

Contact:  
Ellen McDonald, Publicist  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
(816) 213-4335 | [ellen@mershonandmcdonald.com](mailto:ellen@mershonandmcdonald.com)

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Bess Wallerstein Huff, Director of Marketing  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
(816) 994-7229 | [bwh@kauffmancenter.org](mailto:bwh@kauffmancenter.org)

## MAGIC PERFORMANCE ADDED TO THE 2019-2020 KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES

*Champions of Magic coming to Muriel Kauffman Theatre April 3*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced an additional performance in the 2019-2020 *Kauffman Center Presents* series – **Champions of Magic**.

The five world-class illusionists who make up this mind-bending theatrical production are launching their second U.S. tour. Magicians Alex McAleer, Kayla Drescher, Fernando Velasco, and the group Young & Strange will take the Kauffman Center stage April 3 with incredible mind reading, stunning close-up magic, and daring large-scale illusions. Following sold-out shows across the globe, rave reviews from audiences of all ages, and a run in London's West End, this incredible performance will entertain the entire family.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$45, plus applicable fees, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, October 11. Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222 or online at [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org).

### ABOUT CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC

**Champions of Magic** started touring in October 2013, and has since completed six U.K. tours, and a U.S. tour in 2017. Their skills have been featured on-screen worldwide, with appearances on The CW's *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, NBC's *Caught on Camera with Nick Cannon*, *The Today Show*, and *Access Hollywood Live*.

The group has more than 30 million online views, in addition to a live, worldwide audience reaching the hundreds of thousands. Each team member specializes in a different type of magic: illusionists Young & Strange, close-up magician Kayla Drescher, escapologist Fernando Velasco, and mind reader Alex McAleer.

**Champions of Magic** shares incredible interactive magic, an impossible escape from Houdini's water torture cell, a mind-blowing prediction that must be seen to be believed, levitation high above the stage, and a finale beyond explanation. From unbelievable mind reading and stunning close-up tricks, to massive stage-filling illusions, these magicians were born to bend minds.

[Access a video preview of the Champions of Magic performance.](#)

## ABOUT THE CAST

**Young & Strange** formed a childhood friendship through their common love for all things magic. They spent their teen years trying to replicate Las Vegas-style illusions using cardboard and tape. This innovative mindset allowed them to become one of the most unique illusion acts in the world. As their career in magic took off, their innovation with amazing illusions has garnered attention from around the world.

**Alex McAleer** possesses the uncanny ability to investigate audiences' minds and read thoughts. His unbelievable talent is rooted in his study of physics, mentalists, and hypnotists throughout his teen years. McAleer is a familiar face on international television and has also written several books about his mind reading techniques.

**Kayla Drescher** is a magician one must see to believe. Using a contemporary style of magic, Drescher wows audiences by making everyday objects levitate and teleport. She has appeared on multiple television programs including The CW's *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, and *The Today Show's* televised competition series "Magic Mondays." Through winning the "Magic Mondays" competition, Drescher earned the regard of acclaimed magician David Copperfield, who named her the next great magician.

At only 21 years old, **Fernando Velasco** captures audiences' attention the moment he steps on the stage. His impossible and death-defying escapes continually push the boundaries of what an escapologist can do. Velasco is the world's youngest escapologist to perform the most dangerous illusion in magic – the Houdini water torture cell.

## KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES SCHEDULE\*

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features extraordinary and diverse artists from a variety of musical genres and performance styles. [Access to approved media photos of Kauffman Center Presents artists.](#)

### 2019-2020 *Kauffman Center Presents* events:

- Wednesday, October 9 – Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain & Edgar Meyer – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Thursday, October 10 – Mary Chapin Carpenter and Shawn Colvin – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Tuesday, November 19 – Indigo Girls with Chastity Brown – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Saturday, February 1 – Squirrel Nut Zippers and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, February 18 – *National Geographic Live: From Summit to Sea* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Wednesday, March 4 – Cameron Carpenter with Buster Keaton's *The General* featuring live organ accompaniment – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Tuesday, March 10 – *National Geographic Live: Pursuit of the Black Panther* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, March 24 – Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood: Neighborhood Day – 6:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Friday, April 3 – Champions of Magic - 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, April 28 – *National Geographic Live: Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, May 19 – An Intimate Evening with David Foster: Hitman Tour Featuring Special Guest Katharine McPhee – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, May 26 – *National Geographic Live: Where the Wild Things Live* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

- Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 10 – *National Geographic Live: JANE in Concert* – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

\*Events announced to date. Additional performances will be announced throughout the 2019-2020 season. Updates are available at [www.kauffmancenter.org/events-tickets/kauffman-center-presents/](http://www.kauffmancenter.org/events-tickets/kauffman-center-presents/).

## **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](http://kauffmancenter.org).

*Thanks to Kauffman Center Presents series sponsors for their generous support of the 2018-2019 season: Saint Luke’s Health System, PNC Bank, and Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City.*

Visit the Kauffman Center’s online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: [kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/](http://kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/)

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



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