

Improv Troupe Spring Performance



C O C A 21
presents 22

Directed by Ed Reggi

FRI, MAY 20 | 7:00PM

Capping off their season, COCA's Improv Troupe takes sketch and comedy to the next level in this final performance. After a year of honing their comedic chops under the direction of Ed Reggi, the Improv Troupe is sure to bring out all of the smiles and laughs. Enjoy an evening of fun with the whole family.

COCAPRESENTS SEASON IS MADE POSSIBLE BY



MARY RANKEN JORDAN
& ETTIE A. JORDAN
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MARY STRAUSS
LEE BOHM



COCA CORE SPONSORS



PERSHING CHARITABLE TRUST

THE SAIGH FOUNDATION

GERTRUDE & WILLIAM A.
BERNOUDY FOUNDATION

DULA-KOBUSCH
CHARITABLE TRUST

THE BELLWETHER
FOUNDATION

COCA PRE-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION SUPPORTERS



THE STRIVE FUND

TWINKLE TOES FOUNDATION

This project has been supported by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program.

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

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://instagram.com/COCastl)



LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/cocastl



COCA Health & Safety Procedures

Face masks are strongly recommended at COCA, not required. We highly encourage all patrons wear face masks, especially those who are unvaccinated and those who remain vulnerable to COVID-19. We continually monitor current COVID-19 conditions in our region, and protocols are subject to change, as necessary, to address the conditions.

Artistic Directors' Note

Dear COCA Community,

Welcome to the 2021–2022 COCApresents Season. 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 & Production Team

Director

Ed Reggi

Stage Manager

Cameron Tyler

Technical Director

Jayson Lawshee

Production Manager

Carolyn Carter

Costume Manager

Shevaré Perry

COCA 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

Production Manager

Carolyn Carter

Costume Manager

Shevaré Perry

Costume Fellow

Cody Floyd

**Pre-Professional Division and
Dance Program Manager**

Sam Gaitsch

**Pre-Professional Division
Support Service Coordinator**

Alisa Cooper

Cast

Senior Division

Parker Collier

Kennedy Jenkins

Elisha Johnson

Mikayla Jordan

Junior Division

Fiona Bell

Raina Bentley

Abby Loiterstein

Louis Mallon

Jarod Rhodes

Lena Williams

Company Students not featured in tonight's performance:

Jerron Higgins

D'Aura Tatum

Laila Varner

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 Missouri 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

<https://mohumanities.org/programs/native-american/>

Kansas City Indian Center

<https://kcindiancenter.org/>

Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

<https://sites.wustl.edu/budercenter/overview/>

CONTENT TRANSPARENCY

If at any point you are experiencing emotional distress or need a moment to pause, visit the "Pause Corner." It is located in the corner of the Dana Brown Children's Lounge (in the lobby next to the Washington Ave. entrance to COCA). There are pillows, blankets, books, coloring pages, tissues, and other supplies available for your comfort.

Creative, Artistic, & Production Biographies

Ed Reggi (Director) is a lifelong storyteller who has the stories to prove it. Growing up in the Big Apple, Ed first honed his acting career by sneaking into the NBC studios across his Brooklyn street home. He later earned his BFA at Fontbonne University and moved to Chicago where he continued his study at The Second City and then with its founder Paul Sills. Ed currently teaches acting and improvisation at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and at COCA. He is a proud Wolf Trap Teaching Artist with Wolf Trap Affiliate Springboard in St. Louis. Ed is a Certified Practitioner in Applied Improvisation and facilitates communication workshops. Ed ghostwrites for stand-up comedians, television hosts, and internet personalities. You can watch Ed (portraying himself) teaching improv on Oprah Winfrey's nationally syndicated TV show, *Welcome to Sweetie Pie's*. Ed's husband Scott is a social worker and they live in Downtown St. Louis with their dogs Oscar and Phoenix.

Jennifer Wintzer (Artistic Director of Theatre at COCA) oversees COCApresents and the COCA Pre-Professional Division training program for emerging theatre artists. Jennifer joined COCA's team from Shakespeare Festival St. Louis where she served as Director of Education/Associate Artistic Director. Under Jennifer's leadership, the Festival was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Missouri Arts Council, and FOCUS St. Louis, as well as St. Louis Theatre Circle nominations and awards, including best new play and scenic design. In 2018, as lead producer for the launch of the Festival's new works series, her producing work received four St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards with the regional premiere of *Into the Breeches!* by George Brant, including Best Production. Before relocating to St. Louis, Jennifer worked with Lincoln Center Theater, Second Stage Theatre, and MCC Theater. Jennifer is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania's Executive Program in Arts and Cultural Strategy. She earned an MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting at Shakespeare Theatre Company and George Washington University, and a BFA in Musical Theatre from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. She is a recipient of the Actor's Fund Scholarship for the Marymount Manhattan College Arts Ed Program. She is a proud member of AEA, a RAC CAT Fellow, and serves as adjunct faculty in the Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

Delaney Piggins (Artistic Producer & Playwright) is a St. Louis Theatre Artist. She received a BFA in Acting from The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre arts at Webster University. With COCA, Delaney is the producer and lead teaching artist of COCAwrites, which earned national recognition this season from ReImagine TYA a collaboration of TYA USA, The Kennedy Center, Children's Theatre Foundation of America, and Write Now. She also teaches playwriting and acting, as well as serving as the Artistic Producer on COCA's Artistic Team. She is a member of the 2021 Confluence Regional Writers Cohort at St. Louis Shakespeare Festival where her play *HOMES* premiered last month. Delaney's play *Burden of Proof* premiered at SATE in 2018 and was produced in November 2020 by Exit Left Theatre Company in Holland, Michigan. As an actor, Delaney has worked with St. Louis companies including The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis and The New Jewish Theatre. Delaney was also an Associate Producer on Shakespeare Festival's *Shakespeare in The Streets*. She is a member of AEA and Intimacy Director with St. Louis companies and Educational Institutions like The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University and St. Louis University.

Jayson M. Lawshee (Technical Director) is a St. Louis-based Production Director and Designer whose experiences includes Musical Theater, Opera, New Work, and Dance. He currently serves as the Technical Director at COCA in St. Louis, MO. An Alumni of The Sargent Conservatory of Theater Arts at Webster University, Jayson received a BFA in Lighting Design. Jayson has designed for Metro Theater Company and COCA, as well as Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Some lighting design credits include *Billy Elliot*, *wUNDERland*, *Four Little Girls* (COCA); *Last Stop on Market Street* and *Ghost* (Metro); and *Love at the River's Edge* (SFSTL). He has additionally served as the Assistant Lighting Designer on the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' production of *Pride and Prejudice*. He was the Lighting Programmer for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis' production *King Lear*. He was the first Electrics Intern at Wolf Trap Opera in Washington DC and served as Assistant Master Electrician at Opera Theater St. Louis. Jayson often refers to the tech table as his "home" and is passionate about making theater in all forms accessible to all people.

Creative, Artistic, & Production Biographies

Carolyn Carter (Production Manager) is overjoyed to be joining the staff here at COCA as the new Production Manager. She is so grateful to join this community and to be a part of the incredible work and teaching that happens here. She received a BFA in Stage Management from The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Some of her favorite credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *The Gradient* and Stage Manager for the Imaginary Theatre Company season at the Repertory Theatre St Louis, Stage Manager for *A Vengeance* and *Love at the Rivers Edge* at Shakespeare in The Streets, Stage Manager for *I Now Pronounce* at the New Jewish, and Production Coordinator for The Conservatory's 50th Anniversary.

Shevaré Perry (Costume Manager) is an artist, storyteller, poet, and fashion educator. She explores creative expression through the overlap of visual art, theater, and fashion. In 2021 Shevaré debuted, *She Is Her, I Am She*, as the inaugural artist for Saks Fifth Avenue Gallery and collaborated with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for their Saints Gala fundraiser. Over the last few years, her art has been featured at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and galleries in Chicago, New York, and London. She lives her life passion focused; a true example of, "Love what you do, do what you love." Shevaré received a B.S. in Fashion Design from Philadelphia University and attended graduate school in London, England. She has also completed the Community Artist Training and Teaching Artist Institute programs at the Regional Arts Commission.

Sam Gaitsch (Pre-Professional Division & Dance Program Manager & Choreographer) received her MFA in Dance from Washington University in St. Louis in 2018. She received her B.A. in Psychology and Dance, with a minor in Visual Art, magna cum laude from WashU in 2015. At COCA, she has been a member of the dance faculty and a rehearsal director/choreographer for the COCA dance 2nd Company for several years. She is thrilled to be the new Pre-Professional Division & Dance Program Manager. She has performed, taught and choreographed for various universities, dance and theatre companies around STL. Her choreography bridges the gap between professional concert dance and theatre, often using humor as a tool for social commentary. When she's not in the studio, she continues to pursue her passions for visual art, cooking, and gardening!

Cameron Tyler (Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of the artistic team on this incredible new work. Cameron works at COCA in my fascists, working as a fulltime registrar and working as a stage manager for the Improv Troupe. Cameron has been seen acting on stage as; Roger in *Grease* (Paul Bunyan Playhouse), Donkey in *Shrek* (Larry D. Clark Rep) and JoJo/Vernon in *Last Stop on Market Street* (Metro Theatre Company). Cameron is a Southeast Missouri Native growing up in the Jackson/Cape Girardeau area. He is a recent graduate from Missouri Baptist University where he received his Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre with a minor in Dance.



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 cocastl.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.



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT ACT!

Introducing the **NEW COCA Membership**—a new way to create, engage, and connect.

With special perks for joining, you'll be a part of a unique community passionate about arts, education and creativity.

Become a COCA Member today at cocastl.org/membership!

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Early access to register for classes and camps

Early access to purchase tickets

Preview events for exhibitions

Discounts on COCA merchandise

Behind-the-scenes tours

See the full list at
cocastl.org/membership



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

COCA wishes to thank this generous group of donors.



Richard Baron Leadership Circle

Hope & Kirill Abramov
Rhonda & Carlton Adams
Tina Anderson
Anonymous
Barbara & Steve Archer
Nancy Barnes-Ault & Ken Ault
Renee & Andrew Bell
Christina & Vince Bennett
Elizabeth Mannen Berges & James Berges
Amy Best
Marion Black
Lee Bohm
Ramsey & Mark Botterman
Joanne & Scot Boulton
Lisa & Greg Boyce
Tiffany & Bill Bradley
Kevin Twellman & Claudia Brodie
Chrissy & Lee Broughton
Betsy & Hunter Brown
Barbara Bryant
Julie & Bob Burmeister
Barb & Steve Burrows
David Butler & Lance Licht
Jennifer & Jonathan Campbell
Lisa Caplan & Shane Hieronymus
Lisa & Tom Carnahan
Amy Drummond & Bill Carson
Christy & Gian Cavallini
Mary & Bob Ciapciak
Peter Czajkowski & Juliet Chayat
Molly & Chris Danforth
John Davis
Pamela Dern
Hazel & Arnold Donald
Kay Drey
Kim & Tim Eberlein
David C. Farrell
Alison & John Ferring
Linda & Steve Finerty
Shereen & Michael Fischer
Beth Fisher & Amit Shah
Debbie & Art Fitzgerald
Gretta Forrester
Lotta & Jeff Fox
Merle Fox
Marilyn & Ambassador Sam Fox
Wendy & Mark Gellman
Nancy & Michael Georgen
Sue & Norm Gilbert
Erica & Edward Glanz
Gregory Glore
Carolyn Gold
Stacey Goldman & Tim Greenwald
Abby & Michael Goldstein
Susan & Robert Goldstein
Barbara B. Goodman
Diedre & Michael Gray
Nancy & Randy Green
Sharon & Marc Gunter, MD
Patricia & Kit Heffern
Signa & Bob Hermann, Jr.
Lauren Herring & Ted Disabato
Jennifer & Tom Hillman
Cheri Hoffman
Pam & Ben Holman
Cheryl Holman

Patti & Bart Holtzman
Suzanne & Thomas Hough
Linda & Jesse Hunter
Suzanne & Jim Johnson
Kristin & P.K. Johnson
Sally Johnston
David Joyner & Bill Lawton
Karen & Raymond Kalinowski
Karen Kalish
Peggy & Lee Kaplan
Lauren Weissman Kerner & Kyle Kerner
Pauline Kim & Philip Lee
Janet Knight
Beverly & Steve N. Knight
Karen & Larry Kotner
Beth Kovaly Willis
Sarah Kramer
Nancy & Ken Kranzberg
Kim Kuehner
Kate & Mike Kupstas
Gail & Carl Lang
Amy Lefton
Sally & Ned Lemkemeier
Mont & Karen Levy
Sheila Little-Forrest & Jeff Forrest
Laurie & Sean Lock
Kathy Manganaro
Kelly & Kory Mathews
Sharon Buchanan-McClure & Richard McClure
Anne & Kevin McCormack
Melissa & Rob Merlin
Terese Messman
Colleen & Robert Millstone
Becky & Tom Minogue
Gwen & Steven Mizell
Sandra & Eric Moore
Anne & David Morgan
Laura & Cameron Murray
Noemi & Michael Neidorff
Elizabeth & Richard Nix, Jr.
Heidi & Kenneth Olliff
Lynne & Brooks Parriott
Jane & Dave Peacock
Penny Pennington & Mike Fidler
Kelly & Mitch Pollock
Kanika Pandey & Shrikant Ramachandran
Stephanie & Anthony Randall
Sue & Joe Rechter
Dana & Ron Redwing
Jeana & Buddy Reisinger
Lisa & Andy Remack
Stephanie Riven & Roger Goldman
Susie & Jonathan Sachs
Dana & Barry Sandweiss
Stephanie & Mark Schnuck
Mary Schoolman
Susan & Michael Scully
Glenda & Jim Seldin
Rachel & Jermal Seward
Terry Moore Shepley
Wendi & Shannon Sock
Amy Soper
Carol & Michael Staenberg
Marilyn & Ken Steinback
Jarona & Bill Stevens
Mary & Thomas Stillman
Mary Strauss

Donald M. Suggs
Susan & Greg Sullivan
Caryl Sunshine
Richard & Eliot Tao
Jaime & Brian Thomas
Patti & Holden Thorp
Sherri & James Tichenor
Sarah H. Trulaske
Kathleen & Kent Turner
Lisa & Andrew Tuteur
Susan & Peter Tuteur
Christy Beckmann & Jim Vykopal
Ellen & John Wallace
Josephine & Richard Weil
Laurie Garland & Michael Weisman
Peter & Linda Werner
Susan & Joe Werner II
W. Jack Wichmann*
Susie & Stuart Zimmerman

COCA Members

Keenan Adams
Catherine Augustin & Michael Maskus
Maggie & AJ Barton
Liz Beeks
Camille Bianco
Ruth & Les Block
Katherine Borders
Erica & Ryan Bouchard
Hilary Brich
Margret Brooks
Chris Cardinal
Ebony & Dedric Carter
Rasheen Coleman
Jessica & Daniel Davenport
Ann & Keith Fischer
Jessica & Robert Fischer
Ashley & Andrew Foell
John C. E. Gaskin, III
Webster Heffern
Sally & Adam Hendin
Abigail & Max Hillman
Devyani & Mitchell Hunt
Latisha Love-Gregory
Phyllis Maritz
Chris & Maura Martin
Shabnam Nouraie & Kevin Wientge
Jyoti Parwatikar & John DeHart
Tamyka Perine
Adrienne & David Piston
Kristin Pollak
Elise Pursley
Callie & Andrew Rapp
Robert Ricklefs & Susanne Renner
Lori Lea Shelley
Mariah Small
Laura & Jen Sparks-Boyce
Justin & Tedd Trabert
Katie & Kurtis Van Allen
Ian VanDam
Ranie & Doug Verby
Andrew Viragh
Roxann Williams
Adam Wilson
Ricky Nix & Doug Woods
Heather Woolfer