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KANSAS CITY BALLET

Company Dancer Joshua Kiesel

Wins Third Place In

Helsinki International Ballet Competition

KANSAS CITY, MO (June 7, 2022) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced that Kansas City Ballet Company Dancer Joshua Kiesel has won third place in the Senior Male Division at the Helsinki International Ballet Competition. Mr. Kiesel was the only American to compete in the Senior Male Division (dancers aged 20 to 25). High-res photos can be found [here](#).

The ninth Helsinki International Ballet Competition (HIBC) just completed weeklong trials at the Finnish National Opera and Ballet which ran from May 30 to June 6, 2022. It is regarded as a highly competitive and unique forum for young dancers to present their skills to the audience and distinguished jury. Well established and internationally recognized, the competition is usually held every four years, but the 2020 edition was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic and postponed to 2022. More information can be found at <https://ibchelsinki.fi/competition/>.

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney stated, “The 10 day journey that Josh has gone on here in Helsinki, Finland has been arduous. He has mentally, artistically and physically spent everything he has on stage in order to get to the winners’ circle of this highly-respected international competition. His complete determination was a success! He comes home with a medal for himself and for KCB, Kansas City and for the U.S.A. We congratulate him in every possible way!”

With two elimination rounds leading up to a final round, Kiesel performed six different excerpts, both classical and contemporary including Basilio’s variation from Act III of *Don Quixote*, Siegfried’s variation

from the Grand Pas in Act III of *Swan Lake*, the role of Albrecht from Act II of *Giselle*, the male variation from *Diane and Acteon* pas de deux, a contemporary variation from Kansas City Ballet Ballet Master Parrish Maynard's *Vectors* that was reworked for Kiesel, and *Lacrymosa*, choreographed by Edward Stierle and staged by Parrish Maynard, excerpted from Mozart's Requiem Mass in D minor (K. 262).

About Joshua Kiesel

Joshua Kiesel began his professional training in Hanover Park, IL, at the Faubourg School of Ballet where he trained for three years. He then competed in Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) and received a full scholarship to train at the Washington School of Ballet. While there, he performed roles such as Lankadem in *Le Corsaire*, Basilio in *Don Quixote*, and Count Fabio in *Satanella*. He was then promoted to Trainee under the direction of Julie Kent and danced both Chinese soloist and Prince in *The Nutcracker*. Mr. Kiesel then joined as a KCB II dancer with Kansas City Ballet under the direction of Devon Carney where he performed corps de ballet roles in *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. The 2021- 2022 season is Mr. Kiesel's third with Kansas City Ballet and his first as an apprentice.

Visit kcballet.org for a downloadable media kit about Kansas City Ballet. 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 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.

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, and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kcballet/>

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