



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Ballet Announces Six More Episodes of “New Moves: the broadcast series”

Due to Popular Demand, this Seven-Week Series Featuring FREE Episodes of World Premiere Ballets in Unique Kansas City Settings Has Been Extended an Additional Six Weeks

WHO: Kansas City Ballet Company

WHAT: **New Moves**, traditionally one of Kansas City Ballet’s most popular in-person performances, this year showcases contemporary ballet in beautiful iconic settings throughout the greater Kansas City area. This online broadcast production has been extended an additional six weeks from April 15 through May 20. Now even more 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! 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 Shackleford, Dana Seeley and the Seeley Foundation.

New Moves: The Broadcast Series

Episode #8

Basie Land

Premieres April 15, 2021 | American Jazz Museum

Choreography by Cameron Thomas

Music is Vintage Kansas City Jazz

Cinematography by Chris Burrow Photography

Episode #9

Tenebra

Premieres April 22, 2021 | Charlotte Street Foundation

Choreography by Christopher Costantini

Music by Porter Robinson, "Spitfire" remix

Cinematography by Chris Burrow Photography

Episode #10

Velvet Vacancy

Premieres April 29, 2021 | Gem Theatre

Choreography by Emily Mistretta

Music by Anna Stromer, composer and musician, original music

Cinematography by Chris Burrow Photography

Episode #11

CHAPTER ONE:7.10

Premieres May 6, 2021 | National WWI Museum and Memorial

Choreography by Price Suddarth

Music by Alfonso Peduto, composer, original music

Cinematography by Cody Boston

Episode #12

Train of Thought

Premieres May 13, 2021 | Union Station Kansas City

Choreography by Yury Yanowsky

Music by Peter Tchaikovsky, "Hymn of the Cherubim"

Cinematography by Cody Boston

Episode #13

In the Making

Premieres May 20, 2021 | Kansas City Art Institute

Choreography by Ben Needham-Wood

Music by Benjamin Tissot

Cinematography by Johanna Brooks

Choreographer Biographies

Christopher Costantini, a native of Milan, Italy, started his dance training at Princeton Ballet School, at the age of 12. After attending summer courses at American Ballet Theatre in New York City, he completed his pre-professional studies at San Francisco Ballet School on full scholarship. Upon graduation, he appeared with the Paris Opera Ballet in Maurice Béjart's *Bolero* for the company's 2012 North American tour. Mr. Costantini subsequently joined Oregon Ballet Theatre, where he danced for two years under the direction of Christopher Stowell and Kevin Irving. Since joining Kansas City Ballet, Mr. Costantini has had the pleasure of performing the second theme in George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, The Baron in Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, Snow King and Marzipan Shepherd in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*, the Fish in Septime Webre's *Alice (in wonderland)*, Demetrius in

Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the Pas de Deux in Amy Seiwert's *Concertino*. His repertoire also includes George Balanchine's *Square Dance*, *Prodigal Son*, *Theme and Variations*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* and *Who Cares?* as well as Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery*, Edwaard Liang's *Wunderland*, Adam Hougland's *Rite of Spring*, Andrew Skeels' *Seven Bridges*, Yuri Possokhov's *Diving into the Lilacs*, and Christopher Stowell's *Swan Lake*.

Emily Mistretta began her training at Inland Pacific Ballet Academy in Montclair, California. In 2005, Emily attended Boston Ballet's Summer Dance Program, where she was asked to join the Boston Ballet School and received a tuition scholarship with generous funding from Jack Rugheimer. In 2006, Emily joined Boston Ballet II, and she was promoted to Corps de Ballet in 2008. Emily was featured in several works throughout her career with Boston Ballet, including; *The Sleeping Beauty* (Pas de Trois, Little Red, Woodland Glade Fairy), Florence Clercs *La Bayadère* (Tall Gamzatti's Friend, Small Gamzatti's Friend, Lead D'jambo), Michel Fokine's *Les Sylphides* (Soloist Sylph), Jerome Robbins' *Antique Epigraphs* and *The Concert*, Balanchine's *Jewels*, *Symphony in C* (3rd Movement Soloist), *Coppélia*, *Serenade* (Russian Girls), *The Four Temperaments*, *Episodes*, *Theme and Variations*, *Divertimento No. 15*, *Symphony in Three Movements*, Jorma Elo's *Elo Experience* and *Awake Only*, Yuri Yanowsky's *Smoke and Mirrors*, Jeffrey Cirio's *Fremd*, JiYi Kylián's *Bella Figura*, *Wings of Wax*, *Tar and Feathers* and *Symphony of Psalms*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*.

Ben Needham-Wood Ben Needham-Wood is an Emmy Award-winning choreographer based in San Francisco, CA. His works have been presented nationally by professional companies, TV networks, commercial airlines, film festivals, and galas. In 2018 Ben co-created the dance film, *BaseBallet: Into the Game*, which was awarded 4 regional Emmy Awards and recognized by film festivals across the country. Ben's choreographic voice emerged during his celebrated performance career with the Smuin Contemporary and Louisville Ballets. Ben currently serves as the first Artistic Fellow of Amy Seiwert's Imagery. He recently launched a new dance film project, *Movement for Movement*, to address social challenges and advocate for mental health services.

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.

Cameron Thomas began his dance training in his hometown of Rochester, NY. In 2013, he began performing regularly with the Rochester City Ballet. In 2015, Cameron received a full scholarship to attend the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre. He then joined Kansas City Ballet II for the 2016-2017 season and was promoted to the company the following season. Since then, Cameron has performed featured roles in William Forsythe's *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, and Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. In addition to being a dancer, Cameron is a pianist and has played for the Kansas City Ballet School and the Worldwide Ballet daily Zoom classes. He is also a co-founder of the performance project *Creative Intersections* with James Kirby Rogers and created his first work on the Kansas City Ballet in 2021.

Yury Yanowsky's career as a principal dancer with the Boston Ballet spanned over two decades. Mr. Yanowsky was the recipient of the first prize at the Prix de Lausanne and won the Silver medal at both the Varna International Ballet Competition and the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Yanowsky's passion for choreographing began early in his dancing career and over the past decade he has had the opportunity to choreograph numerous ballets for Boston Ballet, Boston Ballet II, Carlos Acosta's "*Premiere's Plus*", Festival Ballet Providence, The Bundes Jugend Ballet, and his work has been seen in many International galas. In 2015, Mr. Yanowsky was awarded the Choreographic Prize at the prestigious Erik Bruhn Competition for his ballet, *District*, and he was the guest choreographer at the 2016 Jacob's Pillow Opening Night Gala. Mr. Yanowsky is currently teaching on faculty at Harvard University and is serving as movement consultant for American Repertory's production of *FINGERSMITH* as well as the Movement Director for Boston Lyric Opera's 2017 production of Stravinsky's "*The Rake's Progress*".

WHEN: April 15 – May 20, 2021 | 6 Episodes premiere Thursdays at 7 p.m. CDT.

WHERE: For more information, please visit kcballet.org.

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