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Kansas City Ballet Announces 2023-2024 Season

*North American Premiere of Val Caniparoli's Jekyll & Hyde,
Devon Carney's Peter Pan and George Balanchine's Jewels, plus the
annual return of New Moves and beloved holiday favorite
The Nutcracker are ready to delight audiences*

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 20, 2023) — Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney today announced the company's 2023-2024 season, which opens with the North American premiere of the classic Gothic suspense thriller, Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*, continues with the endearing family classic choreographed by Devon Carney, *Peter Pan*, and concludes with George Balanchine's *Jewels*—featuring three sparkling ballets in as many acts: *Emeralds*, *Rubies*, and *Diamonds*. Along with the season, Carney is pleased to note the return of the beloved holiday classic, *The Nutcracker* in December, and **New Moves** performances of new choreographic works in March—an annual favorite. High-res photos, artwork and more can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets/>.

Originally workshopped on KCB dancers in the summer of 2019, *Jekyll & Hyde* had its world premiere in 2020 with the Finnish National Ballet. They will perform it again next month, and after it closes, the production travels to North America. Four companies have signed on to perform the ballet, including KCB. KCB has been instrumental in the project and thus has secured the North American Premiere in October.

Describing the essence of his upcoming work, Caniparoli says, “The ballet is an examination of the duality of human nature expressed as an inner struggle between good and evil. Monsters in ballet have long been in the tradition of Frankenstein, Dracula or fairy tale villains, witches, and sorcerers. The gripping tale of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde is much more horrifying, as it exposes the evil that can lurk in the seemingly normal person, the neighbor, friend, or casual acquaintance.” The ballet, set in Victorian England, travels from the misty streets of London to the horrors of a mental hospital to the elegance of high society. Its sets and costumes have been designed by **David Israel Reynoso**, with lighting design by **Jim French**.

Carney stated, “I am honored to be able to start our 66th season off with a huge bang with the North American premiere of Val Caniparoli’s original telling of the hugely spectacular psychological thriller of the great literary classic *Jekyll and Hyde*. This is a retelling of this work with a creative 21st century eye. This is followed by our highly popular holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. After this we will be bringing back by popular demand the well-known tale of *Peter Pan* choreographed by yours truly as we see the adventures in Never, Never Land with the Darling family and wonder if we ever really need to grow up. Then there is the 11th annual *New Moves* with all original works by exceptionally talented choreographers from both within the dancer ranks as well as from the national landscape of creative voices. And we close with an elegant grand finale with one of the most celebrated Balanchine full length works of all time, *Jewels*. Watch the Emeralds, Rubies and Diamonds shimmer resplendently upon the world class Kauffman Center stage. This is a season to remember that will tantalize and entertain us as we all go on a magical journey together through this 2023-2024 season.”

Subscriptions ranging from \$75 to \$333 for the three-ballet package—a savings of 25 percent compared with single-ticket prices—are now available online at www.kcballet.org or by calling the Kansas City Ballet ticket office at 816.931.8993.

Jekyll & Hyde

Choreography by Val Caniparoli

Based on: *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Music by Krzysztof Penderecki, Henryk Górecki, Wozjciech Kilar, Henryk Wieniawski, and Frédéric Chopin

Music compiled, edited and arranged by Ramona Pansegrau

Oct. 13-22, 2023 | Muriel Kauffman Theatre at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Witness the psychological torment and self-destruction of Henry Jekyll, a morally upright and well-mannered doctor, as he struggles against the vile urges of his alter ego Edward Hyde in Victorian England. This North American premiere of Val Caniparoli’s newest ballet focuses on the eternal struggle of good versus evil as it plays out within one man.

Peter Pan

Choreography by Devon Carney

Music by Carmen DeLeone

Feb. 16-25, 2024 | Muriel Kauffman Theatre at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

It's the classic family adventure for those who never want to grow up! Witness the magic of Peter Pan as he flies into the Darling family nursery, convincing Wendy, John, and Michael to join him for the adventure of a lifetime in Never Never Land, his enchanted home. The troublesome Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, their nemesis Captain Hook, and a hungry crocodile all help bring J.M. Barrie's fantastical tale to life.

Jewels

Choreography by George Balanchine

Emeralds music by Gabriel Fauré

Rubies music by Igor Stravinsky

Diamonds music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

May 10-19, 2024 | Muriel Kauffman Theatre at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Balanchine paired the fiery beauty of precious gems with the incredible music of three very different composers to create a ballet in three unforgettable acts. Each is distinct in both music and mood.

Emeralds, with music by Gabriel Fauré, evokes the elegance, comfort, couture, and perfume of the French Romantics' 19th-century dances. *Rubies*, with music by Igor Stravinsky, is crisp, witty and jazzy, epitomizing the collaboration of Stravinsky and Balanchine.

Diamonds, with music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky, recalls the essence of Imperial Russia, where Balanchine was trained.

Kansas City Ballet 2023-2024 Season

Kansas City Dance Day

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity
500 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108

Kansas City Ballet's 13th annual celebration of dance and movement features FREE dance performances, dance and fitness classes, demonstrations, and FUN for the whole family.

Dance Speaks: New Dance Partners

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5:15-6 p.m. | New Dance Partners Rehearsal

6-7 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney invites Dance Speaks patrons to join him and guests (TBD) in an engaging conversation inspired by the ballet. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a company rehearsal and gain inside information about the production. The program includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

New Dance Partners

Sept. 15-16, 2023 | Johnson County Community College Midwest Trust Center
12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210

The Midwest Trust Center Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College has produced New Dance Partners since 2013. The project furthers artistic growth in dance by creating new works and encouraging collaboration between Kansas City arts organizations. The performances feature local, professional dance companies in new works that are commissioned on their behalf and that are directed by renowned choreographers. Tickets will be sold here: <https://jccc.universitytickets.com/>.

Dance Speaks: *Jekyll & Hyde*

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity | 500 West Pershing Rd., KCMO 64108

5:15-6 p.m. | *Jekyll & Hyde* rehearsal

6-7 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney invites Dance Speaks patrons to join him and guests (TBD) in an engaging conversation inspired by the ballet *Jekyll & Hyde*. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a company rehearsal of *Jekyll & Hyde* and gain inside information about the production. The program includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: *Jekyll & Hyde*

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, 6:30-7:15 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 the professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features three 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 KCB community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet

Jekyll & Hyde

Oct. 13-22, 2023 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

1601 Broadway, Kansas City MO 64108

Choreography by Val Caniparoli

Based on *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Music by Krzysztof Penderecki, Henryk Gorecki, Wozjciech Kilar, Henryk Wieniawski, and Frédéric Chopin performed by Kansas City Symphony

Witness the psychological torment and self-destruction of Henry Jekyll, a morally upright and well-mannered doctor, as he struggles against the vile urges of his alter ego Edward Hyde in Victorian England. This North American premiere of Val Caniparoli's newest ballet focuses on the eternal struggle of good versus evil as it plays out within one man.

Fri., Oct. 13 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 14 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 15 1:30 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 19	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 20	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 21	1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 22	1:30 p.m.

Dancer Chat: *The Nutcracker*

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, 6:30-7:15 p.m. | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

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Nutcracker Ball

Benefitting Kansas City Ballet and Kansas City Ballet School

Presented by Kansas City Ballet Guild

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 | The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

Kansas City Ballet Guild is proud to kick-off the coming holiday season with the 56th annual Nutcracker Ball. All proceeds from the Nutcracker Ball support Kansas City Ballet. Presented by Kansas City Ballet Guild. <http://www.kcballetball.org/>

The Nutcracker

Dec. 1-24, 2023 | 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.

The Nutcracker tickets on sale Mon., Aug. 21, 2023.

Fri., Dec. 1	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 2	2:00 p.m.* & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 3	1:00 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 10	1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 13	6 p.m.**
Thurs., Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16	2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 17	1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 23	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 24	1 p.m.

(*) Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

(**) Sensory Performance

Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball

Benefitting Kansas City Ballet School

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 | The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

Guests will park at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and be whisked off to The Century Ballroom experiencing the magic of the holidays. 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 a shuttle transports guests to the 2 p.m. matinee performance of Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker*.

This event is committed to raising funds for the Kansas City Ballet School and its scholarship program. For reservations or sponsorship information contact Grace Ingham at gingham@kcballet.org.

Dance Speaks: *Peter Pan*

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity | 500 West Pershing Rd., KCMO 64108

5:15-6 p.m. | *Peter Pan* Rehearsal

6-7 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel

Get a sneak peek of a *Peter Pan* 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 family-friendly work! Moderated by Artistic Director Devon Carney, the panel activity includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: *Peter Pan*

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, 6:30-7:15 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 the professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. Each Dancer Chat features three 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 KCB community professionals. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet.

Peter Pan

Feb. 16-25, 2024 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney

Music by Carmen DeLeone performed by Kansas City Symphony

It's the classic family adventure for those who never want to grow up! Witness the magic of Peter Pan as he flies into the Darling family nursery, convincing Wendy, John, and Michael to join him for the adventure of a lifetime in Never Never Land, his enchanted home. The troublesome Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, their nemesis Captain Hook, and a hungry crocodile all help bring J.M. Barrie's fantastical tale to life.

Fri., Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 17	7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 18	1:30 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 24	1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 25	1:30 p.m.

Dance Speaks: New Voices, New Moves

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel | Location TBD

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. Moderated by Artistic Director Devon Carney, the panel activity includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: New Moves

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 6:30-7:15 p.m. | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

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New Moves

March 21-24, 2024 | 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! An up-close and visceral experience for audience and dancer alike, all performances are 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 21	7:30 p.m.
Fri., March 22	7:30 p.m.
Sat., March 23	2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., March 24	2 p.m.

BARRE KC Soirée

**Benefitting Kansas City Ballet's R.O.A.D. Program
Saturday, April 13, 2024 | Location TBA**

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT BARRE KC SOIRÉE!

The 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. This event is brought to you by BARRE KC, the premier organization for young adults 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! Visit www.barresoiree.org for more information.

Dance Speaks: *Jewels*

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity | 500 West Pershing Rd., KCMO 64108
5:15-6 p.m. | *Jewels* Rehearsal
6-7 p.m. | Dance Speaks Panel**

Kansas City Ballet Artistic Director Devon Carney invites Dance Speaks patrons to join him and guests (TBD) in an engaging conversation inspired by the ballet *Jewels*. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a company rehearsal of *Jewels* and gain inside information about the production. The program includes an audience Q and A. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Second Company @ HOME

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 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: *Jewels*

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 6:30-7:15 p.m. | Virtual on Facebook LIVE

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Jewels

May 10-19, 2024 | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by George Balanchine

Emeralds: Music by Gabriel Fauré

Rubies: Music by Igor Stravinsky

Diamonds: Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Balanchine paired the fiery beauty of precious gems with the incredible music of three very different composers to create a ballet in three unforgettable acts. Each is distinct in both music and mood.

Emeralds, with music by Gabriel Fauré, evokes the elegance, comfort, couture, and perfume of the French Romantics' 19th-century dances. *Rubies*, with music by Igor Stravinsky, is crisp and witty, epitomizing the collaboration of Stravinsky and Balanchine. *Diamonds*, with music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky, recalls the essence of Imperial Russia, where Balanchine was trained.

Fri., May 10	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 11	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 12	1:30 p.m.
Fri., May 17	7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 18	7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 19	1:30 p.m.

Student Matinees

Kansas City Ballet presents full-length morning performances for schools designed to enhance interdisciplinary learning and integrate dance with English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Music. For the 2023-2024 Season, Student Matinees will be as follows:

- ***The Nutcracker***
Thurs., Dec. 7, 8, and 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m. | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
- ***Peter Pan***
Fri., Feb. 23, 2024, 10:30 a.m. | Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
- **New Moves**
Fri., March 22, 2024, 11 a.m. (Student/Senior Group Matinee) | Bolender Center

For more information or to reserve student matinee seats, contact aberry@kcballet.org.

Media

Visit www.kcballet.org for more information about Kansas City Ballet's 2023-2024 season and www.kauffmancenter.org for a downloadable media kit about the Kauffman Center. Find high-res photos with IDs and photo credits at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/67555847@N06/sets/>, B-roll with IDs and credits at <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityballet> and digital content with IDs and credits at <https://vimeo.com/kcballet>.

Ticket and Season Subscriber Information

If you would like to learn more information about new subscriptions and renewals, please call the Kansas City Ballet ticket office **816.931.8993**. Single tickets will go on sale Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Parking

Find information 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. Advanced purchase of event parking is highly recommended as this lot has been known to sell out. Event parking is \$13 in advance or \$16 at the gate per car for the garage or valet may be purchased in advance for \$22 or for \$24 upon arrival (if available).

Sponsors

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council — a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) support Kansas City Ballet's 2023-2024 Season. *Jewels* is supported in part by the Wendy and George Powell Family Fund.

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 engagement and education programs for all ages. Kansas City Ballet is home to Kansas City Ballet School which, with an enrollment of more than 1,000 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 Department, 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. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog. Watch videos at www.youtube.com/kansascityballet, and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kballet/>.

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Direct all media inquiries to Ellen McDonald, 816.213.4355 or publicity@kcballet.org.