

**CONTACT:**

**Ellen McDonald**

**816.444.0052 or 816.213.4355 (cell)**

**[publicity@kcballet.org](mailto:publicity@kcballet.org)**

## **Kansas City Ballet Announces New Artistic Director**

KANSAS CITY, MO (May 24, 2013) — Thomas F. Whittaker, President of the Kansas City Ballet Board of Directors, announced today that Devon Carney has been selected as the Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet.

Tom Whittaker stated, “In keeping with the successful history of the organization, the Board of Directors conducted a thorough search for its new Artistic Director. Guided by Tony Feiock, Search Committee Chair, it was extensive both in its reach to identify a pool of high quality artistic leaders in the profession and in its breadth in terms of the depth of the individual interviews. The result was a resounding success.” Whittaker continued, “Mr. Carney’s experience as Associate Artistic Director and Ballet Master in Chief of Cincinnati Ballet, as well as his rich history with Boston Ballet as Principal Dancer and Ballet Master coupled with his early international reputation as a guest artist will serve Kansas City Ballet well as it continues to move forward as a national force in dance.”

Mr. Carney has been associated with Cincinnati Ballet since 2003, first as Ballet Master in Chief and since 2008 as Associate Artistic Director where he, in tandem with the Artistic Director/CEO Victoria Morgan, planned the repertoire, cast the roles, taught class and ran rehearsals on a daily basis. He has staged his versions of many of the popular evening length narrative ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In addition to his own well received contemporary choreography, Mr. Carney has worked with some of the most sought after choreographers of our generation, including Mark Morris and Christopher Wheeldon, and plans to introduce to Kansas City audiences the work of some of the fastest rising stars of the choreographic field such as Edward Liaang, Helen Pickett, Ma Cong and Jorma Elo. A complete bio and high resolution photos can be found at [kcballet.org](http://kcballet.org).

Devon Carney stated, “It is a great honor to be appointed Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet. This is a company that is poised for tremendous growth. I am thrilled at the prospect of continuing and expanding the high quality artistic legacy of this organization

that has been developed over the last 55 years. As we move forward into the future, I am dedicated to expanding the reach of Kansas City Ballet into an ever-increasing level of national exposure while maintaining a strong sense of local identity through presenting a stimulating repertoire that both entertains and moves all our audiences.” Mr. Carney continued, “It is my desire and commitment to serve the Kansas City community with the utmost of integrity in all that Kansas City Ballet can offer through the professional ballet company, school and outreach programs to enhance and enrich the cultural lives of all the citizens of this world-class city. It is a privilege to join the existing Kansas City Ballet spectacular artists and very talented and capable staff along with executive director, Jeff Bentley. I have such exhilaration about what the future holds for us all!”

Jeffrey J. Bentley, the Ballet’s Executive Director was thrilled by his board’s selection. “Identifying a new artistic leader for an organization is absolutely the most significant decision a board of directors ever has to make. The Ballet has an excellent history in choosing its leaders and the selection of Devon Carney certainly continues in that tradition. Devon is a wonderful combination of deep experience in the field as performer, coach, and director, and an engaging personality. He is totally devoted to moving this company and our school forward to its next moment. I am so pleased to be able to have the opportunity to partner with Devon. ”

William Whitener, the departing artistic director is equally pleased with Mr. Carney’s selection. “I first met Devon when he was a performer with the Boston Ballet. His dancing was clear, spirited, precise and confident. I fully expect that his leadership manner and style will embody those qualities as he brings the company to its next level of excellence.”

Mr. Carney will begin his tenure in early July, relocating with his wife of 32 years Pamela Royal Carney, a former soloist with Boston Ballet and currently a faculty member of the Cincinnati Ballet Academy. They have two grown children, Lauren, an artist and Ryan, a musician.

Kansas City Ballet would like to thank the following for their underwriting support of the artistic director search:

- David T. Beals III Charitable Trust, Bank of America Trustee
- JE Dunn Construction Company
- Thomas and Sally Wood Family Foundation, UMB Trustee

### **About Kansas City Ballet**

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 28-member professional ballet company currently under the direction of Artistic Director William Whitener and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company’s mission is to offer our community, region and dance profession, dance experiences of the highest quality. Kansas City Ballet is home to the Kansas City Ballet School for 600 children and adults, offering professional training for the career-minded student as well as for those seeking a healthy lifestyle. Through our professional company, school and community outreach programs such as ROAD, Project X, and Dance INFORMances, we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance. Our new home, Kansas City Ballet’s Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity at

Union Station, in conjunction with our new stage at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is poised to make Kansas City and Kansas City Ballet a true destination for dance.

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