



Dance Showcase

FRI, MAY 20 | 7:00PM
SAT, MAY 21 | 3:00PM

Artistic Directors' Note

Dear COCA Community,

After a year of challenge and transition, art has persevered and led the way. Art has guided us to a re-emergence that centers our commitment to developing new talent while elevating the work of the artistic professionals who call COCA home. This season you will find a carefully curated selection of thought-provoking work for the St. Louis community. Through a showcase of partnerships, national artists, and student-work, this season brings us back with a combination of traditional audience favorites and innovative new work for theatre and dance lovers across the region. We invite you to re-emerge with us and celebrate what makes our artistic community unique and vital to our region.

Sincerely,



Kirven Douthit-Boyd
Co-Artistic Director
of Dance



Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Co-Artistic Director
of Dance



Jennifer Wintzer
Artistic Director
of Theatre

Creative Team

Co-Artistic Director of Dance
Antonio Douthit-Boyd

Co-Artistic Director of Dance
Kirven Douthit-Boyd

Artistic Director of Hip-Hop Crew
Anthony "Redd" Williams

**Pre-Professional Division
Dance Rehearsal Directors**
Carrie Fernandez
Sam Gaitsch

Ashley Hamann
Mariko Kumanomido
Jasmine Spencer
Jennifer Welch-Cudnik

Costume Designer
Shevaré Perry

Lighting Designer
Jayson Lawshee

Production Team

Stage Manager
Caroline Jones

Technical Director
Jayson Lawshee

Technical Director
Justin Foster

Costume Manager
Shevaré Perry

Costume Fellow
Cody Floyd

Sound Operator
Justin Foster

Artistic Team

Artistic Director of Theatre
Jennifer Wintzer

Co-Artistic Director of Dance
Antonio Douthit-Boyd

Co-Artistic Director of Dance
Kirven Douthit-Boyd

Artistic Producer
Delaney Piggins

Technical Director
Jayson Lawshee

Costume Manager
Shevaré Perry

Production Manager
Carolyn Carter

Costume Fellow
Cody Floyd

**Pre-Professional Division &
Dance Program Manager**
Sam Gaitsch

Musical Numbers

Embrace the Awkward

Choreographer: Sam Gaitsch

Music: "Lite Spots"

Artist: Kaytranada

Cast: COCA dance Second Company Members

AJ Bentley, Harper Clark, Kamiyah Jones, Alexa (Lexie) Kummant, Tallulah Lyons-Jahn, Sanara Maasera, Brooklyn Mercer, Declan Ryan, Brie Shelley-Piccinini, and Fiona Van Allen

Untitled

Choreographer: Darryl Matthews

Music: "Dump It"

Artist: DJ Taj featuring JDub

Cast: Marley Gill, Harper Hu, Ellis Kraft, and Vivienne Zinselmeyer

Sparkling Diamonds

Choreographer: Elise Kulik

Music: "Sparkling Diamonds"

Artist: Nicole Kidman, Jim Boardbent, Lara Mulcahy, Caroline O'Connor, Natalie Mendoza

Cast: Laurel Burditt, Audrey Bushlack, Ella Harrold, Rachel Howard, Ella Miller-Ruddy, and Katie Passer

Tarantella

Choreographer: Norma Gabriel

Music: Traditional Music & Dance of Southern Italy

Artist: Arranged & Performed by Josu Gallastegui

Cast: Maria Pesce, Zarah Vaughn, Isabelle Williams

Fresh Take

Choreographer: Arik Sexton

Music: "What's Next," "This Is How We Do It," and "Sunshine"

Artist: Drake, Montell Jordan, and Latto featuring Lil Wayne and Childish Gambino

Cast: Harper Clark, Isabelle Cox-Garleanu, Robyn Davies, Theodore Miller, Kate Niemeyer, Ella Orlowsky, Soledad Oyenard, Lea Shamsham, and Abbey Stokes

Bessame

Choreographer: Mariko Kumanomido

Music: "Filaou Bessame"

Artist: Amadou & Mariam

Cast: Laurel Burditt, Audrey Edson, Marley Gill, Ella Harrold, Rachel Howard

Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals

Choreographer: Carrie Fernandez, Ashley Hamann, Carly Vanderheyden

Music: "Carnival of the Animals"

Artist: Arthur Fiedler / The Boston Pops Orchestra

Poems by Showcase Students: Ogden Nash, Ella Miller-Ruddy, Mira Cudnik, Mary Ware, Rebecca Ware, Scarlett Bryan, Brie Shelley-Piccinini, and Zuzu Pye

Showcase Students Dancers: Athena Begay, Fiona Bell, Isabelle Braidwood, Scarlett Bryan, Andrea Castagna, Luna Cuddihee, Mira Cudnik, Molly DeVaney, Audrey Edson, Marley Gill, Jasmine Haynes, Ari Henke Cilenti, Isabella Karandish, Kristina Karandish Cate Kiso, Saoirse Krock, Zoe Larson, Elizabeth Lents, Jaidyn Madrid, Kylie Martin, Audrey McMillin, Ella Miller-Ruddy, Bella Milligan, Zuzu Pye, Claire Rooney, Scarlet Tipton, Mary Ware, Rebecca Ware, and Estelle Zhang

Ballet Eclectica Second Company Members: AJ Bentley, Elsa Cudnik, Dwight Erdmann, Maria Pesce, Declan Ryan, Brie Shelley-Piccinini, Zarah Vaughn, and Isabelle Williams

Ballet Eclectica First & Apprentice Company Members: Michelle Jing, Alexa (Lexie) Kummant, Tallulah Lyons-Jahn, Sasha Kaslow, Sasaha Keller, Sofia Shah, Sophie Yoshino, and Lauren Renner

The Videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Content Transparency

Special Effects

- Haze
- Flashing lights
- Strobe

This show is recommended for all ages.

Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgements help us honor a place's Indigenous people—past and present—and recognize the history that brought us to where we are today and the fact that our communities are in stolen lands. Here is COCA's Land Acknowledgement:

In alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion. COCA acknowledges its community spaces, studios, and theatre rest on the traditional lands of Native People, including the Illini Confederacy, Osage Nation and Missouria tribe. We acknowledge this land is stolen land and acquired through a history of violence. We honor these tribes now and the other tribes who made their homes in St. Louis before us. We encourage you to learn more about native communities and land where you live.

Support Organizations that work with Native American Communities in STL:

Missouri Humanities Native American Program
mohumanities.org/programs/native-american

Kansas City Indian Center
kcindiancenter.org

Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies
sites.wustl.edu/budercenter/overview

About COCA

COCA's mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves over 50,000 students, audience members, artists and families from over 220 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of over 200 artists at the heart of its work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.

Stay in Touch!



COCA Website: cocastl.org



Sign up for the COCA Newsletter:
cocastl.org/coca-newsletter



Facebook: facebook.com/COCastl



Twitter: [@COCastl](https://twitter.com/COCastl)



Instagram: [@COCastl](https://www.instagram.com/COCastl)



LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/cocastl

COCA Health & Safety Procedures

The health and safety of our COCA community is of the utmost importance. Face masks are highly recommended at COCA. We continually monitor current COVID-19 conditions in our region, and protocols are subject to change, as necessary, to address the conditions. For a full list of COCA's protocols and what patrons should expect, visit cocastl.org/our-campus/health-safety-procedures.

Special thanks to the following organizations and individuals for their assistance and support:

The New Jewish Theatre, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, The Black Rep, SATE,
Winter Opera St. Louis, REFAB



Roald Dahl's

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

JUL 22–24 | Ages 6+ | Tickets at cocoatl.org

Matilda Wormwood, a young girl with extraordinary powers, uses her love of reading and storytelling as an escape from her life with her neglectful and abusive parents. Matilda is sent off to school where she struggles under the reign of the school's cruel headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, who punishes children for not abiding by her strict rules. Matilda befriends her kind teacher, Miss Honey, who realizes Matilda's talents and encourages her to embrace her uniqueness. Matilda learns how to stand up to the adults in her life and discovers her own remarkable powers.

Presented by Mary Strauss



Find your place in the arts

2022–2023 class registration for members begins July 8
Visit cocalt.org for more information.

Summer Teen Intensives at COCA



Participants work with professional teaching artists, and meet and collaborate with other talented teens while building and refining skills.

Teen summer intensives are offered in:

Ballet & Contemporary

(Ages 14–21)

Ballet Studio, Jr.

(Ages 9–13)

Circus

(Ages 12–18)

Leadership

(Ages 14–18)

Tap

(Ages 11–18)

Theatre Design

(Ages 14–18)

Voice

(Ages 12–18)

Visit cocastl.org for more information.