



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.213.4355
publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or www.kcballet.org

Kansas City Ballet Announces Company Dancer Promotions and New Members

KANSAS CITY, MO (Sept. 20, 2022) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the promotion of four members and appointment of eight new dancers to the Company.

Carney said: “Since my arrival, it has been my intent to develop dancers within our organization and create a seamless bridge for those dancers interested in making a career here in Kansas City, with some of the most established and renowned faculty and guest artists available. This year, we are thrilled to announce not only the addition of several new Company members but a growing number of promotions. This is a testament not only to the accomplishments of these artists but of the level of support, interest, and commitment from the community. Kansas City is truly a destination for dance.”

Company Members

New Members **Isaac Allen**, **Alladson Barreto**, **Gabriel Lorena**, **Gwen Vandenhoeck**, **Andrew Vecseri**, and **Brian Warkentien** will join the Kansas City Ballet Company. **Georgia Fuller** and **Joshua Kiesel**, formerly 2021-2022 KCB Apprentices, will join the Kansas City Ballet Company.

Company Apprentices

New Members **Olivia Jacobus** and **Brock Maye** will join the Company as Apprentices. **Sophie Hod** and **Autumn Steed**, formerly 2021-2022 KCB II dancers, also will join the Company as Apprentices this season.

Second Company (KCB II and Trainees make up the Second Company)

KCB II

Ian Anderson-Conlon, **Malerie Moore**, and **Gillian Yoder**, formerly 2021-2022 KCB Trainees, and **Lauryn Brown**, formerly a Kansas City Ballet School student, will join KCB II. **Trinity Santoro**, a 2022 Youth America Grand Prix finalist, also will join KCB II.

Trainees

Graduates of Kansas City Ballet School **Hannah Arnold**, **Aysia Bates**, **Natalie Boese**, **Troy Monger-Levin** and Kansas City Ballet Summer Intensive students **Katie Shipp** and **Grant Gonzalez** also will join the Trainee Program.

High resolution photos of all the members can be downloaded [here](#).

New Company Members

Isaac Allen

Isaac Allen began his ballet training at the age of 8 at Stillpointe Dance Studio in southern Oregon. He spent many of his summers attending intensive training programs across the country including San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Oregon Ballet Theater. In 2015, Mr. Allen joined Oregon Ballet Theater's Pre-Professional program. The next year, he was accepted into the HARID Conservatory in Florida where he trained for two years under Meelis Pakri before joining Milwaukee Ballet's Second Company, performing in ballets such as Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*, Bruce Wells' *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and many more. Mr. Allen spent three years in the Second Company before being promoted to the main company as an apprentice where he danced for two years.

Alladson Barreto

Alladson Barreto was born in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. In 2015, he began his career in classical ballet at the Alberto Maranhão Theater Dance School (EDTAM) in Natal. While on full merit scholarship at The Rock School in Philadelphia between 2018 and 2019, he was instructed by Bo Spasso, Stephanie Spasso, Justin Allen, Telmo Moreira, Natalya Ziegler, and Jody Anderson. Mr. Barreto was a Só Dança Ambassador from 2018-2020 and was a Finalist for Youth America Grand Prix in 2018. From 2019 to 2022 he was a member of Ballet West II dancing *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Chant du Rosignol*, *Dracula*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Diamonds*, *Glass Pieces*, *Raymonda*, *Don Quixote*, *Divertimento* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In October 2021 he began working with ballerina Kathryn Morgan, performing lead roles in *The Nutcracker*.

Gabriel Lorena

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Gabriel Lorena started his ballet training at the Municipal Theater of São Paulo at age 13. In 2016, he received a full scholarship to train as a pre-professional student at Miami City Ballet School under the direction of Arantxa Ochoa. In 2019, he joined Sarasota Ballet as an apprentice and in 2020 he joined Boston Ballet II. He has choreographed works for students at Miami City Ballet School, Sarasota Ballet, and Boston Ballet School. Mr. Lorena has also choreographed works for Boston Ballet II and for BB@yourhome: The Gift.

Gwen Vandenhoeck

Gwen Vandenhoeck is from Brooklyn, New York. She trained at Ballet Academy East where she studied under Darla Hoover. In 2020, she joined the Professional Division at Pacific Northwest Ballet where she trained under Peter Boal. Her summer training includes Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Royal Danish Ballet. Recently she had the opportunity to perform George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake* as well as Balanchine's *Walpurgisnacht*, *Elegie* and *Donizetti Variations*. She also had the pleasure of being in multiple pieces choreographed by PNB company members.

Andrew Vecseri

Andrew Vecseri was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He began his training in 2010 at Houston Repertoire Ballet under the direction of Victoria Vittum before he joined the Houston Ballet Academy in 2013. In 2015 he was promoted to Houston Ballet's Second Company in which he performed ballets such as *Yondering*, *A Garden of Mirth*, and *Flower Festival*, and as Prince Desire in *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2017 he was chosen to compete in the Prix De Lausanne, where he was offered a company contract with the Houston Ballet. While there, he was promoted to Demi Soloist and performed roles in *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, *Marie*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker* before joining Kansas City Ballet in 2022.

Brian Warkentien

Brian Warkentien, originally from San Diego, trained for three years on full scholarship at the San Francisco Ballet School under Patrick Armand, dancing roles in Helgi Tomasson's *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*, John Neumeier's *Yondering* and George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes*. He attended summer programs at American Ballet Theater, School of American Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet School. In 2018, Mr. Warkentien became a member of Atlanta Ballet II performing roles in Yuri Possokhov's *The Nutcracker* appearing at the Kennedy Center, *La Sylphide*, Bruce Wells' *Beauty and The Beast*, and *Swan Princess*. In 2021 Mr. Warkentien joined Orlando Ballet performing in *Giselle*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Jungle Book*. He has also performed works by Anna Sokolow and Donald McKayle.

New Company Apprentices

Company Apprentices perform with the company under the tutelage of the artistic leadership as part of their initial professional experience.

Olivia Jacobus

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Olivia Jacobus discovered her love for ballet at age nine, training with Romy and Zippora Karz of New York City Ballet, and continues to work with them today, professionally. At age fifteen, Ms. Jacobus was accepted into Colburn Dance Academy's pre-professional program in downtown Los Angeles where she performed works from George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, including *Valse Fantasie*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Who Cares?*, and *Antique Epigraphs*. In 2020, she joined Pacific Northwest Ballet's Professional Division where

she spent two years performing works such as *Swan Lake*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Divertimento No. 15*, and George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, alongside the company.

Brock Maye

Brock Maye began his ballet training under the direction of Stanislav Issaev at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C. and CityDance School and Conservatory in Maryland. He then received a full scholarship to attend the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, FL under the direction of Meelis Pakri. In 2019 he was accepted into John Cranko-Schule in Stuttgart, Germany where he graduated from Akademie A in 2021. He danced with Boston Ballet II for the 2021-22 season. There he performed in Mikko Nissinen's *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*, George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*, and Pas de Six from *Giselle*.

Promoted Company Apprentices

Sophie Hod

Sophie Hod was born in Great Neck, New York and began her dance training at Studio Maestro. In 2007, Ms. Hod began training at the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. In 2013, Ms. Hod began training at Ballet Academy East, and in 2017, she went on to dance with Miami City Ballet School. Over these years, she also attended summer programs at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell. Ms. Hod joined Cincinnati Ballet as a trainee for the 2018-2019 season, where she performed corps de ballet roles in many of the company's productions. Ms. Hod joined Kansas City Ballet's Second Company in 2019. She spent two years as a trainee, and one year as a KCB II dancer. During this time, she performed in many ballets with the company, including George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Lila York's *Celts*, Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, and Devon Carney's *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*.

Autumn Steed

Autumn Steed is from Downers Grove, Illinois, and began her pre-professional ballet training at the Academy of Dance Arts under the direction of Sherry Moray. She is a 2015 National YoungArts Winner and a graduate of Miami City Ballet School's Pre-Professional Division. At Miami City Ballet, she performed with the company in George Balanchine's *Walpurgisnacht Ballet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2017, she joined Alabama Ballet as an Apprentice under the direction of Tracey Alvey and Roger VanFleteren and performed soloist roles including Arabian in Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and The Fairy of Benevolence in *The Sleeping Beauty*. In 2019, she joined Chicago's A&A Ballet under the direction of Alexei Kremnev and Anna Reznik and was a guest artist with Chicago Opera Theater in *Aleko* at the Harris Theater. Autumn joined Kansas City Ballet's KCB II in 2020 and has performed works including George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*, Rudolph Nureyev's *Don Quixote* Grand Pas de Deux, and Bournonville's *Flower Festival in Genzano*. Additionally, Autumn has a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Sport & Performance Psychology and is a Pilates instructor.

Promoted KCB II Dancers

KCB II, part of the Second Company of Kansas City Ballet, is Kansas City Ballet School's emerging professionals' program, giving talented young dancers a professional company experience. These dancers receive professional experience performing corps de ballet roles in Kansas City Ballet full-length productions.

KCB II is committed to arts education, community engagement, and the development of aspiring young artists preparing them for professional dance careers. KCB II provides a platform for emerging performers, teachers, and choreographers to hone their technical skills and showcase their artistic talent. KCB II performs throughout the region through public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies, and workshops, enabling the community to experience live dance in a public setting. Dancers in KCB II act as ambassadors for Kansas City Ballet.

Ian Anderson-Conlon

Ian Anderson-Conlon is from Madison, Wisconsin where he originally began his ballet training. He continued his pre-professional ballet training on full scholarship at Indiana Ballet Conservatory, graduating from their Advanced Day Program in 2021. He has received awards from Youth America Grand Prix and was invited to the finals for three years while training at Indiana Ballet Conservatory. Mr. Anderson-Conlon has attended numerous summer intensives on full scholarship including American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Ballet West, and artÉmotion Choreographic Workshop. He was a Trainee with Kansas City Ballet in the 2021-22 season.

Malerie Moore

Malerie Moore was born and raised in Olathe, Kansas, where she trained until receiving her first contract with Milwaukee Ballet II in 2018. There she performed in Michael Pink's *Dracula* and *The Nutcracker*. In 2019, Ms. Moore moved to BalletMet where she performed in Edwaard Liang's world premieres of *Tributary* and *Alice in Wonderland* as well as *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Moore came to Kansas City in 2021 as a Trainee. She performed corps roles in works such as George Balanchine's *Serenade*, *The Nutcracker*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, and her favorite, Toto in Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*. Ms. Moore also made her choreographic debut for New Moves where she and two others created a piece on the Second Company.

Gillian Yoder

Gillian Yoder was born in San Diego, California and grew up in Jupiter, Florida. She began her training at Paris Ballet and Dance, studying there for six years. Gillian completed her pre-professional training at Next Generation Ballet, under the direction of Philip Neal for five years, and at The Colburn School, under the direction of Jenifer Ringer and James Fayette for one year. In addition, she spent five summers studying at Pacific Northwest Ballet School. In 2021, Gillian joined Kansas City Ballet as a trainee, where she performed multiple corps de ballet roles in ballets such as George Balanchine's *Serenade*, Lila York's *Celts*, Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*, Michael Pink's *Dracula*, and Septime Webre's *The Wizard of Oz*.

Lauryn Brown

Lauryn Brown began her ballet training with Homer Bryant at the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance School and continued to train with Watmora Casey at Faubourg

School of Ballet. She moved to Arizona at 14 to train at Master Ballet Academy, and privately with David King of A Ballet Education. She attended summer intensives at The Washington Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet Chicago. She graduated from Kansas City Ballet School, and while there she placed 3rd at Youth America Grand Prix Semi-Finals and was invited to Finals in 2020. Ms. Brown danced with the Boston Ballet Post Graduate program for the 21-22 season.

Trinity Santoro

Trinity Santoro began her formal training in classical ballet and contemporary dance in Hanover Park, Illinois at the Faubourg School of Ballet. She then spent five years with A&A Ballet Center for Dance, performing lead roles as The Muse in *Rhapsody in Blue*, Odette in *Swan Lake*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Cinderella in *Cinderella*, and Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara in *The Nutcracker*. Ms. Santoro has won numerous awards including Gold at the World Ballet Competition (WBC) in 2017 and the Youth America Grand Prix award in 2022. She has danced internationally, training at the Royal Ballet School in the U.K. and performing on tour in Guatemala with A&A Ballet as the Firebird from *Firebird*.

New Trainee Dancers

The Trainee Program, which is a tuition-based program of Kansas City Ballet School, aims to nurture and develop young aspiring post-secondary dancers' technical skills and artistry, ultimately preparing them for a professional dance career by bridging the gap between the student and KCB II. In addition to their dance studies, trainees participate in some company classes, have the opportunity to be considered for performances with Kansas City Ballet Company during the season, and perform in tandem with KCB II in their own educational and community outreach performances throughout the year.

Graduates of Kansas City Ballet School **Hannah Arnold**, **Aysia Bates**, **Natalie Boese**, **Troy Monger-Levin** and Kansas City Ballet Summer Intensive students **Katie Shipp** and **Grant Gonzalez** also will join the Trainee Program.

Kansas City Ballet 2022-2023 Season at a Glance

Dance Speaks: *Giselle*

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5:15 p.m. | *Giselle* Rehearsal

6 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Get a sneak peek of a *Giselle* rehearsal and gain insightful information regarding the ballet production. Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director/Choreographer Devon Carney invites Dance Speaks patrons to join him and guests (TBD) in an engaging

Kansas City Ballet Announces Company Dancer Promotions and New Members

conversation inspired by the ballet *Giselle*. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a company rehearsal of *Giselle* and gain inside information about the production. The program includes an audience Q&A. Tickets are \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: *Giselle*

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to provide the broader public an opportunity to engage with and learn more about professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in upcoming KCB productions and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by various KC community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Giselle

Oct. 14-23, 2022

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney after Marius Petipa, Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot
Music by Adolphe Adam performed by Kansas City Symphony

Embark on a tragic tale of a young girl's innocent love for a nobleman secretly disguised as a commoner. The classic tale then changes course, becoming one of heartbreak, tears, and retribution... that ultimately leads to forgiveness. Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy ballet's first romantic classic.

Fri., Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 16	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 22	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 23	2 p.m.

Dancer Chat: *The Nutcracker*

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to provide the broader public an opportunity to engage with and learn more about professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in upcoming KCB productions and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by various KC community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

The Nutcracker Ball

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022

The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center
1 E Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108

Kansas City Ballet Guild is proud to kick-off the coming holiday season with the 55th annual Nutcracker Ball. All proceeds from the Nutcracker Ball support Kansas City Ballet. Presented by Kansas City Ballet Guild, Benefitting Kansas City Ballet and Kansas City Ballet School. <http://www.kcballetball.org/>

The Nutcracker

Nov. 23-27, 2022

The John F. Kennedy Center
2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566

Choreography by Devon Carney

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

The Kennedy Center continues their annual holiday presentation of America's best Nutcrackers with the return of Kansas City Ballet's seasonal tradition. Kansas City Ballet's production is hailed as "positively oozing charm" by The Washington Post, promising grandeur, laughter, and a snowfall of Christmas magic!

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/whats-on/explore-by-genre/ballet/2022-2023/kansas-city-ballet/>

The Nutcracker — Presented by Bank of America

Dec. 7-24, 2022 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky performed by Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City Ballet's annual tradition, *The Nutcracker*, continues to awe audiences year after year and is hailed as "positively oozing charm" by *The Washington Post*. The classic, Victorian-era story by E.T.A. Hoffman featuring Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Dr. Drosselmeier and the Sugar Plum Fairy is a magical theatrical experience wrapped with exquisite costumes, grand sets, and captivating choreography. Let your wonder ignite and feel the glimmer once more as your childhood dreams return and inspire you to IMAGINE AGAIN.

Wed., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 10	2 p.m.* and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11	1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 14	10:30 a.m. (Student matinee) and 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 17	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Kansas City Ballet Announces Company Dancer Promotions and New Members

Sun., Dec. 18	1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 21	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 22	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 23	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022

The Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown
200 W 12th St, Kansas City, MO 64105

Children will delight in having their complimentary picture taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy, having their face painted and interacting with costumed characters. Parents will appreciate shopping at our fantastic silent auction and raffle. Guests will dine on a delicious three-course luncheon while enjoying entertainment provided by Kansas City Youth Ballet and dancing with family and friends to holiday music. The excitement continues as guests attend the 2 p.m. matinee performance of Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. <https://kcballet.org/events/sugar-plum-fairy-childrens-ball/>

This event raises funds for the Kansas City Ballet School and its scholarship program.

Dance Speaks: *Cinderella*

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5:15 p.m. | *Cinderella* Rehearsal

6 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Get a sneak peek of a *Cinderella* rehearsal and gain insightful information regarding the ballet production. Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director/Choreographer Devon Carney and special guests (TBD) invite you to join them in an engaging conversation inspired by this enchanting work! The program panel activity includes an audience Q and A. Tickets \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: *Cinderella*

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to provide the broader public an opportunity to engage with and learn more about professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in upcoming KCB productions and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by various KC community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Cinderella

Feb. 17-26, 2023

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney

Music by Sergei Prokofiev performed by Kansas City Symphony

Cinderella is a magical celebration of dreams fulfilled and true love's triumph. Devon Carney's beautiful world premiere choreography accompanied by Prokofiev's captivating music brings this enchanting story to life. Enjoy a special twist on this favorite fairy tale where the characters are sure to delight. The delightful Cinderella, her Fairy Godmother, the pumpkin that becomes a carriage, fairies weaving spells, the handsome prince, the glass slipper, the clock striking 12 o'clock, and of course, the wicked stepmother and riotous, bumbling stepsisters all come together to tell this beloved story.

Fri., Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 18	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 19	2 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 23	10:30 a.m. (Student matinee) and 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 24	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 25	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 26	2 p.m.

Dancer Chat: New Moves

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to provide the broader public an opportunity to engage with and learn more about professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in upcoming KCB productions and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by various KC community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Dance Speaks: New Voices, New Moves

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Hillard Gallery

1820 McGee St, Kansas City, MO 64108

6:30 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney and New Moves' cutting-edge choreographers invite Dance Speaks patrons to join them in an engaging conversation inspired by the creative process and the creation of original contemporary ballets on KC Ballet. The program includes an audience Q&A. Tickets \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

New Moves

March 23-26, 2023

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

New Moves, one of Kansas City Ballet's most popular performances, showcases contemporary ballet in an intimate setting. This limited-run production gives audiences a chance to see tomorrow's sought-after choreographers today! It is a very up-close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, with all performances held in the Bolender Center's Michael and Ginger Frost Studio Theater. Come see our Kansas City Ballet artists and emerging choreographers discover bold new ways of expression and feel the athleticism, beauty, power, and passion of never-before-seen dance creations!

Thurs., March 23	7:30 p.m.
Fri., March 24	11 a.m. (Student/Senior group matinee) and 7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 25	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 26	2 p.m.

BARRE KC's Black & White Soirée

Saturday, April 15, 2023 | Location TBA

This event is brought to you by BARRE KC, the premier organization for young professionals interested in supporting Kansas City Ballet. Join your friends and Kansas City Ballet dancers for a memorable evening, including complimentary drinks, excellent cuisine, a dynamic performance by KCB's Second Company, extraordinary décor, a chance to win the 50/50 raffle, and unique items at the Silent Auction! Soirée Sponsors enjoy extra benefits, including early entry to the event! www.barresoiree.org

Barre KC's Black & White Soirée benefits Kansas City Ballet's Reach Out And Dance (R.O.A.D.) Scholarship Program, which brings dance to elementary students in under-resourced schools.

Dance Speaks: Bliss Point

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5:15 p.m. | Bliss Point Rehearsal

6 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney and special guests *Cacti* ballet stager Ana Marie Lucaciu and *Petite Mort* ballet stager Elke Scheppers invite Dance Speaks patrons to join them in an engaging conversation inspired by these two contemporary ballets. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a spring mixed repertory rehearsal and gain inside information regarding the production. The program includes an audience Q&A. Tickets \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Second Company @ HOME

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 7 p.m.

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Second Company @ Home is an evening of dance with Kansas City Ballet's Second Company performing a variety of both classical and custom-made contemporary works. This emerging professionals' program 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.

Dancer Chat: Bliss Point

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 6:30 p.m. | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

KC Ballet Dancer Chats, a FREE community engagement and education series, are designed to provide the broader public an opportunity to engage with and learn more about professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in upcoming KCB productions and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by various KC community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Bliss Point

May 12-21, 2023

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Sandpaper

Choreography by Mark Morris

Music by Leroy Anderson performed by Kansas City Symphony

Petite Mort

Choreography by Jiří Kylián

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed by Kansas City Symphony

Cacti

Choreography by Alexander Ekman

Music by Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Franz Schubert performed by Kansas City Symphony and The Opus 76 Quartet

The 2022-2023 season concludes with a mixed repertoire not to be missed including ballets by Mark Morris, Jiri Kylián and Alexander Ekman. Mark Morris' hip *Sandpaper* is an inventive pop ballet that teases your imagination with wit, humor, and dazzling movement. *Petite Mort*, the tantalizing contemporary ballet by Jiri Kylián, returns to Kansas City Ballet and this popular masterpiece remains an absolute "must see." Alexander Ekman's gleeful ballet, *Cacti*, pokes fun at the pretentious and often hilarious way that people interpret art. Don't ask "what does it all mean?" Experience it. Enjoy it.

Kansas City Ballet Announces Company Dancer Promotions and New Members

Page 12

Fri., May 12	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 13	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 14	2 p.m.
Fri., May 19	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 20	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 21	2 p.m.

Additional Information

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2022-2023 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center.

Sponsors

Major underwriting support comes from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation. The Kansas City Ballet Guild, Missouri Arts Council (a state agency), National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee, and Hallmark Corporate Foundation are among the many other supporters of Kansas City Ballet's 2022-2023 season.

About Kansas City Ballet

Inspiring and Engaging Through the Beauty, Power & Passion of Dance

Founded in 1957, Kansas City Ballet is a 30-member professional ballet company under the leadership of Artistic Director Devon Carney and Executive Director Jeffrey J. Bentley. The company's mission is to establish Kansas City Ballet as an indispensable asset in its community 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 with an enrollment of 2000+ children and adults offering 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 programs for all ages, we seek to nurture and develop our artists, audiences and students in the values inherent in the creativity, diversity and joy of dance.

Our 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, truly has positioned Kansas City as a destination for dance.

Visit kcballet.org/media/releases for more info.

###

Please direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald at 816.213.4355 or publicity@kcballet.org.