



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ellen McDonald

816.213.4355

publicity@kcballet.org

For Tickets: 816.931.8993 or kcballet.org

**Kansas City Ballet
Opens 2023-2024 Season with
North American Premiere of
Jekyll & Hyde
Performances October 13 - 22
at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**



KANSAS CITY, MO (Sept. 14, 2023) — Kansas City Ballet's 2023-2024 season opens with the highly anticipated North American premiere of *Jekyll & Hyde*, choreographed by Val Caniparoli, and accompanied by Kansas City Symphony performing the haunting original score conducted and arranged by Kansas City Ballet

Music Director **Ramona Pansegrouw**. Val Caniparoli's choreography had its world premiere at the Finnish National Ballet in 2020.

Choreographer Val Caniparoli shared: "I'm so excited that Kansas City Ballet will present the North American Premiere of *Jekyll & Hyde*. Bringing this ballet home to where it all began in workshops before the pandemic and after its premiere with Finnish National Ballet, has been a dream. To continue with my relationship with this world class establishment and these amazing artists in the studio has been a blast and I can't wait for you to see them bring the world of *Jekyll & Hyde* to life onstage."

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. The ballet's narrative is framed as a feverish hallucination of Robert Louis Stevenson, as he imagines the tale of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. As the story progresses, the lines between reality and fiction become blurred with Stevenson realizing the dark side of human nature that he has unleashed into the world through his writing. Parental discretion is advised.

Kansas City Ballet Music Director and *Jekyll & Hyde* musical editor Ramona Pansegrouw shared some of the aspects of the production. "The music of *Jekyll and Hyde* is built around Polish composers. Penderecki's 3rd symphony is a major component, with music by Gorecki used for smaller linking sections. The psychological aspect of both Hyde and Jekyll's minds are explored with the change of instrumentation in the works." She continued, "The addition of music by Wieniawski and Kilar portray the more intimate, normal aspects of Jekyll's life, whereas the complex and fantastical music of Penderecki and Gorecki portray the cacophony and delusions buried in Hyde's twisted mind. Three centuries of Polish music capture the nature of both men."

Devon Carney, Kansas City Ballet artistic director stated: "I'm honored that our company was chosen in 2019 by Val, this internationally renowned choreographer, to begin the process of bringing his vision to life prior to it ever being performed in Finland. He spent time with some of our Company artists years ago shaping his characters and choreography. To see the final product actually be the genesis of the character roles that came from his work with our dancers. We were the company that he trusted and wanted to work with in this way."

"We have a great team here in Kansas City that Val trusts. That trust has been built up over time and he knows we're going to do a great job of putting his work on stage and of making it look good. The fact that the production has in its DNA the choreography work done with our dancers but also the incredible work from Ramona on the score. She and Val collaborated on the music choices for years. What she has done is an incredible arrangement of music. It's exactly what it should be. This is a significant moment in her career. As an artistic director and as an organization, I'm really happy that this is happening for her, here."

[Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde](#) is a novella written by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, first published in 1886. The ballet's story follows Dr. Jekyll's pursuit of unleashing the hidden underbelly of the human experience and his descent into his

evil alter ego, Mr. Hyde. The ballet features themes of duality, temptation, and the struggle between good and evil, and explores the consequences of Dr. Jekyll's experiments.

High-res rehearsal and past production photos, and more can be found [here](#). B-roll can be found [here](#).

Sponsors

Major underwriting support for the 2023-2024 Season comes from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation. Additional Season support from the Missouri Arts Council (a state agency) and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency) and the Hallmark Corporate Foundation. The Kansas City Ballet Guild is the presenting sponsor of *Jekyll & Hyde*.

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, Wojciech Kilar, Henryk

Wieniawski, and Frédéric Chopin performed by Kansas City Symphony

Music compiled, edited, and arranged by Ramona Pansegrouw



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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Dance Speaks: *Jekyll & Hyde*

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 | Frost Studio Theater | Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity | 500 West Pershing Rd., KC MO 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 Val Caniparoli, Maiqui Manosa, and Ramona Pansegrouw in an engaging conversation inspired by the ballet *Jekyll & Hyde*. Get a sneak peek beforehand of a company rehearsal of *Jekyll & Hyde* and gain behind-the-scenes 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. This Dancer Chat features three KCB company dancers chatting about their roles in *Jekyll & Hyde* and sharing aspects of their life journey and dance experiences. These relaxed, informal conversations are moderated by a relevant KC community professional. This Dancer Chat will 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 shows except *The Nutcracker*. 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 view photos and video at www.instagram.com/kcballet/.

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 performances (except *The Nutcracker*) can purchase available rush tickets for as much as 40-percent off single ticket prices.

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. 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.

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 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 David Gray. 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 inspire 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 www.instagram.com/kballet/.

###

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