



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.444.0052
publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

Kansas City Ballet Presents “New Moves”

Original Works in Intimate Setting
Feb. 15-18
at the Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

KANSAS CITY, MO (Jan. 31, 2018) — 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 **Abdur-Rahim Jackson**, choreographer and former Principal Dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; **Monique Meunier**, former Principal Dancer with New York City Ballet and noted choreographer; **Mariana Oliveira**, choreographer and artistic director of The Union Project Dance Company; KCB Company Dancers **Christopher Costantini**, **Michael Davis**, and **Emily Mistretta**; and also a work for Kansas City Ballet’s Second Company created by KCB Ballet Master **Parrish Maynard**.

Carney said, “Our Diamond Jubilee Season continues with another annual audience favorite, **New Moves**, a choreographic incubator for new and emerging creative voices from the local, regional and national dance scenes who will all be constructing brand new works on the highly talented Kansas City Ballet artists.”

New Moves

February 15-18, 2018

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Mobank Private Wealth, Supporting Sponsor

Thurs., Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16	10:30 a.m. Matinee for Students and Seniors
Fri., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 17	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 18	2 p.m.

Performances of **New Moves** will be held at the Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. Seats are \$40 plus fees. Buy tickets online at kcballet.org or 816.931.8993.

Evanesco

Choreography: Christopher Costantini

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, Violin Concerto in E Minor

You Do You!

Choreography: Michael Davis

Music: Edward Sharp & the Magnetic Zeroes

aBnOrMaL Normal

Choreography: Abdur-Rahim Jackson

Music: Michael McQuilken

Beyond Blood

Choreography: Emily Mistretta

Music: Shakey Graves

Title TBA

Choreography: Monique Meunier

Music: selection of pieces by Jean-Philippe Rameau, performed by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau

Beauty in Chaos

Choreography: Mariana Oliveira

Music: Bachianas No. 8 by Heitor Villa-Lobos

AND

Kansas City Ballet's Second Company, made up of KCB II and Trainees, will perform a work by Parrish Maynard.

Fractals

Choreography: Parrish Maynard

Music: Kenneth Curshner

Christopher Costantini, a native of Milan, Italy, started his dance training at Princeton Ballet School, at the age of 12. After attending summer courses at American Ballet Theatre in New York City, he completed his pre-professional studies at San Francisco Ballet School on full scholarship. Upon graduation, he appeared with the Paris Opera Ballet in Maurice Béjart's *Bolero* for the company's 2012 North American tour.

Mr. Costantini subsequently joined Oregon Ballet Theatre, where he danced for two years. Since joining Kansas City Ballet, Mr. Costantini has had the pleasure of performing in Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and Septime Webre's *Alice (in wonderland)*. Joined Kansas City Ballet in 2014.

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. Joined Kansas City Ballet in 2009.

Abdur-Rahim Jackson, received a Bachelor Degree of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School and performed as a Principal Dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for a decade and then made his Broadway debut in "Soul Doctor". He has taught master classes at the International Dance Association in Ravenna, Italy, was a guest teacher at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center and Adjunct Professor at Marymount Manhattan College. Mr. Jackson has created ballets for Orlando Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

He co-choreographed Beyoncé's "Halo" music video and choreographed the LED sections of Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love" Super Bowl XLVII Halftime performance on CBS. Mr. Abdur-Rahim has also choreographed the Salt-N-Pepa Lane Bryant Campaign, ULTA Beauty, L'Oréal / Matrix and JCPenney Salons Hair/Fashion Shows across the country and has directed fashion/dance shoots for VIBE and PAPER Magazines.

Parrish Maynard danced with American Ballet Theatre, where he was invited to join by Mikhail Baryshnikov, and as a principal dancer at The Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. In addition to being a recipient of the Princess Grace Award and the Presidential Scholar Award, he was a silver medalist in the International Ballet Competition. Mr. Maynard has performed in Dance in America, American Ballet Theatre's '*Now*', danced Nacho Duato's *Romanso*, San Francisco Ballet Lar

Lubovich's *Othello* in the role of Iago which was created on him. In 2005 Mr. Maynard joined the faculty of San Francisco Ballet School. In his 10 years at San Francisco Ballet, Mr. Maynard choreographed more than 20 ballets for the San Francisco Ballet School, some of which have been danced around the world including Royal Ballet School, Royal New Zealand Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. Joined Kansas City Ballet in 2016.

Emily Mistretta began her training at Inland Pacific Ballet Academy in Montclair, California. In 2005, Ms. Mistretta attended Boston Ballet's Summer Dance Program, where she was asked to join the Boston Ballet School and received a tuition scholarship with generous funding from Jack Rugheimer. In 2006, Ms. Mistretta joined Boston Ballet II, and she was promoted to Corps de Ballet in 2008. She has been featured in several works throughout her career with Boston Ballet, including; various works by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, Florence Clerc's *La Bayadère*, Michel Fokine's *Les Sylphides*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, Jiří Kylián's *Bella Figura*, *Wings of Wax*, *Tar and Feathers* and *Symphony of Psalms*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*. Joined Kansas City Ballet in 2016.

Monique Meunier was born in Hollywood, CA. Her father is Cuban and mother is Ecuadorian. As a young girl in Los Angeles, she earned spots in various commercials, music videos, sitcoms, and short films. At the age of 15, she received a full scholarship to attend the School of American Ballet in NYC. Miss Meunier was asked to join the New York City Ballet one year later. In 1996, she was promoted to soloist and reached the rank of principal dancer in 1997. There she performed numerous roles by Balanchine, Robbins, Martins, Wheeldon, and Forsythe, as well as, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*. In 2002, Miss Meunier joined American Ballet Theater where she added the classics, Tudor, and Kylian to her repertoire. In 2007, she joined Complexions Contemporary Ballet under the direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson. Miss Meunier has staged Balanchine ballets for the Balanchine Trust and has served as rehearsal director for Karole Armitage. In 2010, she became ballet master for Washington Ballet and in 2011 became director of TWB's Trainee Program and faculty of The School of Washington Ballet. She has also ventured into choreography and has created works for Lake Placid Arts Center and The Columbia Collaborative. Miss Meunier is now highly acclaimed for her teaching and coaching and is a permanent adjudicator for Youth American Grand Prix. In 2016, Miss Meunier appointed to the inaugural committee of School of American Ballet's Alumni Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Mariana Oliveira is the Choreographer and Artistic Director of The Union Project Dance Company. Originally from Brazil, she studied at the Royal Academy of Dance in London, and was a trainee dancer at the National Dance Company of Wales. She has recently created new works for the Milwaukee Ballet, Joffrey Ballet Studio Company, and Arkansas Ballet. Ms. Oliveira has presented works at the Jacob's Pillow Festival, and for two consecutive years has been a finalist of the McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival. Mariana is also a recipient of The Center for Ballet and the Arts 2017 Fellowship at NYU.

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 2,000+ 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 and education programs, 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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