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Kansas City Ballet Announces Second Company @ Home: Broadcast Series Three Episodes Available Online June 10, 17 & 24 @ 7 p.m.

WHO: Second Company @ Home: Broadcast Series showcases many of the works learned and performed by the Second Company during the 2020-2021 season. These three, 20-minute episodes each include an introduction from Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney, two pieces performed by members of the group, and interviews with company members, as well as other behind-the-scenes footage.

Kansas City Ballet Second Company is an emerging professionals' program which gives extraordinarily talented young dancers a professional company experience as a prelude to their joining a professional company. KCB's Second Company performs throughout the region through public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies, and workshops, enabling the community to experience live dance in a public setting.

WHAT: Second Company @ Home: Broadcast Series

Episode #1 | Premieres June 10, 2021 | Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Mobile

Choreography by Tomm Ruud

Music by Aram Khachaturian, "Gayane Suite No. 3: IV. Gayane's Adagio" used with permission of Naxos Records

Cinematography by Devon Carney

Jupiter's Court

Choreography by Christopher Ruud

Music by W. A. Mozart, Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, "Jupiter": I. Allegro vivace used with permission of Naxos Records

Cinematography by Devon Carney and Elizabeth Stehling

Episode #2 | Premieres June 17, 2021 | Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Flower Festival

Choreography by August Bournonville

Staged by Devon Carney

Music by H. Paulli, Pas de Deux from *Flower Festival at Genzano* used with permission of Naxos Records

Cinematography by Devon Carney and Elizabeth Stehling

Coalescence

Choreography by Kansas City Ballet 2020-2021 Second Company Dancers

Music composed and produced by Joshua Whitehead, "Anim"

Cinematography by Devon Carney and Elizabeth Stehling

Episode #3 | Premieres June 24, 2021 | Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity and Union Station

Vectors

Choreography by Parrish Maynard

Music by Kenneth Kershner

Cinematography by Devon Carney and Elizabeth Stehling

Star Silk

Choreography by Christopher Ruud

Music by Ryan Carney, "Star Silk" "Drifter in the sun" and "Infrared Skateboard"

Cinematography by Devon Carney

Choreographer Biographies

August Bournonville, born in Copenhagen in 1805, was a dancer and choreographer who directed the Royal Danish Ballet for nearly 50 years and established the Danish style based on bravura dancing and expressive mime. He studied under his father, Antoine Bournonville, one of the major dancers of his day, before going to Paris for further training under Auguste Vestris and Pierre Gardel. After appearances at the Paris Opera and in London, Bournonville returned to Copenhagen as soloist and choreographer for the Royal Danish Ballet. A strong dancer with excellent elevation and an accomplished mime, he emphasized these qualities in his ballets. His choreographic style also reflected the pre-Romantic approach of his teacher Vestris. Many of his ballets have remained in the repertoire of the Royal Danish Ballet for more than a century. Bournonville also directed the Swedish Royal Opera at Stockholm (1861-64) and staged several of his works in Vienna (1855-56). In 1877, after his return to Denmark, he retired and was knighted. He died on November 30, 1879 in Copenhagen.

Parrish Maynard was invited to join American Ballet Theater by then Artistic Director Mikhail Baryshnikov, and danced as a principal dancer at The Joffrey Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. In addition to being a recipient of the Princess Grace Award and the Presidential Scholar Award, he was a silver medalist in the International Ballet Competition. Mr. Maynard has performed in Dance in America, American Ballet Theatre's 'Now', danced Nacho Duato's *Romanso*, San Francisco Ballet Lar Lubovich's *Othello* in the role of Iago which was created on him. In 2005 Mr. Maynard joined the faculty of San Francisco Ballet School. In his 10 years at San Francisco Ballet, Mr. Maynard choreographed more than 20 ballets for the San Francisco Ballet School, some of which have been danced around the world including Royal Ballet School, Royal New Zealand Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. Most recently, Mr. Maynard serves as Ballet Master for Kansas City Ballet.

Christopher Ruud has been a part of the performing arts since birth. Growing up back stage at San Francisco Ballet he was immersed in the art of professional dance, performance and stagecraft. Receiving the majority of his dance training at San Francisco Ballet School he began his performing career on the War Memorial Opera House stage at the age of 9. Mr. Ruud was hired into Ballet West in 1998. Quickly moving through the ranks he was named Principal Dancer in 2004. He spent 21 years as a leading artist for Ballet West performing a huge range of classical and contemporary repertoire. Mr. Ruud is grateful to have seen sold out houses in Utah, all over the United States, and internationally most notably in China, Cuba, New York and at the Kennedy Center. Mr. Ruud has directed his own small company, RUUDDANCES, which was a regular attraction in the Annual Utah Arts Festival, and toured to Jacobs Pillow. Having retired from being a professional dancer in 2019, he is thrilled to have joined the artistic team at Kansas City Ballet that same year. Since taking the position of KCB Second Company Manager and Ballet Master for the company, he has created, and ballet mastered the creation of, many new works while also spending time in the Kansas City community educating children about ballet and performance with the Lecture Demonstration program “Studio to Stage”.

Tomm Ruud, dancer and choreographer, joined San Francisco Ballet in 1975, following ten years as a principal dancer with Willam Christensen’s Ballet West. Born in Pasadena, California and raised in Afton, Wyoming, he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Utah. During his tenure with Ballet West and San Francisco Ballet he performed a wide range of roles in the Christensen repertoire, contemporary works, and the entire classical repertoire. Mr. Ruud made guest appearances with several national and international ballet companies and dance festivals, including the National Ballet of Canada, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the Ninth International Ballet Festival in Havana, Cuba, the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the 88th Conference of the International Olympics Committee at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the San Antonio Ballet and Oakland Ballet. San Francisco Ballet lists several ballets choreographed by Ruud in its repertoire, including *Mobile*, *Metamorphoses*, *Trilogy*, *Introduction and Allegro*, *Richmond Diary*, and *Steps for Two*. He also created ballets for several other companies, including American Ballet Theater, National Ballet of Canada, Kansas City Ballet, Ballet West, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, National Ballet of Cuba, the Columbia National Ballet of Bogata, Oakland Ballet, and Ballet Met. A short-subject film, “Balances,” released in 1981, is based on his best-known ballet, *Mobile*. *Mobile* was a highlight of San Francisco Ballet’s 1994 Opening Night Gala and the 50th Anniversary Gala in January 1983. As a member of San Francisco Ballet’s artistic staff, he was the Rehearsal Assistant for *Nutcracker* (Christensen/Tomasson), *Sunset* (Paul Taylor), *Giuliani: Variations on a Theme* (Tomasson), *Forgotten Land* (Kylia), *Swan Lake* (Tomasson), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Tomasson), and *Company B* (Taylor). Ruud also taught ballet extensively, not only at the San Francisco Ballet School but also master classes wherever he had been invited to choreograph. He taught at the Marin Ballet Center for Dance, and in July of 1987 was invited to teach at the Second International Dance Congress in Rio de Janeiro. Tomm Ruud died February 28, 1994 from AIDS related illnesses.

WHEN: June 10, 17 and 24, 2021 | 3 Episodes premiere Thursdays at 7 p.m. CDT.

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

SPONSORS: This series is made possible in part by the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Dana Seeley and The Seeley Foundation, Dennis and Susan Lordi Marker, and Kathy Stepp & Howard Rothwell.

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.

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