



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Ballet Announces “New Moves: The Broadcast Series”

A Seven-Week Series Featuring FREE Episodes of World Premiere Ballets in Unique Kansas City Settings Including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Belger Crane Yard Studio and more

KANSAS CITY, MO (Feb. 15, 2021) — Kansas City Ballet’s Artistic Director **Devon Carney** today announced the launch of a new seven-week online series of free world premiere ballet episodes, **New Moves: The Broadcast Series**. This is an innovative online broadcast of the popular **New Moves** annual performances, which have been traditionally performed in the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity. **New Moves** is a highly-anticipated performance event designed to search out, develop and showcase emerging choreographers, both from the national dance scene as well as locally within Kansas City Ballet. **New Moves** is presented to provide time and space for choreographers to create brief 5-10 minute world premiere works with accomplished professional dancers.

New Moves will return this season with a twist: all original works have been filmed in beautifully iconic Kansas City locations and each episode will include bonus features including interviews, behind-the-scenes footage, and more. These 20-minute episodes will be released every Thursday at 7 p.m. CDT, beginning February 18 for seven straight weeks. For more information, please visit kcballet.org.

New Moves: The Broadcast Series features the works of choreographers **Helen Pickett, Marika Brussel, Margaret Mullin, Caroline Dahm, Price Suddarth**, and KCB

Company Dancers **Courtney Nitting** and **James Kirby Rogers**. Complete bios can be found at kcballet.org.

“I am especially proud of all involved who helped create this engaging and beautiful new series,” Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney says. “While we are disappointed, of course, that we cannot welcome our audiences back for live performances at this time, this series promises to elevate those experiences, leaving the viewers drawn into the creative process even more. We conquered the challenge of working remotely with these talented choreographers and filming on-site with many filmmakers in these iconic cultural spaces. The result is a riveting study of beauty and movement. Our artists achieved new ways to engage in our community and explore creating work in gorgeous spaces throughout the KC area. We cannot wait to share them with you.”

New Moves: The Broadcast Series

Feb. 18 – April 1, 2021 | 7 Episodes premiere each Thursday at 7 p.m. CDT.

New Moves, traditionally one of Kansas City Ballet’s most popular in-person performances, this year showcases contemporary ballet in unique and beloved settings throughout the greater Kansas City area. This production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow’s sought-after choreographers from mid-February through early April. Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging and established choreographers discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power, and passion of never-before-seen dance creations!

Episode #1

Dances at a Gallery

Premieres Feb. 18, 2021 | The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Choreography by Courtney Nitting

Music by Sundance Remix

Cinematography by Johanna Brooks and Kenny Johnson

Episode #2

Songs Without Words

Premieres Feb. 25, 2021 | Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

Choreography by James Kirby Rogers

Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Cinematography by Johanna Brooks and Kenny Johnson

Episode #3

Misguided

Premieres March 4, 2021 | Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

Choreography by Caroline Dahm

Music by Caroline Dahm, Schwarzmodul and Travis Lake

Cinematography by Johanna Brooks and Kenny Johnson

Episode #4

Bones of Chaos

Premieres March 11, 2021 | Belger Crane Yard Studio

Choreography by Marika Brussel

Music by Ben Juodvalkis

Cinematography by Brad Austin

Episode #5

What Angel Wakes Me

Look Here, Love

Hurly-Burly

Premieres March 18, 2021 | Kansas City PBS Studio

Choreography by Helen Pickett

Music by Peter Salem

Cinematography by Brad Austin

Episode #6

Felicity Found

Premieres March 25, 2021 | Kansas City Museum

Choreography by Margaret Mullin

Music by Antonio Vivaldi

Cinematography by AWStudio

Episode #7

Corridors

Premieres April 1, 2021 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Brandmeyer

Great Hall

Choreography by Price Suddarth

Music by Peter Sandberg

Cinematography by Ron Berg Studio

Choreographer Biographies

Courtney Nitting was born in Lafayette, New Jersey and began her dance training at the age of 3 at The New Jersey School of Ballet on scholarship. After nine years at NJB, she was invited to continue her training at The School of American Ballet. It was at SAB that Ms. Nitting received a review from critic Alastair MacCaulay for her featured role in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments* during the annual workshop. Over these years, she also attended summer programs such as American Ballet Theatre, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Boston Ballet. After graduating from SAB on scholarship, she performed with Eglevsky Ballet, Neglia Ballet, and Tom Gold Dance. Ms. Nitting then went on to join Pennsylvania Ballet II for the 2017-2018 season performing in ballets such as Angel Corella's *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*, and George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*. She joined KCB for the 2018-2019 season where she performed featured roles in William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*

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and David Parsons' *A Play for Love*. She also had the privilege of performing in Septime Webre's world premiere of *The Wizard of Oz*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*, and Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, along with KCB's New Moves where she choreographed her work *Men in Red*, and danced in Gary Abbott's *Parallel Lives*. Ms. Nitting was featured in a new work *Umbra* choreographed by Myles Thatcher for the 2020 New Dance Partners. She was featured in 2019 February/March *Pointe Magazine* article "200 Auditions, 1 Contract", along with a featured article in 2020 June/July issue of *Dance Magazine* titled "Are Young Dancers Specializing Too Soon?"

James Kirby Rogers is a native of San Francisco, California. Mr. Rogers joined Kansas City Ballet in 2015 making his choreographic debut in 2016. Subsequently he has created numerous works for both the company and school. As a dancer Mr. Rogers has performed several leading roles including; Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, Armande in *Lady of the Camellias*, and Tybolt in *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2020 Mr. Rogers started the dance initiative 'Creative Intersections' with the aim of bringing together local Kansas City choreographers. Mr. Rogers is very excited to see the mediums of dance and video come together and challenge each other in this Kansas City Ballet program.

Caroline Dahm is a native of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles, CA. She trained under Patrick Frantz, Paris Opera Ballet, and furthered her training with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Batsheva/Gaga Labs, Boston Ballet, North Carolina School of the Arts, Orlando Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and River North Dance Chicago. As a graduate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, she holds a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography with dual emphasis in Ballet and Modern. Caroline has performed professionally with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Owen/Cox Dance Group, Quixotic, Tristian Griffin Dance Company, and Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company. As a choreographer, she has set works on Alvin Ailey's Ailey Camp, Friends of Alvin Ailey Artist-In-Residency Program, Kansas City Ballet, and the iconic Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, *Carousel*, at the MTH Theater. Caroline has her 250-hour RYT Yoga Certification. She is currently on the dance faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory serving as Adjunct Professor and travels nationally and internationally with SheerElite as a part of their Ballet and Contemporary faculty.

Marika Brussel is a contemporary ballet choreographer. Her work reshapes narratives through ballet, showing our inter-connectedness and equity as humans, bringing ballet into the 21st Century. Her work has explored myths, plays, and personal stories such as *Unraveling*, a ballet about dementia. *From Shadows: A ballet about homelessness*, premiered in October 2017, to sold out audiences in San Francisco. Her ballet, *Still Time For Impossible*, looked at the climate crisis.

Her ballets have been commissioned by ARC Dance, Columbia Repertory Ballet, Bay Pointe Ballet, Emote Dance Theater, Berkeley Ballet Theater, and Ballet Theater of New Mexico. She has shown work at festivals around the country, including Dancing in the Park, Oakland Dances, and West Wave. Marika has held residencies at the Drescher Ensemble Residency, Moving Arts SF, SAFEhouse Arts and at Keshet Makers Space.

She has twice been part of ODC's Pilot Project, and was a choreographer in Doug Varone's *Devices 5*. Her other awards include two Fleishhacker Opportunity Grants and a grant from The Classical Girl. Marika was a 2019 recipient of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Fellowship for Contemporary Ballet. She was a 2020 fellow at LABA East Bay, and is a current fellow with The Peace Studio.

Helen Pickett, native of San Diego, California, has created over 40 ballets in the U.S. and Europe. Her commissions for 2019/20 include, *The Crucible*, a full length, Scottish Ballet, which premieres at the Edinburgh International Festival in August, Kansas City Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Boston Ballet and Alberta Ballet. While resident choreographer for Atlanta Ballet, 2015–2017, she was named Best Choreographer in 2014 and 2015. In addition to Ms. Pickett's contemporary ballet choreography, she has collaborated, as a choreographer and actress with installation video artists and filmmakers including: Eve Sussman, Toni Dove and Laurie Simmons. She danced with Ballet Frankfurt, director, William Forsythe for 11 years, and performed with the New York theater company Wooster Group, director, Elizabeth LeCompte, for five years. In addition to teaching in universities in the United States and Europe, Ms. Pickett is the producer and creator of the workshops, Choreographic Essentials and the motivational creative workshop for the general public entitled Steps into Courage. In 2006, Dance Europe published Ms. Pickett's article, Considering Cezanne. Ms. Pickett earned her Masters of Fine Arts in 2011 from Hollins University. In 2016, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate, for her contribution to the arts, and named Visiting Distinguished Artist for North Carolina School of the Arts, dean, Susan Jaffe.

Margaret Mullin is from Tucson, Arizona and trained on full scholarship at Ballet Arts, the official school of Ballet Tucson. She is currently Artistic Associate and Media Director for Ballet Tucson, in addition to continuing her work as a freelance artist. Margaret was formerly a Soloist dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, where she danced for thirteen seasons. There she performed leading roles in works by Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Justin Peck, Jiří Kylián, Victor Quijada, George Balanchine and more. In 2011 she was the recipient of a prestigious Dance Fellowship Award from the Princess Grace Foundation USA, for her talent as a dancer and her potential to impact the field. She was the fourth artist selected to be an *Artist Curator* for the foundation's *#gratitudeandtonic* initiative in July 2020. She is also the recipient of a 2018 CityArtist Award from the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. Ms. Mullin appeared as a guest speaker at the Dance/USA national conference in June 2017.

Margaret is the director and producer of the documentary dance film "No Dominion: The Ian Horvath Story", which celebrates the life of late dance champion and AIDS awareness advocate Ian Horvath. She is also the host of the dance podcast "Beyond the Barre", currently in its fourth year. Ms. Mullin has choreographed works for Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Ballet Arts and Ballet Tucson. She serves as a regular guest instructor for Ballet Tucson, Evergreen City Ballet and Ballet in the City, and also instructs dance in a freelance capacity. She has been a stager of the choreographic works of Ian Horvath and Price Suddarth. Margaret has been featured by Dance Magazine, Pointe Magazine, Dance Informa, Seattle Magazine, EmpowHer New York, We are Minding the Gap, Seattle morning show New Day

Northwest, Dance Lifestyle, Balancing Pointe podcast, Radically Distinct Podcast and Discount Dance Supply as a representative.

Price Suddarth is an American Choreographer/Dancer currently based out of Seattle, Wa. Suddarth began his dance education first with the Central Indiana Dance Ensemble (2005-2007), followed by the School of American Ballet (2007-2009), and finally on scholarship with the Pacific Northwest Ballet School (2009-2010) where, upon graduation, he received a contract with the Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Soloist with the company. In 2011, Suddarth was nominated for a Princess Grace Award in dance, and in 2012, he was chosen as one of Dance Magazines Top 25 to Watch. Since joining the company, he has originated leading roles in works by choreographers such as Marco Goecke, Victor Quijada, and Twyla Tharp. Additionally, he has performed featured and leading roles in works by William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Alejandro Cerrudo, Justin Peck, Mark Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, and George Balanchine.

Additional Virtual Programs

DANCE SPEAKS: New Voices, New Moves

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6:00-7:00 p.m. | Choreographers Panel | Facebook Live at [facebook.com/kcballet](https://www.facebook.com/kcballet)

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we offer a unique educational series titled DANCE SPEAKS. New Moves choreographers with KCB Artistic Director Devon Carney provide an in depth and personal look into the creative process that emerging, cutting edge choreographers employ in creating original contemporary works virtually.

KCB DANCER CHAT

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

6:00-7:00 p.m. | Dancers' Talk | Facebook Live at [facebook.com/kcballet](https://www.facebook.com/kcballet)

Aviva Ajmera, Co-founder and CEO of SoLVE KC chats with KCB Company dancers Amanda DeVenuta, Courtney Nitting and Danielle Bausinger.

KCB DANCER CHATS, a new community engagement and education series, are designed to engage the broader public with professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat provides an opportunity for the public to get to know different company dancers through relaxed, informal conversations sharing their unique perspectives on various topics. Moderated by prominent members of the community and arts enthusiasts these engaging Chats will reveal the diverse backgrounds, extraordinary experiences, and strong relationships between professional dance artists.

Sponsors

This series is made possible in part by the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Bill and Ginny Shackelford, Dana Seeley and the Seeley Foundation.

Season Info and Media

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information. High resolution photos season can be found [here](#).

Social Media

Kansas City Ballet's website is mobile and user- friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page at www.facebook.com/kcballet, on Twitter @kcballet, or on Instagram @kc.ballet. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog, or watch our channel on YouTube at www.youtube.com/kansascityballet.

About Kansas City Ballet

Creating Outstanding Dance Experiences Accessible for All

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a professional ballet company led by Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company's mission is to establish Kansas City Ballet as an indispensable community asset 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 which, with an enrollment of more than 2,000 children and adults, offers 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, Kansas City Ballet seeks to nurture and develop artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance. The company's 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, creates outstanding dance experiences accessible for all. Visit <https://kcballet.org/media-center/> for more info.

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