



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Record-Breaking, Critically Acclaimed
THE NUTCRACKER
Returns Nov. 30–Dec. 23 to
The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
New Sensory-Friendly Performance Dec. 12

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 18, 2018)— Kansas City Ballet today announced the return of the record-breaking and critically acclaimed production of *The Nutcracker* at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 30–Dec. 7-23, 2018. Last year, Kansas City Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* awed Kennedy Center audiences for seven sold-out performances in Washington, D.C., and was hailed as “positively oozing charm” by *The Washington Post*, and is “especially lovely with its bright, fresh décor.” The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman with Clara, the Prince and Dr. Drosselmeier features Tchaikovsky’s glorious score and enchanting choreography by **Devon Carney**, Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet. All performances at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts will be accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director **Ramona Pansegrau**.

Carney stated: “This year I’m especially thrilled to announce the addition of our first-ever sensory-friendly performance on Dec. 12. We want all families to feel welcome and are committed to do everything we can to ensure that all children experience the joy of this holiday tradition! We are so grateful to our audiences who’ve come to share their holiday with us and to appreciate the joy of *The Nutcracker*.” He continued, “Kansas City, with the contributions of so very many talented people, has a world-class production here to enjoy every year for generations to come.”

The Nutcracker

November 30-December 23, 2018 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony

Sponsored by Bank of America

Fri., Nov. 30	10:30 a.m. (Student Matinee)
Fri., Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 1	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 2	1 p.m.
Thurs. Dec 6	10:30 a.m. (Student Matinee)
Thurs. Dec 6	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 8	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 9	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 12	6 p.m. Sensory-Friendly Performance
Thurs., Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 14	10:30 a.m. (Student Matinee)
Fri., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 15	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 16	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 23	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

Sensory-Friendly Performance

6 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Muriel Kauffman Theatre | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Partnering with Autism Speaks, Children's Mercy Hospital and Breedlove Family Foundation, Kansas City Ballet is pleased to present a sensory-friendly performance of *The Nutcracker* for children, families and adults with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum disorder or other special needs. Appropriate changes will be made to this performance to create a welcoming and safe space for all in attendance.

What makes this performance sensory friendly?

- Reduced sound levels, especially loud and surprising noises
- House lights will remain half lit
- Relaxed house rules...freedom to get up and move around, use of electronic devices is permitted, and permission to talk freely during the performance
- Designated quiet space will be available throughout the evening
- Trained staff, ushers, and volunteers to assist patrons

We are delighted to be working with the Kansas City Symphony to provide live music for this performance while remaining sensitive to the needs of our audience.

General admission for this event is \$25* per person. Please call Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816.931.8993 to reserve tickets to this performance.

*\$2.50 per ticket Kauffman Center surcharge additional.

About *The Nutcracker*

- In 2017, Kansas City Ballet presented seven *The Nutcracker* sold-out performances at the world-renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to rave reviews. Each year this honor is bestowed on only one outstanding ballet company, allowing them to present their unique version of the cherished ballet. In recent years, The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West and American Ballet Theatre have brought their *The Nutcracker* productions to the Kennedy Center—and now Kansas City Ballet has joined this group of esteemed American ballet companies.
- Featuring dozens of colorful characters, 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, Second Company and 212 students selected from Kansas City Ballet School.
- In 2015, *The Nutcracker* reached over 95% sold to capacity and \$2.56M in sales, smashing records and generating \$700,000 in ticket sales—more than the previous year, and receiving rave [reviews](#).
- That same year 34,600 people of all ages attended *The Nutcracker* marking it as the highest attendance in its Kansas City Ballet history.
- Kansas City Ballet engaged designers with international credentials to create this new *The Nutcracker*. The design team included **Devon Carney** (choreography), **Holly Hynes** (costumes), **Alain Vaës** (sets), and **Trad A Burns** (lighting).

High-resolution rehearsal, production photos, designers' artwork and b-roll can be found [here](#).

Meet the Design Team

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

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

The director of costumes for New York City Ballet for more than 20 years, **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 during the Ballet's inaugural season at the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in 2011.

Trad A Burns

Mr. Burns has 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 www.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 \$34 to \$134. There is a \$6.50 Kauffman Center facility fee per ticket and a \$3.50 processing fee per order.

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 \$10 per car and heavily encouraged to be purchased in advance. It also may be purchased at the gate upon arrival, if spots remain.

The 22nd Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

The Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball, sponsored by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 at the Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Guests will park at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and be whisked off to the beautiful Muehlebach Tower 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 appreciate shopping at our fantastic silent auction and dining on a delicious lunch, enjoying entertainment provided by Kansas City Youth Ballet and dancing with family and friends to holiday music. The excitement continues as a shuttle transports guests to the 2 p.m. matinee performance of Kansas City Ballet's thrilling *The Nutcracker*.

This event is committed to raising funds for the Kansas City Ballet School and its scholarship program. For reservations or sponsorship information contact Rene Horne at 816.216.5589.

***The Nutcracker* Special Events Calendar**

Fri., Nov. 30	<i>The Nutcracker</i> Opening Night at 7:30 p.m. Press is welcome.
Sat., Dec. 1	Sugar Plum Fairy Children’s Ball at Kansas City Marriott–Muehlebach Tower 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 1	<i>The Nutcracker</i> Opening Matinee at 2 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 12	Sensory Friendly Performance at 6 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 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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Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald at 816.213.4355 or publicity@kcballet.org.