which they started in 2015 in Kansas City.

**Molly Wagner**, originally from Denver, Colorado, began her training with Christina Noel-Adcock, spending summers with Jiliana, Joffrey Ballet South, Kansas City Ballet, and Ballet Austin. She graduated cum laude from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In 2006, she was awarded First Place Regional winner by the National Society for Arts and Letters. Ms. Wagner went on to dance professionally with Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Montgomery Ballet, and Charleston Ballet Theatre before joining Kansas City Ballet in 2012. Throughout her career, she enjoyed dancing lead roles in Balanchine's *Serenade*, *Who Cares?* and *Allegro Brillante*. Some of her favorite notable roles include: Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Pigtail Girl/Naughty Girl in *Graduation Ball*, and most recently with Kansas City Ballet, Mina in Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Giselle in Devon Carney's *Giselle*, Cinderella in Victoria Morgan's *Cinderella*, and Odette/Odille in Devon Carney's *Swan Lake*.

**Yury Yanowsky's** career as a principal dancer with the Boston Ballet spanned over two decades. Mr. Yanowsky was the recipient of the first prize at the Prix de Lausanne and won the Silver medal at both the Varna International Ballet Competition and the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Miss. Mr. Yanowsky's passion for choreographing began early in his dancing career and over the past decade he has had the opportunity to choreograph numerous ballets for Boston Ballet, Boston Ballet II, Carlos Acosta's "Premiere's Plus", Festival Ballet Providence, and international galas. In 2015, He was awarded the Choreographic Prize at the prestigious Erik Bruhn Competition for his ballet, *District*. He recently completed commissions to create new works for Boston Ballet and The Bundes Jugend Ballet Hamburg in the 2015-2016 Season and was also the guest choreographer for the Opening Night Gala for the Ballet Program at Jacob's Pillow 2016. Mr. Yanowsky is on faculty at Centro Coreographico, Las Palmas Spain, Summer Program and has taught at Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Harvard University and Colby College.

## NEW MOVES MATINEE FOR COLLEGES

Friday, February 17 at 2:00 PM

### Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Kansas City Ballet presents a special discounted matinee performance for colleges. Students will experience brand new, cutting-edge ballets by emerging choreographers from around the country as well as from select Kansas City Ballet company dancers. This up close and intimate experience is sure to inspire and ignite students' imaginations.

Students will make connections between dance and abstraction, choreographer's processes and structure and the relationship of dance to other disciplines. Seats are \$12. Reservations must be received by Feb. 10.

Contact [aberry@kcballet.org](mailto:aberry@kcballet.org) or call KCB Community Education at 816.216.5583 to book your space today.

## DANCE SPEAKS

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community at large, we have created a unique lecture series called *Dance Speaks*. This series is intended to provide further in-depth, behind-the-scenes insight into the creative process choreographers embark upon.

### New Moves Male Voices

*Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017, 6-7:30 p.m.* at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing, KCMO 64108

2017 New Moves' male choreographers Yury Yanowsky, Micheal Davis, Gustavo Ribeiro, and James Kirby Rogers discuss their new works for KC Ballet and share their perspectives on contemporary dance.

### New Moves Female Voices

*Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017, 6-7:30 p.m.*, location is TBD

2017 New Moves female choreographers Gabrielle Lamb, Stephanie Ruch, Andi Abernathy and Molly Wagner share their journey, influences, and choreographic process in relation to their new work for KC Ballet.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [www.kcballet.org](http://www.kcballet.org) or 816.931.8993.

## 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 1800+ children and adults offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those simply seeking a healthy lifestyle.

Through our professional company, our second company (KCB II) and our many community educational and outreach 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.

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