



Devon Carney, Artistic Director

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KANSAS CITY BALLET PRESENTS ***THE NUTCRACKER***

Final Season of Todd Bolender's Production
Dec. 6-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 27, 2014) – Kansas City Ballet presents its 42nd annual production of Todd Bolender's *The Nutcracker* at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 6 through 24, 2014. This two act ballet is a holiday experience unlike any other in Kansas City. It delights audiences with its magnificent sets and costumes. Special effects like the magical Christmas tree never fail to elicit gasps of surprise and applause.

Tchaikovsky's memorable score carries us to a world of child-like wonder where troublesome mice are tamed by toy soldiers, the stage is covered with snow and snowflake clad ballerinas as we travel to the Kingdom of Sweets presided over by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her cavalier. For over four decades the opening of this production has marked the start of the holiday season.

Featuring dozens of colorful characters, all led by the extraordinary professional dancers of Kansas City Ballet, the Kansas City Ballet Second Company and 150 students selected from the Kansas City Ballet School, this production is one of the region's most successful presentations. Adding to the

luster of the experience are the musicians of the Kansas City Symphony under the baton of Kansas City Ballet Music Director and Conductor Ramona Pansegrau who brings to life this beloved and familiar score.

Following a remarkable run of 33 years and more than 600 performances, this season's presentation marks the final performances of this revered production before it is retired and archived.

In 2015, Kansas City Ballet will present the World Premiere of its new *Nutcracker* destined to provide joy and awe to coming generations of children and adults across future decades. Choreographed by Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney, this new full-length holiday tale will be a traditional yet lively, adventurous and reimagined production employing state of the art technology and stagecraft to magnify the experience in the audience's eyes as it tells the story of Clara, the Mouse King, and her *Nutcracker* prince.

"After more than three decades of presenting this glorious holiday tradition, we felt it was time to introduce a new production for our audiences – one that utilizes the most current theater technology and design techniques," Carney said. "It should be said, one that can showcase the considerable talent that we currently have in our company of 40 dancers including our second company troupe. Every generation of artists improves upon itself; it's the natural product of the daily pursuit of excellence. Today we have without question a collection of the most technically accomplished and artistically mature dance artists we have ever assembled as a group at one time. We owe it to them, as well as to our audience members, to provide them with challenges, to offer them new ideas, and to ask more of them so that they may give more back to our community and to our art form."

Sponsors

The Nutcracker is presented by Bank of America.

Ticket Information

This classic American tradition is extremely popular and those interested in purchasing tickets are advised to act quickly. Tickets may be purchased by telephone at 816.931.2232, 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. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$119. There is a \$6.00 Kauffman Center facilities/service fee per ticket.

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 can be purchased in advance or at the gate upon arrival.

Nutcracker Ball Presented by the Kansas City Ballet Guild

Don't miss the most delightfully festive party in town — the Ballet Guild's 47th annual Nutcracker Ball, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 at Union Station in downtown Kansas City. The evening begins with an enchanting cocktail hour accompanied by endless Christmas goodies, followed by a delicious three-course meal and a behind-the-scenes VIP performance by Kansas City Ballet dancers. Dance all night at Kansas City's premier holiday event to the music of The Michael Beers Band! The Honorary Chair is James Jordan, former Kansas City Ballet Master. The Chair is Anna Allen. For more information, contact balletball@kcballet.org or 816-216-5606 or visit kcbguild.org.

The 20th Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

The Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at Sprint Festival Plaza at Union Station in downtown Kansas City. Guests will park at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and be whisked off to the beautiful Union Station and the magic of the holidays. Children will delight in having their complimentary picture taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy, watching traveling magicians and interacting with costumed characters. Parents will enjoy shopping at our fantastic silent auction. You will dine on a delicious lunch prepared by Lon Lane's Inspired Occasions, enjoy entertainment provided by Kansas City Youth Ballet and dance with your family and friends to holiday music. The excitement continues as a shuttle transports you to the 2 p.m. matinee performance of everyone's holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*.

This event is committed to promoting the arts, Kansas City Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* and raising funds for the Kansas City Ballet School and its scholarship program. Luncheon tables for 10 are on sale for \$1,500. Individual luncheon tickets (\$70 child/\$85 adult) and luncheon/show packages (\$110 child/\$125 adult) are on sale now. For reservations or more information contact Rene Horne at 816.216.5589.

The Holiday End-of-Year Campaign

This holiday season Kansas City Ballet is partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City to send area children and their families to *The Nutcracker*. For many local children, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to

see the Ballet, experience The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and enjoy live music provided by Kansas City Symphony. A gift of only \$50 will send one child to *The Nutcracker*, \$200 will send a family of four. To donate to this initiative, please contact Michaela Pearce, Manager of Individual Giving at 816.216.5597 or mpearce@kcballet.org.

The Nutcracker Special Events Calendar

Fri., Dec. 5 Nutcracker Ball at Union Station, Cocktails 6:30 p.m., Dinner 8:00 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 6 Sugar Plum Fairy Children’s Ball at Union Station 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 6 *The Nutcracker* opens at 2:00 p.m.

The Nutcracker

December 6-24, 2014 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts | Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City’s favorite holiday tradition continues with the final presentation of Todd Bolender’s delightful version of *The Nutcracker*. Presented by Bank of America.

The Nutcracker Choreography: Todd Bolender Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Fri., Dec. 5	Nutcracker Ball
Sat., Dec. 6	2 p.m. (*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 7	1 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 13	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 14	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 20	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 22	7:30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

* Sugar Plum Fairy Children’s Ball at Union Station

Fact Sheet for *The Nutcracker*

The Nutcracker is a classic ballet in two acts with four scenes and a prologue based on a tale by E.T.A. Hoffman “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” (1816). Running time is 1 hour 54 minutes which includes one 20-minute intermission.

Act I	Prologue	Intermission	Act II
Scene I	The Party		Kingdom of the Sweets
Scene II	The Battle		

Scene III The Snow Forest

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Choreography by Kansas City Ballet's former Artistic Director Todd Bolender

Lighting design by Kirk Bookman

Staged by James Jordan, Kristi Capps, Lisa Vinzant, Susan Sands, Kimberly Cowen, and Sean Duus.

Music Performed by Kansas City Symphony with Conductor Ramona Pansegrau, music director of Kansas City Ballet

Scenic and costume design by Robert Fletcher with Associate Designer Keith Brumley

World Premiere - December 17, 1892 at the Maryinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia, performed by the Kirov Ballet with the Russian title *Shchelkunchik*

Kansas City Premiere of Todd Bolender's production: December 22, 1981

The Nutcracker Trivia

Here is some interesting trivia about *The Nutcracker*. Did you know?

- There are a little more than 500 costumes, accessories & head pieces, 10 pieces of facial hair and two wigs.
- This year the costume shop will use at least 6,600 hair pins during *The Nutcracker*.
- Between the Company, KCB II, the Trainee Company and the student casts in *The Nutcracker*, approximately 400 pairs of tights will be worn.
- Music Director Ramona Pansegrau has been involved with more than 1,000 performances of *The Nutcracker* in the last 25 years (both playing and conducting) - and the Kansas City Ballet's version is her sixth.
- The conductor's score for *The Nutcracker* weighs nine pounds and has 560 pages. The orchestra has only one rehearsal to put all the music together. Every principal player in the orchestra has a solo at one point in the score.
- Each performance of *The Nutcracker* requires 50 pounds of artificial snow. That's a total of 1,000 pounds for all 18 public performances in 2014.
- There are 16 scene changes and 135 light cues.

- About 900 red stickers are used for the soldiers' cheeks during the run of the show.
- There are a total of 198 hours of rehearsals for the full company, approximately 150 students and production staff.

The Nutcracker Story

ACT I

As Act I begins, relatives and friends gather in the parlor for a holiday party given by Clara's parents, Dr. and Frau Silberhaus. Children dressed in their finest clothes parade around a brightly lit Christmas tree with presents underneath for everyone. Clara is a very lucky girl. Her godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, is on his way to the party with wonderful toys for Clara and her brother, Fritz.

Herr Drosselmeyer is an inventor and a very mysterious old man. He arrives at the party with many gifts, including life-sized dancing dolls. Clara is so thrilled with the dolls that she wants one all to herself, but her mother tells her that magic toys belong to children everywhere and must be shared. Drosselmeyer, seeing Clara's disappointment, produces another gift – a beautiful wooden Nutcracker carved like a cavalier with a white beard and a mouth wide enough to crack nuts. Clara loves the Nutcracker, but Fritz, jealous of his sister's gift, grabs it from Clara and throws it to the floor, breaking it. Drosselmeyer steps in to mend the Nutcracker, while Fritz receives a scolding for his bad behavior. Shortly thereafter, everyone gathers for the Grandfather's Dance. As the evening comes to an end, the guests depart, Clara bids goodnight to her wonderful godfather and the lights dim.

The parlor is dark and quiet after the party. Clara slips downstairs to see if her Nutcracker is safe, when suddenly her world changes. She sees giant mice running across the floor, and the Christmas tree grows to fill the entire room. The mice, led by the Mouse King, prepare to attack the Nutcracker and toy soldiers. A fierce battle rages with the cannon booming and rifles cracking. The mice cheer on the Mouse King as he duels with the Nutcracker. Then, Clara comes to the rescue! She throws her tiny slipper at the Mouse King to distract him so the Nutcracker can attack. The Mouse King falls dead and his cowardly mice scamper away.

The Nutcracker looks for Clara who, in all the excitement, has fallen faint onto the giant toy bed. Magically led by the Nutcracker, the bed begins to move through the starry night. Drosselmeyer suddenly appears from the darkness, waves his magic cape, and transforms the wooden Nutcracker into a handsome, young prince. He bows to Clara and places the Mouse King's crown on her head. The Prince invites her to come with him to his home in the Kingdom of Sweets as a reward for saving his life. During their travels Clara and the Nutcracker Prince find themselves in the middle of a snowy forest ruled by

the King and Queen of Snow. The King and Queen give Clara and the Prince permission to pass through the snowy forest of whirling snowflakes.

ACT II

Act II takes place in the Kingdom of the Sweets where everything is made of candy. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier greet Clara and the Prince while surrounded by Angels and all the beautifully costumed dancers. The Prince tells the Sugar Plum Fairy about the battle and describes how Clara helped him defeat the Mouse King. *His pantomime scene dates back to the original Russian production more than 100 years ago and has been passed on by generations of ballet instructors.* The Sugar Plum Fairy congratulates Clara and the Prince on their bravery and leads them to the Royal throne to watch the festival of dances from around the world.

Three Spanish couples dance a lively waltz, then Arabian coffee dancers appear. A box of Chinese Tea arrives and is followed by The Dance of the Reed Pipes. Next the Trepak Russian dancers, swirling their candy whips, delight Clara, as do the Buffoons who dance with all of Mother Ginger's children. Soon a lovely Dew Drop Fairy appears and dances a waltz with flowers of every color. Finally, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier dance the Grand Pas de Deux (dance for two) just for Clara and the Prince. After her adventures in the Candy Kingdom, the brave heroine returns home in spectacular fashion with her toy Nutcracker in hand. Clara will always remember this very special holiday.

About Kansas City Ballet

To make Kansas City a destination for dance

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 29-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 its professional company, its second company (KCB II), its Trainees 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, 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.

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