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Record-Breaking, Critically Acclaimed *THE NUTCRACKER*

*Kansas City Ballet Invited to Present The Nutcracker
Nov. 22-26 at The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.*

Returns Dec. 7-24 to
The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 10, 2017)—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 Dec. 7-24, 2017, after its seven performances Nov. 22-26 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. 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**. This will mark the 45th season that Kansas City Ballet has presented a version of this cherished event.

Carney stated: "We have the honor of being invited to bring our recently created world-class production of *The Nutcracker* to our country's national theatre, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for a limited engagement. We then return home to the Kauffman Center to enchant and enthrall our Kansas City audiences once again. It is a great honor to present our acclaimed production during our 60th Anniversary Season, and I am especially proud to represent all Kansas Citians in our nation's capital during the Thanksgiving holiday."

Kansas City Ballet will present seven *Nutcracker* performances at the world-renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. 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 *Nutcracker* to the Kennedy Center—and now Kansas City Ballet joins this group of esteemed American ballet companies.

The Nutcracker

November 22-26, 2017 | John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
AND

December 7-24, 2017 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

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

Sponsored by Bank of America

The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Prince and Dr. Drosselmeier completely reimagined with captivating choreography by Artistic Director **Devon Carney**, exquisite costumes by **Holly Hynes**, grand sets by **Alain Vaës** and superb lighting by Trad A Burns. See your children's wonder ignite and feel the glimmer once more as your childhood dreams return and inspire you to IMAGINE AGAIN.

Washington, D.C. Dates/Times:

Wed., Nov. 22	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 24	1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 25	1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 26	1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Kansas City Dates/Times:

Thurs., Dec. 7	10:30 a.m. (Student Matinee) & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 10	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	10:30 a.m. (Student Matinee) & 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 23	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

- 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).

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

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, 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 163 students selected from Kansas City Ballet School.

Meet the Design Team

The design team includes **Alain Vaës** (set), **Holly Hynes** (costume), 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

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 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 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.

For tickets and further information about the Kennedy Center performances, please visit [The Kennedy Center Nutcracker 2017](#).

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 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 Wealth Management, takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 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

Thurs., Dec. 7	<i>The Nutcracker</i> Opening Night at 7:30 p.m. Press is welcome.
Sat., Dec. 9	Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball at Kansas City Marriott-Muehlebach Tower 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	<i>The Nutcracker</i> Opening Matinee at 2:00 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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