



DEVON CARNEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

***Kansas City Ballet's
61st Season
Concludes with
Tharp / Parsons / Forsythe***
Three Celebrated American Choreographers
May 10-19 at The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



Dancers: Amaya Rodriguez and Joshua Bodden. Photography: Kenny Johnson.

KANSAS CITY, MO (April 3, 2019) — The 2018-2019 Season will conclude with works by three of America's most recognized and acclaimed choreographers brought

together on stage for the **THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE** program May 10-19 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. With more than 160 choreographed dances to her name, Twyla Tharp is a legendary master of her craft and her *In the Upper Room* is a tour-de-force of athleticism, built on a pulsating score by Philip Glass. William Forsythe's contemporary masterpiece, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, is a high-voltage thrill ride that changed dance forever and became one of his signature works. Kansas City native, David Parsons, founded Parsons Dance and quickly was hailed as a master of contemporary dance. His WORLD PREMIERE, *A Play for Love*, delivers a fanciful romp derived from Shakespeare's most celebrated comedic characters.

Single tickets are on sale now. Buy online at www.kcballet.org or call the Kansas City Ballet Box Office at 816.931.8993.

Kansas City Ballet's Artistic Director Devon Carney wanted this season's programming to challenge and inspire the Company to new heights with works by some of the greatest living choreographers. "This blockbuster line up of exciting innovative works—some of which have radically influenced the dance world—is sure to be quite memorable for dancers and audiences alike," Carney said.

THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE

May 10-19, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

This is Kansas City Ballet's must-see dance event of the season with the works of three of America's most recognized and acclaimed choreographers brought together on stage at the Kauffman Center! With more than 160 choreographed dances to her name, Twyla Tharp is a legendary master of her craft and her *In the Upper Room* is a tour-de-force of athleticism, built on a pulsating score by Philip Glass. William Forsythe's contemporary masterpiece, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, is a high-voltage thrill ride that changed dance forever and became one of Forsythe's signature works. Kansas City native, David Parsons founded Parsons Dance and quickly was hailed as a master of contemporary dance. He returns to KC with a WORLD PREMIERE ballet that delivers a fanciful romp with some of Shakespeare's most memorable characters; and the trials, tribulations, and triumph of love.

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| <i>In The Upper Room</i> | Choreography: Twyla Tharp | Music: Philip Glass |
| <i>In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated</i> | Choreography: William Forsythe | Music: Thom Willems |
| <i>A Play For Love</i> | Choreography: David Parsons | Music: Rossini, Bach, Rachmaninoff, Verdi |

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| Fri., May 10 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., May 11 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., May 12 | 2 p.m. |
| Fri., May 17 | 7:30 p.m. |

Sat., May 18 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 19 2 p.m.

Ticket Information

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 the “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 www.kcballet.org.

Parking and Downtown Maps

Information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates can be found online at 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 may be purchased in advance or upon arrival.

Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation; Kansas City Ballet Guild; the Missouri Arts Council; ArtsKC, and Hotel Phillips, host hotel of Kansas City Ballet, are among the many supporters of Kansas City Ballet’s 2018-2019 season. **THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE** is sponsored in part by the Seeley Foundation and the Lighton Fund, Linda Lighton and Lynn Adkins. Additional support is from Onelife Fitness.

Season Info and Media

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet’s 2018-2019 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. High resolution photos of the 2018-2019 season can be found [here](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Student Discounts

Student Rush tickets are available, two for \$19 (with valid ID, one ticket per ID) 90-minutes prior to curtain at all performances based on availability.

Social Media

Kansas City Ballet’s website is mobile and ticket-purchase friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page at www.facebook.com/kcballet and following @kcballet on Twitter. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog, or our YouTube Channel by visiting www.youtube.com/kansascityballet.

Belger Footnote Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members views on the choreography, history, design elements and music prior to each repertory performance. These informal discussions are free for all ticket holders and are held at the theatre **one hour prior to curtain** for Kansas City Ballet repertory shows.

Dance Speaks

May 1, 2019 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Tharp, Parsons, and Forsythe

5:30 p.m. | Open Rehearsal

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Panel Discussion

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we offer a unique educational series titled DANCE SPEAKS. KC Ballet's Artistic Director Devon Carney moderates a panel discussion with the staggers of Twyla Tharp's *In The Upper Room*, William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, and with Kansas City native David Parsons, around his world premiere ballet, *A Play for Love*.

Tickets must be purchased online in advance [here](#). Seats are available for \$15 for general public and \$12 for KCB Subscribers.

Kansas City Ballet

2019-2020 Season at a Glance

Subscriptions are available now at the Kansas City Ballet box office **816.931.8993** or online at www.kcballet.org. Subscription tickets are up to a 20% savings on single ticket prices and range from \$137 to \$297 for the 3-ballet package. www.kcballet.org.

Kansas City Dance Day

Saturday, August 24, 2019, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Kansas City Ballet's 9th annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations and FUN for the whole family.

New Dance Partners

Sept. 27-28, 2019 | Johnson County Community College

New Dance Partners, a project for new work in dance, has been produced by the Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College since 2013 to further artistic growth in dance by creating new work and encouraging collaboration between Kansas City arts organizations. Local, professional dance companies are featured, and new works, commissioned on their behalf, are set by renowned choreographers. This year Kansas City Ballet will perform a work created by San Francisco Ballet Dancer and Choreographer Myles Thatcher.

WORLD PREMIERE

Carmina Burana

October 11-20, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Adam Houglund

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Music: Carl Orff performed by Kansas City Symphony and Kansas City Chorale

Hugely popular and an insatiably indulgent celebration of life and love, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is a pulsating choral work that provides an incredible landscape for choreographed spectacle. Most have experienced *Carmina Burana* in choral presentation, but too few have seen it as it was originally imagined. This program also includes *Tulips & Lobster* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (which premiered at New Dance Partners at Johnson County Community College in September 2018), music by Purcell, Albinoni, Lambert and Vivaldi, and *Petal* by Helen Pickett, with the music of Philip Glass and Thomas Montgomery Newman.

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| <i>Carmina Burana</i> | Choreography: Adam Houglund | Music: Carl Orff |
| <i>Tulips & Lobster</i> | Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa | Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky |
| <i>Petal</i> | Choreography: Helen Pickett | Music: Philip Glass & Thomas Montgomery Newman |

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| Fri., Oct. 11 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 12 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Oct. 13 | 2 p.m. |
| Fri., Oct. 18 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Oct. 19 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Oct. 20 | 2 p.m. |

The Nutcracker

December 5-24, 2019 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Choreography: Devon Carney
Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony
Sponsored by Bank of America

Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* awed Kennedy Center audiences in Washington, D.C., was hailed as "positively oozing charm" and called "especially lovely with its bright, fresh décor" by *The Washington Post*. The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Dr. Drosselmeier and the Sugar Plum Fairy is a magical theatrical experience wrapped with exquisite costumes, grand sets and captivating choreography.

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| Thurs., Dec. 5 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Fri., Dec. 6 | 10:30 a.m. student matinee & 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Dec. 7 | 2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Dec. 8 | 1 p.m. & 5 p.m. |
| Thurs. Dec 12 | 10:30 a.m. student matinee & 7:30 p.m. |
| Fri., Dec. 13 | 10:30 a.m. student matinee & 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Dec. 14 | 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Dec. 15 | 1 p.m. & 5 p.m. |
| Wed., Dec. 18 | 6 p.m. (Sensory-friendly Performance) |
| Thurs., Dec. 19 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Fri., Dec. 20 | 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Dec. 21 | 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. |

Sun., Dec. 22 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
 Mon., Dec. 23 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 24 1 p.m.
 (*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

Swan Lake

February 14-23, 2020 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
 Choreography: Devon Carney after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov
 Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by the Kansas City Symphony

THE MOST ENCHANTING LOVE STORY EVER SEEN

Perhaps the most recognized ballet of all time, *Swan Lake* makes its highly-anticipated return to Kansas City Ballet after breaking box office records in 2016. This immortal love story involves a wicked sorcerer who captures the beautiful Princess Odette and turns her into a swan. His evil spell can only be broken when a young prince pledges his love and marries her. Should he betray her, she will remain a swan forever.

Fri., Feb. 14 7:30 p.m.
 Sat., Feb. 15 7:30 p.m.
 Sun., Feb 16 2 p.m.
 Wed., Feb. 19 7:30 p.m.
 Thurs., Feb. 20 7:30 p.m.
 Fri., Feb. 21 7:30 p.m.
 Sat., Feb. 22 2 p.m.
 Sat., Feb. 22 7:30 p.m.
 Sun., Feb. 23 2 p.m.

New Moves

March 26-29, 2020 | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet's most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrows sought-after choreographers today! It is a very up close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Come see our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power and passion of never-before seen dance creations!

Thurs., March 26 7:30 p.m.
 Fri., March 27 10:30 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee)
 Fri., March 27 7:30 p.m.
 Sat., March 28 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Sun., March 29 2 p.m.

KANSAS CITY PREMIERE

Celts

Kansas City Ballet Presents **THARP / PARSONS / FORSYTHE**
 May 10-19 at The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
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May 8-17, 2020 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Lila York debuted *Celts* at Boston Ballet — a year before Michael Flatley’s *Riverdance* became a sensation — and was hailed by *The Boston Herald* as “a riveting, imaginative marriage of ballet and Irish folk dance with a modern sensibility.” Set to the music of The Chieftains and traditional Irish melodies, this celebration of Irish culture has brought audiences to their feet with its captivating energy. This program also features George Balanchine’s *Serenade* with the music of Peter I. Tchaikovsky and Edwaard Liang’s *Wunderland*, set to the music of Philip Glass, last performed by Kansas City Ballet in May 2015.

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| <i>Celts</i> | Choreography: Lila York | Music: The Chieftains; William J. Ruyle; Bill Whelen; Mason Daring |
| <i>Serenade</i> | Choreography: George Balanchine | Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky |
| <i>Wunderland</i> | Choreography: Edwaard Liang | Music: Philip Glass |

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| Fri., May 8 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., May 9 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., May 10 | 2 p.m. |
| Fri., May 15 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., May 16 | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., May 17 | 2 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 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 engagement programs for all ages, 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 816.213.4355 or publicity@kcballet.org.