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KANSAS CITY BALLET PRESENTS  
WORLD PREMIERE  
***THE NUTCRACKER***

*Artistic Director Devon Carney presents ALL-NEW PRODUCTION  
Dec. 5-24 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts*

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 14, 2015) – Kansas City Ballet will unveil the **WORLD PREMIERE** of Artistic Director **Devon Carney's** production of *The Nutcracker* at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 5 through 24, 2015. Presented by Bank of America, *The Nutcracker* promises to delight audiences with its magnificent **NEW choreography, sets, costumes and lighting**. Special effects plus new surprises promise to elicit awe and wonder.

Press night is Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. performance. **High res rehearsal, production photos, designers' artwork and b-roll** can be found [here](#).

The design team includes **Alain Vaës** (sets), **Holly Hynes** (costumes), and **Trad A Burns** (lighting).

“This all-new production is an enormous undertaking,” Carney stated. “The design team we’ve assembled is one of the best in the country. We have been working on every detail of this production for more than a year. There are no less than four studios building sets and 27 costume studios working on this production from all over the United States, including Kansas City. The sheer artistry, the level of detail on every design element, will absolutely astound audiences. I can’t wait for the curtain to go up on opening night. My goal is to leave audiences absolutely amazed and fully-immersed in this magical experience.”

Tchaikovsky's memorable score carries us to a world of child-like wonder where troublesome mice are tamed by toy soldiers, a snow-covered stage and snowflake-clad ballerinas take us to the Land of Sweets presided over by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her cavalier.

Featuring dozens of colorful characters, the Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is one of the region's most successful presentations, all led by the extraordinary professional Kansas City Ballet Company, the Second Company and 213 students selected from the Kansas City Ballet School. 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 the beloved and familiar Tchaikovsky score.

According to Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley, "The annual production of our *Nutcracker* is certainly the single most popular event of the year. It constitutes well over 60% of our total annual ticket revenue and draws in excess of 35,000 people to the Kauffman Center. These are just a couple of the reasons we have chosen to invest over \$2 million dollars to insure this completely new production of this great classic remains fresh and continues to meet the high audience expectations that have been developed over the years.

Further, it provides a huge asset to the development and growth of our school. There are children performing in this new production whose parents and, in some cases, grandparents performed in the earlier versions.

It is truly a production that is forever joyous and marks the arrival of the holiday season."

### Meet the Design Team

The design team includes **Alain Vaës** (set), **Holly Hynes** (costume), and **Trad A Burns** (lighting).

"In my wildest dreams I could never have imagined that we could assemble some of the greatest design talent the ballet world has to offer to create this amazing new production," Carney stated. "Each is truly known for being one of the best in the industry. The joy of seeing the holidays through a child's eye will permeate throughout. I promise audiences a new and joyous holiday classic."

### Alain Vaës

Since moving to the United States from his native France, **Alain Vaës** has worked as an artist, set designer and as an author and illustrator of children's books. He has designed sets and costumes for 25 productions including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, and *The Nutcracker*, mainly for New York City Ballet but also for Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Flanders, and the Royal Danish Theater, to name a few.

### Holly Hynes

For more than 20 years the director of costumes for New York City Ballet, **Holly Hynes** has earned a reputation as one of the leading costume designers for ballet in the

world. She has created designs for the likes of Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala Theatre Ballet, National Ballet of Canada and more. Ms. Hynes' work previously was seen in Kansas City with *Tom Sawyer, a Ballet in Three Acts*, which had its world premiere at the Ballet's inaugural season at the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

### **Trad A Burns**

Designed lighting in more than 400 productions for ballet companies around the world including New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theater, as well as designs for dramatic theatre, musicals and several world-renowned theme parks.

### **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 816.931.8993, 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 "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). Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$129. There is a \$6 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 festive party in town – the Ballet Guild's 48<sup>th</sup> annual Nutcracker Ball, Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 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 Ann Dickinson. The Chair is Siobhan McLaughlin Lesley. For more information, contact [balletball@kcballet.org](mailto:balletball@kcballet.org) or 816.216.5606 or visit [kcbguild.org](http://kcbguild.org).

### **The 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 5, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center in downtown Kansas City. Guests will park at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and be whisked off to the Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center 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 Kansas City Ballet's all-new *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. For reservations or sponsorship information contact Rene Horne at 816.216.5589.

### BARRE KC Night at the Ballet

**BARRE KC Night at the Ballet takes place Dec. 6, 3:30-5 p.m. (performance starts at 5 p.m.)** BARRE KC is the premier organization for young professionals interested in supporting the Kansas City Ballet. Enjoy a free reception with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails prior to the evening performance of Kansas City Ballet's world premiere of *The Nutcracker*. Join BARRE KC today to receive a performance ticket discount offer and this reception for free! Visit [BARREKC.org](http://BARREKC.org) for more information and to buy tickets.

### *The Nutcracker* Special Events Calendar

Fri., Dec. 4 Nutcracker Ball at Union Station, Cocktails 6:30 p.m., Dinner 8:00 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 5 Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball at Sheraton Hotel 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 5 *The Nutcracker* Opening Matinee at 2:00 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 5 *The Nutcracker* Opening Night at 7:30 p.m. Press is welcome.  
Sun., Dec. 6 BARRE KC Night at the Ballet event begins at 3:30 p.m.

### *The Nutcracker*

December 5-24, 2015 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
Choreography: Devon Carney  
Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky  
Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney presents an all new production of this favorite holiday classic. Presented by Bank of America.

Sat., Dec. 5	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 10	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 11	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 19	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 20	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 22	7:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

## About Kansas City Ballet

### *Making 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 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 service programs such as Reach Out and Dance (ROAD) and DancelNFORMances, 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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