



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2016

Beth McClure, Director of Marketing and Communications
bmcclure@cocastl.org, 314.561.4868



COCA Presents 2015-2016 *Continuing the Legacy* February 5-6, 2016

(ST. LOUIS, MO) – See, hear and feel the journey of African Americans through *Continuing the Legacy*. This incredibly moving performance uses dance, music and vivid photography as vehicles to take audience members on a powerful journey through black history – from slavery to the jazz era, through the civil rights movement, to modern times. Conceived and directed by COCA Alumnus Christopher Page-Sanders*, *Continuing the Legacy* evolves each year to incorporate current events and help audience members see, hear and feel the story of African Americans throughout history.

Immediately after both performances, all audience members are invited to stay for “Continuing the Conversation,” a panel discussion on art as a means to build, enrich and even heal communities, featuring Page-Sanders and local artists and leaders. Following the panel on Friday, February 5, there will be a brief reception. Participation is voluntary, and there is no additional charge.

Panelists

- Moderator: Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Co-Artistic Director of Dance, COCA
- Christopher Page-Sanders, Creator, *Continuing the Legacy*; Member, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble
- Heather Himes, Dancer/Choreographer, St. Louis Black Rep
- Sheila Little-Forrest, President, Afro World Hair and Fashion Co., Former COCA Board Member
- Jeff Forrest, Acting Dean, Business and Human Development, St. Louis Community College; Senior Pastor, Blessed Hope Bible Church
- Roseann Weiss, Director of Artist and Community Initiatives, Regional Arts Commission

COCA Presents is made possible by Wells Fargo Advisors. Express Scripts is the presenting sponsor of *Continuing the Legacy*, and additional support is provided by Aetna, Dentons, Regions Bank, McCormack Baron Salazar, Roanoke Construction Inc., and Rosenblum Goldenhersh.

WHAT: COCA Presents 2015-2016: *Continuing the Legacy*

WHERE: Founders’ Theatre at COCA, 524 Trinity Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130

WHEN: Friday, February 5, 2016 at 7:00pm; Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 5:00pm

PRICES: \$14-\$18 at www.cocastl.org, by phone at 314.561.4877, or in person at COCA Box Office.

COMING UP: Adventure Theatre’s *Three Little Birds* (February 20-21, 2016); Presentation House’s *Where the Wild Things Are* (April 7-10, 2016)

PHOTOS: High-resolution photos available at: <http://www.cocastl.org/about/media-resources/>

***CHRISTOPHER PAGE-SANDERS:**

Christopher Page-Sanders received his training from COCA and the Conservatory of Music & Dance at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. He is currently in his sixth season as a member of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble in Denver, Colorado. Christopher has performed with Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance

Company, Owen/Cox Dance Group and the Madison-Cannon Project. He is the resident choreographer for COCA's Summer Musical and has also choreographed for the Cleo Parker Robinson Youth Ensemble, East Central College, That Uppity Theatre Co., the UMKC Musical Theatre & Opera Department, COCA dance, the Slaughter Project and the Madison-Cannon Project. Local theatrical credits include work with the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, Stages St. Louis and The Muny.

**ABOUT COCA
PRESENTS:**

COCA Presents is COCA's performance series featuring the quality family theatre for which COCA has been known for more than 20 years. Comprised of shows created and produced by COCA, as well as the best touring productions from around the world, the COCA Presents performance series offers bold, cross-disciplinary performances. COCA Presents 2015-2016 is made possible by Wells Fargo Advisors, with additional support provided by the Whitaker Foundation, Mary Strauss, Aetna, The Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council, The Cheshire St. Louis, St. Louis Public Radio, Arts & Education Council and Regional Arts Commission.

###

About COCA

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals — all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. To ensure diversity and inclusion in all of our programs, we are committed to eliminating economic and social barriers to participation in the arts.