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CONTACT:

Ellen McDonald

816-213-4355

publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

Critically Acclaimed
THE NUTCRACKER
Returns Dec. 5-24 to
The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

New VIP Family Experience adds magic and fun

Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 14, 2019) — Kansas City Ballet announces the return of the critically acclaimed production of *The Nutcracker* presented by Bank of America. Tickets are available to 22 magical performances at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Dec. 5 through 24. High-res rehearsal and past production photos, and designers' artwork can be found [here](#). B-roll can be found [here](#).

Hailed as “positively oozing charm” by *The Washington Post*, the classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman introduces the young and young-at-heart to Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Dr. Drosselmeier and the Sugar Plum Fairy, all brought to life with captivating choreography by Devon Carney, Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet. Tchaikovsky’s glorious score is performed by Kansas City Symphony, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrouw.

“This year, I’m delighted to announce the addition of our first-ever **VIP Family Experience**,” says Carney. “Families will enjoy premium center mezzanine tickets plus access to a private reception suite before the show and at intermission, complimentary wine, children’s beverages, holiday treats and — perhaps the most magical of all — a visit from cast members during intermission.”

The VIP Family Experience is available for seven matinee performances only:
Sunday, Dec. 8 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14	2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15	1 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22	1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 23	1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24	1 p.m.

VIP Family Experience tickets are \$184 per ticket. To purchase tickets online, look for Nutcracker Family VIP seats in the Mezzanine section only.

Additional special events — one for the whole family and one for a special-needs audience — include the:

- **Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball, a benefit for the Kansas City Ballet School,** 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, 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 Muehlebach Tower and into the magic of the holidays. Children will delight in having complimentary photos taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy, watching traveling magicians and interacting with costumed characters. Parents will appreciate shopping at a fantastic silent auction. All will dine on a delicious three-course lunch and enjoy entertainment emceed by 41 Action News Anchor Christa Dubill, including a reading of *The Nutcracker* by Mark Walberg—host of Antiques Roadshow, a performance by the Kansas City Youth Ballet, and the opportunity for attendees to dance to holiday music with family and friends. The excitement continues as shuttles transport guests to the 2 p.m. matinee performance of *The Nutcracker*. Contact the Kansas City Ballet box office, 816-931-8993, or visit [Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball](#) for reservations, pricing and sponsorship information.
- **Sensory-Friendly Performance**, 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. In partnership with Autism Speaks, The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City, and Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City Ballet is pleased to present a sensory-friendly performance of *The Nutcracker* especially for children, families and adults with sensory sensitivities, autism-spectrum disorder or other special needs. The Dec. 18 performance is sensory-friendly because it features:
 - Reduced sound levels that muffle otherwise loud or surprising noises.
 - Softly glowing house lights that remain dimly lit throughout the performance.
 - Relaxed house rules, which give audience members freedom to get up and move around, use electronic devices and speak freely during the ballet.
 - A designated quiet space that remains available throughout the evening.
 - Trained staff, ushers, and volunteers to assist patrons.
 - An opportunity to meet some dancers in Brandmeyer Great Hall pre-show and during intermission.
 - Access to Kauffman Center amenities that make our patron experience more accessible to all members of our community including: two new "Serenity Rooms", sensory kits with noise-muffling headphones, weighted lap pads and

handheld sensory items, and two universal changing tables for children and adults.

Kansas City Ballet is delighted to work with Kansas City Symphony to provide live music for the special presentation while remaining sensitive to the needs of our audience. General admission for the sensory-friendly performance is \$25 per person plus a \$2.50 per ticket Kauffman Center surcharge. Call the Kansas City Ballet box office, 816-931-8993, to reserve tickets. Not available online. To learn more, please visit [The Nutcracker Sensory-Friendly Performance](#).

The Nutcracker

December 5-24 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Devon Carney

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony

Thursday, Dec. 5	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 6	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8	1 p.m.* & 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 12	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15	1 p.m.* & 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	6 p.m.^
Thursday, Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	2 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22	1 p.m.* & 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 23	1 p.m.* & 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24	1 p.m.*

* VIP Family Experience available

* Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Luncheon

^Sensory-friendly Performance

Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* By the Numbers

2 Only two years ago, in 2017, Kansas City Ballet received rave reviews after it was chosen to present seven ultimately sold-out performances of *The Nutcracker* at the world-renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. — an honor bestowed on only one outstanding ballet company each year. In addition to Kansas City Ballet, other esteemed American ballet companies recently invited to perform their unique versions of the cherished ballet at the Kennedy Center include The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West and American Ballet Theatre.

30 *The Nutcracker*, which is among the region's most successful presentations, is led by the 30 members of the professional Kansas City Ballet Company, who are as athletic as they are artistic. Learn more about them at

www.kcballet.org/company/dancers.

95 During recent years, as much as 95 percent of seats for *The Nutcracker* have sold, attesting to the fact that many Kansas City-area families make it an annual tradition, while it also creates new ballet fans each year.

212 From among hundreds who auditioned during 2019, 212 students from Kansas City Ballet School were selected to appear in *The Nutcracker* this year. Professional dancers often point to similar childhood experiences as the spark igniting their passion for ballet.

Sponsors

The Nutcracker is presented by Bank of America. It also is sponsored in part by the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Union Station, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, *The Kansas City Star*, the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, and the Missouri Arts Council (a state agency).

Ticket Information

This classic American tradition is extremely popular. Those interested in purchasing tickets are advised to act quickly. Ticket prices range from \$34 to \$184. Purchase tickets:

- Online at www.kcballet.org or at tickets.kauffmancenter.org/nutcracker.
- By telephone at 816-931-8993.
- At the Kansas City Ballet Box office in the Bolender Center, 500 W. Pershing Road (west of Union Station).
- At the Kauffman Center box office.

Parking and Downtown Maps

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates at <http://www.kcballet.org/planyourvisit>. The Arts District parking garage, immediately south of and beneath the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, is the primary parking garage for Kansas City Ballet patrons. Event parking is \$10 per car. Attendees are strongly encouraged to purchase parking in advance. Any parking spots that remain available may be purchased at the gate upon arrival.

Social Media and Blog

For behind-the-scenes information and exclusive updates, follow Kansas City Ballet on social media. Find us on Instagram @kc.ballet, Facebook @kcballet, Twitter @kcballet, LinkedIn at Kansas City Ballet or follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog. Share your experience with hashtag #kcballet.

Student Matinees

Kansas City Ballet presents full-length morning performances of *The Nutcracker* for schools designed to enhance interdisciplinary learning, integrating dance with English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Music. For the 2019-2020 Season, student matinees will be as follows:

Fri., Dec. 6	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Thurs. Dec 12	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)
Fri., Dec. 13	10:30 a.m. (student matinee)

The Nutcracker Audience: Recommended for 2nd grade and older. For school groups; 1 adult/teacher chaperone is required to accompany every 10 students who attend. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis and groups must have a minimum of 10 people. Seating at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact aberry@kcballet.org.

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 for all ages, Kansas City Ballet seeks to nurture and develop their artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

Kansas City Ballet's home, the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, in conjunction with its 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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