



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Record-Breaking, Critically Acclaimed
THE NUTCRACKER
Returns Dec. 3-24
to the Kauffman Center for the
Performing Arts

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 12, 2016) – Kansas City Ballet today announced the return of the record-breaking and critically acclaimed production of *The Nutcracker* to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 3 through 24, 2016. The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Nutcracker 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**.

Presented by Bank of America, this celebrated production premiered last year to unparalleled success:

- With over 95% sold to capacity and \$2.56M in sales, *The Nutcracker* smashed records, generating \$700,000 in ticket sales more than previous year and received rave [reviews](#).
- 34,600 people of all ages attended *The Nutcracker* marking it as the highest attendance in Kansas City Ballet history.

- Kansas City Ballet engaged internationally renowned designers to create this new *The Nutcracker* including **Alain Vaës** (sets), **Holly Hynes** (costumes), and **Trad A Burns** (lighting). Choreography by **Devon Carney**, Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet.

“This spectacular production was an enormous undertaking and one I am so thrilled to see return,” Carney stated. “The design team we’ve assembled is one of the best in the country. We worked on every detail of this production for more than a year. There were 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, astounded audiences. We, the dancers and I, are thrilled to welcome it back to our community. Our goal is to leave even more 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 and 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 195 students selected from the Kansas City Ballet School.

Meet the Design Team

The design team includes **Alain Vaës** (set), **Holly Hynes** (costume), and **Trad A Burns** (lighting). Go [behind the scenes](#) to see how the production was created from the ground up all the way to Opening Night.

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.

Press Night

Press night is Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. performance. High res rehearsal, production photos, designers' artwork and b-roll can be found [here](#).

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. 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 \$129. There is a \$6.50 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 or \$16 for valet and can be purchased in advance or at the gate upon arrival.

The 21st Annual Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

The Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball sponsored by Merrill Lynch takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at the Kansas City Marriott – 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 enjoy shopping at our fantastic silent auction and dining on a delicious three-course lunch. Entertainment will be provided by Kansas City Youth Ballet and there will, of course, be dancing with 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 thrilling *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.

The Nutcracker Special Events Calendar

Sat., Dec. 3 Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball at Kansas City Marriott – Muehlebach Tower
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 3 *The Nutcracker* Opening Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 3 *The Nutcracker* Opening Night at 7:30 p.m. Press is welcome.

The Nutcracker

December 3-24, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney presents the critically-acclaimed production of this favorite holiday classic. Presented by Bank of America.

Sat., Dec. 3	2 p.m. (*) & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 10	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 17	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 18	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

Kansas City Ballet 2016-2017 Season at a Glance

Kansas City Ballet ticket office 816.931.8993

Single tickets for all performances including *The Nutcracker* are on sale now. Purchase tickets online at www.kcballet.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

October 7-16, 2016 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: **Bruce Wells**

Music: Felix Mendelssohn with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 9	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 16	2 p.m.

The Nutcracker

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Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney presents the critically-acclaimed production of this favorite holiday classic which premiered in 2015. Presented by Bank of America.

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Thurs., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.
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Fri., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

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. No subscriptions available for these performances.

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.

The Sleeping Beauty

March 31-April 9, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney after Marius Petipa

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky with music performed by Kansas City Symphony

Fri., March 31 7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 1 7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 2 2 p.m.
Thurs. April 6 7:30 p.m.
Fri., April 7 7:30 p.m.
Sat., April 8 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., April 9 2 p.m.

Director's Choice

May 12-21, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Music performed by Kansas City Symphony

<i>Interplay</i>	Choreography: Jerome Robbins	Music: Morton Gould
<i>The Lottery</i>	Choreography: Val Caniparoli	Music: Robert Moran
<i>Theme and Variations</i>	Choreography: George Balanchine	Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

The Lottery is based on Shirley Jackson's short story by the same name and is presented by special arrangement with the children of Shirley Jackson and Literal Media

Fri., May 12 7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 13 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 14 2 p.m.
Fri., May 19 7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 20 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 21 2 p.m.

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.

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 www.kcballet.org/media/releases for more info.

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Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.444.0052 or publicity@kcballet.org.