



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY BALLET

Concludes 2021-2022 Season with

Septime Webre's

The Wizard of Oz

*Back by Popular Demand, the Must-See Family Event of the Season
with performances May 13 - 22
in the Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts*



KANSAS CITY, MO (April 7, 2022) — The 2021-2022 Season closes with the much-anticipated return of the record-breaking production of Septime Webre's *The Wizard*

Kansas City Ballet Presents *The Wizard of Oz* May 13 - 22, 2022

In the Muriel Kauffman Theatre at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

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of Oz, May 13 -22 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. When this \$1 million ballet premiered in October 2018, it was met with huge acclaim and rave reviews. Every aspect of this ballet has been custom designed and created to wow audiences including choreography by **Septime Webre**, the creator of *Alice (in wonderland)*, music composed by **Matthew Pierce**, set design by **Michael Raiford**, costume design by **Liz Vandal**, lighting design by **Trad A Burns**, puppet design by **Nicholas Mahon**, and projection design by **Aaron Rhyne**. After it first premiered in Kansas City in October 2018, *The Wizard of Oz* then traveled to Colorado Ballet and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for their companies' premieres and were met with world acclaim. High-res photos, artwork and more can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets/>.

The production will be accompanied by Kansas City Symphony conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director **Ramona Pansegrau**.

Story lines and visual elements from the classic motion picture provided by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director **Devon Carney** stated, "With this final production of this season we invite audiences to join our talented company as they embark on a breathtaking and delightful journey, and finally share unexpected comradery on the yellow brick road. It's an incredible production, proven to be a crowd favorite. What's not to love?"

The scale and grandeur of the production is impressive.

- At least 120 people, not including dancers, were part of this collaboration team including designers and makers.
- In Kansas City, 30 company dancers and 24 second company dancers make up the cast, not counting children.
- There are 23 children's roles and two casts for a total of 46 children performing in *The Wizard of Oz*, providing a huge asset to the development and growth of the Kansas City Ballet School.
- The musical score composed by Matthew Pierce, the same composer for *Alice (in wonderland)*, is 471 pages long.
- There are 120 stunning costumes and 112 hats in the production. The costume shop paints 220 shoes. There are at least 60 costume changes during the production.
- There are upwards of 20 puppets including a mechanical Toto.
- More than 300 light cues take place using over 1000 channels of lights.
- There are eight flying effects by FOY executed by multiple characters.
- The animated projections, using a combination of three state-of-the-art projectors, add an integral design element that helps provide atmosphere and dimensionality to enhance the experience.

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- A total of 100 yards of LED lights run along the stage.

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2021-2022 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. Find high-resolution photos of the 2021-2022 season [here](#).

The Wizard of Oz

May 13-22, 2022 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography: Septime Webre

Music: Matthew Pierce performed by Kansas City Symphony

Septime Webre's fantastical journey to the Emerald City is back! Filled with all the familiarity of the classic movie—Dorothy and Toto swept to Oz join three unlikely heroes on a quest to see the Wizard and must battle a Wicked Witch in order to return home. This award-winning production seamlessly combines bold new elements like costumes, sets, projections, and special effects with an incredibly original live score making it the must-see family event of the season.

Story lines and visual elements from the MGM Motion Picture *The Wizard of Oz* provided by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures.

Fri., May 13	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 14	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 15	2 p.m.
Thurs., May 19	7:30 p.m.
Fri., May 20	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 21	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 22	2:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

OZ VIP Family Experience

Enter the Emerald City! Your family will enjoy Premium Center Mezzanine tickets with access to a private reception suite before the show and at intermission. Enjoy complimentary wine, kids' drinks, and delicious treats! A portion of your ticket purchase will support Kansas City Ballet School's world-class education and training programs. This experience is available on Saturday matinee performances only when you select the \$189 VIP seats in Center Mezzanine. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Saturday Matinees May 14 and May 21 only. Seats are limited.

Dance Speaks: With Choreographer Septime Webre

April 13, 2022 | 6:00-7:00 pm | Dance Speaks Panel | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

As part of Kansas City Ballet's commitment to engage the community-at-large, we offer a unique educational series titled DANCE SPEAKS, held live online or at various community venues. This Chat is an interesting discussion introducing the community to, guest choreographer Septime Webre and his ballet *The Wizard of Oz*... Includes an audience Q & A with the choreographer and an opportunity to view Kansas City Ballet company in *The Wizard of Oz* rehearsal segments during the discussion! Moderated by Devon Carney, KC Ballet Artistic Director. www.facebook.com/kcballet

KCB Dancer Chat: *The Wizard of Oz*

May 4, 2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to engage the broader public with the professional dancers of Kansas City Ballet. Moderated by various members of the community, these chats provide a window into professional dancers' lives, their current creative work, and career experiences. This Chat will take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Health and Safety COVID-19 Protocols

The health and safety of our patrons is our top priority. Please find our COVID 19 plan at <https://kcballet.org/health/>.

Belger Footnotes Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members their views about the choreography, history, design elements and music of the performance. These informal discussions are free for all ticketholders and are held at the theatre **one hour prior to curtain** for Kansas City Ballet repertory shows. No reservations necessary. This series is supported by Belger Cartage Service, Inc.

Social Media

Kansas City Ballet's website is mobile and ticket-purchase friendly. Receive daily updates by joining the KCB Fan Page, www.facebook.com/kcballet, and following @kcballet on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kcballet>. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog. Watch videos at www.youtube.com/kansascityballet or <https://vimeo.com/kcballet>, and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kcballet/>.

Ticket Information

Purchase tickets:

- Online at www.kcballet.org
- By telephone at 816.931.8993.
- At the Kauffman Center box office and website.

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Ticket prices start at only \$34, and subscribers receive a 20-percent discount. There is an \$8.50 Kauffman Center facility fee per ticket and a \$4.00 processing fee per order.

Student Rush discount tickets are available, two for \$19, plus fees (with valid student ID, one ticket per ID). Purchase online here – <https://pages.wordfly.com/kcballet/pages/Student-Rush-2021/> or 90-minutes prior to curtain at all performances based on availability.

Seniors aged 62 or older and educators who present valid ID at the box office 90 minutes prior to all repertory performances can purchase available rush tickets for as much as 40-percent off single ticket prices. Restrictions and fees apply. Prices are subject to change.

Parking and Downtown Maps

Find information and maps for Kauffman Center parking and construction updates at 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. Purchasing event parking in advance is highly recommended as it often will sell out. The garage is \$10 per car or valet is \$18 in advance or \$20 upon arrival.

Accessibility

Kansas City Ballet is committed to providing assistance to those with disabilities. Direct questions and requests to Patron Services, 816.931.1348. Callers who are hearing impaired or hard of hearing can get help with telephone access by using the free relay service — 711.

Sponsors

Major 2021-2022 season underwriting support comes from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation. Support for *The Wizard of Oz* comes from The Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Commerce Bank, Trustee, the Missouri Arts Council (a state agency), and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency).

Media

Visit kcballet.org or kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about Kansas City Ballet and the Kauffman Center. Find high-resolution photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets>.

About Kansas City Ballet

MISSION: To Inspire and Engage Through the Beauty, Power & Passion of Dance
VISION: Outstanding Dance Experiences Accessible to All

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a professional ballet company led by Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. Kansas City Ballet is 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

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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, positions Kansas City as a destination for dance. Visit www.kcballet.org/kansas-city-ballet-press-releases/ for more info.

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