



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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COCA Family Theatre Series presents

## STELLALUNA

**A delightful mix of actors, singers, and puppeteers bring  
Janell Cannon's book to life**

**WHO/WHAT:**

***Stellaluna* by Kids' Entertainment**

With a mix of puppetry, live actors and singers, Kids' Entertainment from Canada brings the enormously popular book by Janell Cannon to life for five performances at COCA March 6-8. *Stellaluna* is geared for children (ages five and up) and their families.

*Stellaluna* is the story of a baby bat that is separated from its mother and finds itself befriended by a family of birds. *Stellaluna* grows close to the hatchlings as if they're her siblings, yet even though *Stellaluna* can fly like a bird, it becomes increasingly obvious that she's a different sort of critter with different ways of doing things. Can *Stellaluna* learn to be more like her friends, or will she hold on to the qualities that make her what she is?

This stage adaptation of the best-selling book features puppets as the bats and birds, and five actors who handle the puppets, sing, dance, and play piano. The puppets are a blend of realism and cuddliness, and feature an impressive owl with glowing eyes and a huge wingspan.

Self-taught artist and writer Janell Cannon has always admired animals that have been misunderstood or neglected. After noticing the dearth of books about bats for kids, she created *Stellaluna* in 1994, hoping that it would transform young people's fear of bats into informed affection; she never suspected it would become a runaway best seller.

The 2008-2009 COCA Family Theatre Series is presented by Peabody. Wachovia Securities and Centene are season sponsors. Lodging Hospitality Management is the official hotel sponsor and KWMU is the media sponsor.

The presentation is supported by Mid-America Art Alliance with generous underwriting by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Art Commission, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**-MORE-**

## PAGE TWO / COCA – STELLALUNA

- WHEN:**                   **Friday, Mar. 6** - 7:00 p.m.  
                                 **Saturday, Mar. 7** - 11:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.  
                                 **Sunday, Mar. 8** - 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
- WHERE:**                   **COCA**, 524 Trinity Avenue, in the University City Loop, just off Delmar
- COST:**                    Tickets are \$14 and \$18 and are available through MetroTix (314.534.1111 or [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com)) and the COCA Box Office (314.725.1834 x124).
- PHOTOS:**                **High-resolution photos** are available upon request by contacting Lori Otta at [lotta@COCAstl.org](mailto:lotta@COCAstl.org) or calling 314.725.1834 x137.

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Founded in 1986, COCA is a multidisciplinary community arts center that provides exceptional arts education through programs, performances and exhibitions. Programs include the COCA Family Theatre Series, presenting nationally recognized artists in its 400-seat theatre; educational classes, camps, and workshops in dance, music, drama, and visual arts for all ages; and contemporary art exhibits in the Millstone Gallery. COCA's award-winning outreach program, Urban Arts, provides free arts education to low-income students throughout St. Louis. For more information about COCA, please visit [www.COCAstl.org](http://www.COCAstl.org).

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