



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COCA Presents 2016-2017 *The Ugly Duckling* October 22-23, 2016

(ST. LOUIS, MO) – New Orleans-based Lightwire Theater brings a classic tale to the modern stage in an unforgettable theatrical experience. Lined with electroluminescent wire, the beloved story of *The Ugly Duckling* plays out on stage through a cutting-edge blend of full-body puppetry, technology and dance. With dazzling visuals, poignant choreography and the creative use of music ranging from classical to pop, this production brings this story into a new and brilliant light.

COCA Presents is made possible by Wells Fargo Advisors.

- WHAT:** COCA Presents 2016-2017: *The Ugly Duckling*
- WHERE:** Founders' Theatre at COCA, 524 Trinity Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- PRICES:** \$14-\$18 at www.cocastl.org, by phone at 314.561.4877, or in person at COCA's Box Office. Subscription packages (Pick 3 or Take All 6) are currently on sale. Subscribe in person at COCA during box office hours, by phone at 314.561.4877 or online at www.cocastl.org/subscribe.
- COMING UP:** COCA's Ballet Eclectica's *The Little Dancer J'Adore Paris* (December 9-11, 2016); COCA Dance & The COCA Hip-Hop Crew's *Momentum* (January 28-29, 2017); Kennedy Center on Tour's *Elephant and Piggie: We are in a Play* (February 25-26, 2017); COCA Premiere of *Uptown* (April 7-9, 2017); Disney's *Beauty & the Beast* (July 21-23, 2017)
- PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos available at: <http://www.cocastl.org/about/media-resources/>

ABOUT LIGHTWIRE THEATRE:

Ian and Eleanor Carney were both born and raised in New Orleans and met at the age of 13, through ballet class. Their successful dancing careers took them to New York, and it was on Broadway when Ian met co-creator, Corbin Popp, while dancing in Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out*. An immediate connection was made between the kindred spirits as they discovered their mutual love of art, theater and technology. After coming across a product called, "EL wire," the lights turned on and the possibilities seemed endless. Together, with their wives Eleanor and Whitney, they began to experiment with shapes and designs to develop puppetry-based neon creatures that quickly came to life.

After years of engineering and development, they initially founded CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance. Although New York offered many opportunities, Ian and Eleanor wanted to return to New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit their hometown. With the hopes of helping to rebuild

their city, they were joined by Corbin and Whitney Popp and eventually founded Lightwire Theater.

Since then, they have become internationally recognized for their signature brand of electroluminescent artistry, poignant storytelling and music scores designed to evoke imagery. Lightwire Theater continues to create and deliver innovative theatrical experiences to audiences worldwide based out of New Orleans, LA.

**ABOUT COCA
PRESENTS:**

COCA Presents is COCA's performance series featuring the quality family theatre for which COCA has been known for nearly 30 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 2016-2017 is made possible by Wells Fargo Advisors, with additional support provided by Mary Strauss, Aetna, Emerson, 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.

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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.