



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald
816.213.4355
publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

Kansas City Ballet Concludes Season with Bliss Point

A Breathtaking Evening of Dance Featuring
Three Celebrations of Movement and Music
May 12-21 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY, MO (April 10, 2023) — Kansas City Ballet's 2022-2023 season concludes with Bliss Point, a stunning production featuring three unique and captivating dance pieces. From the intricate and emotional *Sandpaper Ballet* by **Mark Morris** and the sensual and provocative *Petite Mort* by **Jiří Kylián** to the playful and witty *Cacti* by **Alexander Ekman**, this production promises to transport audiences to new heights of artistic expression and emotional depth. The Kansas City Symphony and Opus 76 String Quartet, conducted by Kansas City Ballet Music Director **Ramona Pansegrau**, will perform.

Kansas City Ballet Presents Bliss Point May 12-21 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Performances are scheduled for May 12-21 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. High-res rehearsal and past production photos, and more can be found [here](#). B-roll can be found [here](#).

“We are thrilled to bring this incredible production to our audiences,” said Devon Carney, Kansas City Ballet’s Artistic Director. “The combination of these three pieces by some of the greatest choreographers of our time creates a truly unique and unforgettable experience that will leave a lasting impression on all who attend.”

Bliss Point

May 12-21, 2023 | Muriel Kauffman Theatre at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Sandpaper Ballet

Choreography: Mark Morris

Music: Leroy Anderson

Petite Mort

Choreography: Jiří Kylián

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Featuring: Sam Beckett

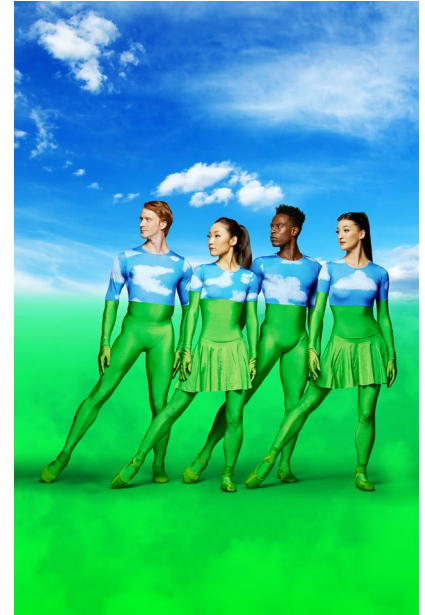
Cacti

Choreography: Alexander Ekman

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Franz Schubert

Text: Spenser Theberge

Featuring: Opus 76 String Quartet



The 2022-2023 season concludes with a mixed repertoire not to be missed including ballets by world-renowned choreographers Mark Morris, Jiří Kylián and Alexander Ekman. Mark Morris’ hip *Sandpaper Ballet* is an inventive pop ballet that teases your imagination with wit, humor, and dazzling movement. *Petite Mort*, the tantalizing contemporary ballet by Jiří 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.

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.

Sandpaper Ballet

Mark Morris' hip *Sandpaper Ballet* is an inventive pop ballet that teases your imagination with wit, humor, and dazzling movement by one of America's most acclaimed choreographers. Morris is a world-renowned choreographer known for his ability to blend classical technique with modern sensibilities and create works that are both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant.

Featuring a light-hearted musical score by Leroy Anderson which includes a wide range of "instruments" such as a typewriter, this piece is a joyful and fun start to this diverse program. Mark Morris choreographed this piece in 1999 as a tribute to soft-shoe dancing. When it premiered, *San Francisco Chronicle* declared it "the hit of the evening."



Petite Mort

Petite Mort, the tantalizing contemporary ballet by Jiří Kylián, returns to Kansas City Ballet and this popular masterpiece remains an absolute "must see."

Petite Mort, translated from French, means "little death" and it passionately depicts the vulnerability of our lives. Choreographer Jiří Kylián holds world-wide acclaim and has been one of the most influential voices in the progression of dance in past decades.

When *Petite Mort* premiered in Kansas City in 2018, Chicago critic Lauren Warnecke stated, "It's breathtakingly beautiful, juxtaposing the most iconic, sensitive images we have in the 20th century concert dance with Kylián's dry, cheeky, sense of humor."

Cacti

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.

This Kansas City premiere, which concludes the evening, showcases the future of not only dance but the dance theatre experience. *Cacti* is an affectionate, pointed and often hilarious deconstruction of the affections of dance. Ekman is a Swedish choreographer known for his innovative and daring work, which challenges traditional notions of dance and performance.



Ekman has written: “This work is about how we observe art and how we often feel the need to analyze and ‘understand’ art. I believe that there is no right way and that everyone can interpret and experience art the way they want. Perhaps it’s just a feeling that you can’t explain or perhaps it’s very obvious what the message is.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Dance Speaks: Bliss Point

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

5:15-6 p.m. | Bliss Point Rehearsal

6-7 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 Schepers** invite Dance Speaks patrons to join them in an engaging conversation inspired by these two ballets. Get a sneak peek beforehand of the spring mixed repertory rehearsal and gain inside information regarding the production. Tickets only \$12 at www.kcballet.org.

Dancer Chat: Bliss Point

Wednesday, May 3, 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 professional dancers from Kansas City Ballet. This Dancer Chat will feature 2-3 KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in Bliss Point and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. This relaxed, informal conversation will be moderated by a KCB community professional. All Dancer Chats take place on Facebook LIVE. www.facebook.com/kcballet.

Belger Footnote Series

Artistic Director Devon Carney and guest artists offer audience members their views about the choreography, history, design elements and music of the evening’s 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.

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. Follow our blog at www.kcballet.org/blog. Watch videos at www.youtube.com/kansascityballet or <https://vimeo.com/kcballet> and on TikTok <https://www.tiktok.com/@kansascityballet> and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kc.ballet/>.

Ticket Information

Purchase tickets:

- Online at www.kcballet.org with the Select Your Own Seat capability.

- By telephone at 816.931.8993.
- At the Kauffman Center box office and website.

Ticket prices start at only \$34, and subscribers receive a 20-percent discount. There is a \$8.50 Kauffman Center facility fee per ticket and a \$4 processing fee per order. Prices are subject to change.

Student Rush discount tickets are available for \$24 plus a \$3.50 fee (with valid student ID, one ticket per ID). Purchase online here: <https://kcballet.org/student-rush-tickets/> 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.

Parking

Find information about Kauffman Center parking 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 \$10 per car for the garage or valet may be purchased in advance for \$18 or for \$20 upon arrival (if available).

Accessibility

Kansas City Ballet is committed to providing assistance to those with disabilities. Direct questions and requests to Patron Services, 816.931.8993. Callers who are hearing impaired or hard of hearing can get help with telephone access by using the free relay service — 711.

Sponsors

Major underwriting support for the 2022-2023 Season comes from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation. Bliss Point Supporting Sponsor is YMCA of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City Ballet's Official Healthy Living Partner. Additional Season support from Missouri Arts Council (a state agency), the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), and the Hallmark Corporate Foundation.

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 engagement and education programs for all
 Kansas City Ballet Presents Bliss Point May 12-21 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

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 or <https://vimeo.com/kcballet> and on TikTok <https://www.tiktok.com/@kansascityballet> and view photos at <https://www.instagram.com/kc.ballet/>.

###

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