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KAUFFMAN CENTER ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL AND PERFORMANCE NOMINATIONS

*Free community event connects youth and families with Kauffman Center arts experiences,
creates opportunities for youth and non-profit arts groups to perform on stages*

Kansas City, MO – Kauffman Center is celebrating diversity in the arts with the second annual Future Stages Festival this June. Building on the success of the 2014 inaugural event during which Kauffman Center welcomed more than 6,000 guests and hosted 600 performers, the second annual Future Stages Festival is a free community event that showcases youth in the performing arts.

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 28, 2014 from 11 am – 4 pm. The one-day festival invites youth and families to experience a diverse range of performance and interactive arts activities. Future Stages Festival, an extension of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors *Spotlight on Youth* program, will also provide opportunities for youth and community arts organizations to perform on stage at Kauffman Center.

As proud mother Lisa Lala stated after the inaugural Future Stages Festival in 2014, seeing her 14-year-old daughter perform a silk solo with the Quixotic School of the Performing Arts at the Kauffman Center was “nothing short of heart-stopping.” When daughter, Gigi, was asked what it was like being on the Muriel Kauffman Theatre stage, she answered “This was something I’ve dreamed of all my life. It was amazing.”

"Future Stages Festival is a free event for the community that provides opportunities for future artists to take center stage at the Kauffman Center. We are committed to shining a spotlight on the talented youth in our community and celebrating the diverse array of performing arts experiences available to both participants and audiences in Kansas City," stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Nominations are now being accepted for youth performing groups to become part of the 2015 performance schedule. Any community arts organization or school program can nominate itself, and the general public can make nominations as well. The Kauffman Center’s resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera of Kansas City will also take part in the event.

For more information or to nominate a local performance group, visit kauffmancenter.org/futurestages. The nomination deadline is March 11, 2015.

The event is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to register for free at kauffmancenter.org/futurestages to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities.

ABOUT THE OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

The Kauffman Center Open Doors program connects young people to the arts through three major components:

- The Open Doors *Spotlight on Youth* program inspires and nurtures the next generation of artists by giving young performers the opportunity to perform on the stages of the Kauffman Center.
- The Open Doors *Community Ticket Fund* offers access to programming at the Kauffman Center for youth and families through reduced price or free tickets.
- The Open Doors *Transportation Fund* offers funding to schools in the metropolitan area so that bringing students to the Kauffman Center for school matinee performances is more affordable.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World’s 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world’s most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



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