

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 11, 2019

TWO PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCED IN THE 2019-2020 KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES

Rapper, actor and activist Common to perform in Muriel Kauffman Theatre on August 29

It Was Fifty Years Ago Today – Tour 2019 – A Tribute To The Beatles White Album coming to Muriel Kauffman Theatre on October 3

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced two performances in the 2019-2020 *Kauffman Center Presents* series.

Cultural icon **Common** continues to break down barriers with a multitude of diverse roles and critically acclaimed music. In addition to new music, Common will perform a collection of his greatest hits and celebrated fan favorites. Opening for Common is GRAMMY-nominated singer-songwriter, activist and acclaimed hip-hop artist, Maimouna Youssef aka Mumu Fresh. Every pair of tickets for this show includes new music from Common. Ticket buyers will receive an email with more details about their offer approximately seven days after the purchase. Tickets for the event range from \$43.75 to \$83.75, plus applicable fees, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, June 14. Limit of eight tickets per sale. VIP packages are available.

In celebration of The Beatles' 50th anniversary of the *White Album*, the Kauffman Center welcomes *It Was Fifty Years Ago Today – Tour 2019*. A tribute to The Beatles' *White Album*, this performance features an all-star lineup including Christopher Cross, Todd Rundgren, Micky Dolenz (The Monkees), Jason Scheff (Chicago), Joey Molland (Badfinger), and musical director Joey Curatolo, who also directed music for *RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles*. Some of rock's biggest legends come together to perform their greatest hits and pay homage to one of modern music's most influential albums – The Beatles' *White Album*. Tickets for the event range from \$49 to \$109, plus applicable fees, and go on sale to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, June 21. VIP packages are available.

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222 or online at www.kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT COMMON

Common is an Academy Award, Golden Globe, Emmy and GRAMMY-winning artist, actor, author and activist. Following his 2011 memoir "One Day It'll All Make Sense," Common's next book "Let Love Have the Last Word" was released on May 7, 2019. Common starred in the Oscar-nominated film *Selma*, centered around the civil rights marches that changed America. Alongside John Legend, he won the Academy Award and Golden Globe in 2015 for Best Original Song in a Motion Picture for "Glory," which was featured in the film. Common can also be seen on the big screen in upcoming films *The Kitchen* and *The Informer*, both set to be released in August. Last year, Common made an appearance on the silver screen in the Fox 2000 film *The Hate You Give* and lent his voice to the Warner Bros. animated film *Smallfoot* alongside an all-star cast including Channing Tatum, Zendaya, James Corden and LeBron James.

Along with his successful acting career, Common also touts a long list of accomplishments in the music industry. Common's 11th studio album *Black America Again* was released on Nov. 4, 2016, on ARTium/Def Jam Recordings. The album includes socially conscious new single "Black America Again," featuring Stevie Wonder and the anthem "Letter to the Free," the end-title track to Ava DuVernay's powerful Oscar-nominated documentary *13th*, for which he also received the 2017 Emmy for Best Music and Lyrics. Common was most recently featured on Andra Day's song for Open Road Films' *Marshall* soundtrack "Stand Up for Something," co-written by Common and eight-time Academy Award-nominee Diane Warren. The original song has received Oscar, GRAMMY, NAACP and Critic Choice Award nominations, as well as the Hollywood Song Award at the 2017 Hollywood Film Awards.

For the past few years, Common has dedicated countless hours and has been deeply engaged in social justice and advocacy work around mass incarceration, mental health and voting. After the success and impact of his Imagine Justice concert in 2017 and his Hope & Redemption Tour to eight different prisons, Common decided to establish and launch Imagine Justice as a new nonprofit in 2018. Centered at the intersection of art and activism, Imagine Justice is dedicated to leveraging the power of art to advocate for communities around the country, to fight for justice and equality and to stand united against injustice wherever it appears.

[See Common and John Legend perform Academy Award and Golden Globe "Best Original Song in a Motion Picture" winner "Glory" from the Oscar-nominated film, "Selma."](#)

IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY – TOUR 2019 – ABOUT THE BAND

Christopher Cross is an American singer-songwriter from San Antonio, Texas. Cross won five GRAMMY Awards for his eponymous debut album released in 1979. The singles "Sailing" (1980), and "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do – from the 1981 film *Arthur* – peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. "Sailing" earned three GRAMMYS in 1981, while "Arthur's Theme" won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 1981 (with co-composers Burt Bacharach, Carole Bayer Sager, and Peter Allen).

Todd Rundgren began playing guitar as a teenager, going on to found and front Nazzy, the quintessential 1960s psychedelic group. In 1969, he left the band to pursue a solo career, recording his debut offering, *Runt*. But it was 1972's seminal *Something/Anything?*, on which he played all the instruments, sang all the vocal parts, and acted as his own producer, that catapulted Todd into the superstar limelight, prompting the press to unanimously dub him "Rock's New Wunderkind." It was followed by such landmark albums as *A Wizard, A True Star* and *The Hermit of Mink Hollow*, as well as such hit singles as "I Saw The Light," "Hello It's Me," "Can We Still Be Friends," and "Bang The Drum."

Micky Dolenz is an actor, singer, director, producer, writer, radio DJ, inventor, and all-around performer extraordinaire, and stands tall as a paragon of taste and accomplishment in the rough-and-tumble world of show business and entertainment. Micky is best known as a vocalist and drummer of the 1960s pop legends The Monkees. The Monkees not only achieved great success as a TV show, but also as viable recording artists, selling more than 65 million units. Their first four albums – *The Monkees* (1966); *More of The Monkees* (1967); *Headquarters* (1967); and *Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn, & Jones, Ltd.* (1967) – all reached the number-one position on the charts and launched three number-one singles, including "Last Train to Clarksville," "I'm a Believer," and "Daydream Believer." The group's first five albums also went platinum.

Jason Scheff is the longtime tenor lead vocalist of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted supergroup Chicago. Scheff joined the group in 1985 replacing the iconic vocalist/bass player Peter Cetera going on to be one of the principal songwriters and main contributors throughout Chicago's career. Scheff's songwriting, vocals and musicianship helped

create the most successful recording era of Chicago – the 1980s and 1990s. Scheff is also the voice across four decades – 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s, performing all the classic Chicago hits in thousands of concerts and television appearances.

Joey Molland is an English composer and rock guitarist whose recording career spans five decades. He is best known as guitarist, singer and songwriter of classic rock legends Badfinger. Molland is the last surviving member from the band's classic lineup and is still playing concerts worldwide. He is currently recording a new solo album produced by Mark Hudson.

KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SERIES SCHEDULE*

The *Kauffman Center Presents* series features extraordinary and diverse artists from a variety of musical genres and performance styles. Upcoming events include:

2018-2019 Kauffman Center Presents events:

- Tuesday, June 11 – Snarky Puppy – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Friday, June 28 – Napoleon Dynamite: A Conversation with Jon Heder (Napoleon Dynamite), Efren Ramirez (Pedro) and Jon Gries (Uncle Rico) – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre

2019-2020 Kauffman Center Presents events:

- Tuesday, July 9 – An Evening with Jane Fonda – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Friday, August 23 – Iyanla Vanzant: *Acts of Faith Remix Tour* – 8 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Thursday, August 29 – Common – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Thursday, August 29 – José González with Bedouine – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Friday, September 6 – Los Tucanes de Tijuana – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Tuesday, October 1 – The Kingdom Choir – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall
- Tuesday, October 1 – Jack Hanna's *Into the Wild Live!* Presented by Nationwide – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Wednesday, October 2 – Boyz II Men – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Thursday, October 3 – A Tribute To The Beatles' White Album (featuring Todd Rundgren, Christopher Cross, Micky Dolenz, Jason Scheff, and Joey Molland) – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- 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
- Saturday, February 1 – Squirrel Nut Zippers and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band – 7:30 p.m., Muriel Kauffman Theatre
- Wednesday, March 4 – Cameron Carpenter – 7 p.m., Helzberg Hall

*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/.

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.

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/

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



#kauffmancenter