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THE LITTLE DANCER RETURNS TO COCA

*Pre-Professional Division Dancers Perform Work of Renowned Choreographer Kevin Jenkins
in Brand New, Reimagined Ballet*

ST. LOUIS (November 29, 2022)—This December, [COCA](#) brings *The Little Dancer*, a beloved holiday tradition, back to the stage as a full-length ballet. Reimagined as [The Little Dancer: Moments in Time](#) by Choreographer and Creative Director [Kevin Jenkins](#), this brand-new production was conceptualized using stories from COCA's young artists to put an innovative spin on the well-known classic.

The Little Dancer: Moments in Time will be performed by Ballet Eclectica, one of COCA's Pre-Professional Division student dance companies. Performances open Thursday, December 8, and run through Sunday, December 11, at COCA's Catherine B. Berges Theatre.

"*The Little Dancer* has always been a holiday treat for our community. This production continues that tradition while putting a new spin on the storyline and honoring the memories of why we love what we do as dancers and artists. Kevin Jenkins has unveiled precious memories and stories of the dancers to create a magical landscape of wonder and beauty," said Antonio Douthit-Boyd, Artistic Director of Dance at COCA. "Audiences of all ages will enjoy the music, the extraordinary set design and costumes, as well as the immense talent of the dancers. We invite the community to celebrate with us this holiday season and create memories that will last a lifetime."

The Little Dancer: Moments in Time features original sound, scenic design, and costume design. Paula Dreyer, classically trained contemporary composer and pianist, composed and performed the music; recorded by Clay Smith. Sung Ho Kim and Heather Woofert, Co-directors of Axi:Ome llc of St. Louis and Professors of Architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, have once again collaborated with COCA for the creative scenic design. Shevaré Perry, local artist and COCA Costume Manager, designed the costumes.

"Working with the team at COCA has been the highlight of my year. I have been supported to build a ballet that highlights dance in our current time while also being given the encouragement to do so," said Kevin Jenkins, *The Little Dancer: Moments in Time* Choreographer and Creative Director. "I am honored to pay homage to the tradition of *The Little Dancer* while also being allowed to innovate. My artistic collaborators are of the highest caliber, and I truly believe that what we have made is excellent. I couldn't be happier with this team and what we have accomplished."

Kevin Jenkins travels throughout the country choreographing for companies and productions, and his work has been praised as "riveting" by Dance Magazine. He has created works for State Street Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Big Muddy Dance, Western Ballet, Convergence Ballet, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami, Bellingham Repertory Dance, the School of Ballet Arizona, among others. His choreography has been performed on the Inside/Out Series at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and at West Wave Dance Festival in San Francisco.

Tickets are on sale at cocastl.org or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. Ticket prices range from \$25–\$30.

The Little Dancer: Moments in Time and the 2022–2023 COCApresents Season are proudly presented by Mary Strauss.

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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 more than 50,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 200 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 more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.

COCA HEALTH & SAFETY PROCEDURES

COCA continues to monitor current COVID-19 conditions in the St. Louis region, and protocols are subject to change, as necessary, to address the conditions. To review COCA's current Health & Safety Procedures, visit cocastl.org/our-campus/health-safety-procedures/.