December 8–11
Directed & Choreographed by Kevin Jenkins
PRESENTED BY MARY STRAUSS
Dear COCA Community,

Welcome to the 2022–2023 COCApresents Season. Reemergence was at the center of our season last year; and now, we are excited to welcome audiences back to explore the boundless talent and potential that is cultivated right here at COCA. Under the guidance of local and international creatives, our season showcases a collection of new work, reimagined COCA classics, and captivating stories that will challenge both our students and audiences alike. This year, we are honored to have several community partners—The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, The Black Rep, and The Big Muddy Dance Company—highlighting the work of professional artists and inspiring our students to follow their dreams. We invite you to immerse yourself in our season of boundless creativity and the unique and vital artistic community that is nurtured and molded at COCA.

Sincerely,

Orlando Graves Bolaños
Senior Director of Arts Programming

Kirven Douthit-Boyd
Associate Director of Dance Production

Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Artistic Director of Dance

Jennifer Wintzer
Artistic Director of Theatre
Thank you to our generous supporters of The Little Dancer: Moments in Time for making this show possible

The Little Dancer, a beloved COCA holiday tradition, has been reimagined as The Little Dancer: Moments in Time, a full-length classical ballet performed by members of Ballet Eclectica. This brand-new production was conceptualized using stories from COCA’s young artists to put an innovative spin on the well-known classic. Renowned choreographer Kevin Jenkins serves as Creative Director for The Little Dancer: Moments in Time.

ALL AGES | Runtime: 1 hour

COCAPRESENTS SEASON MADE POSSIBLE BY

Mary Strauss
Presenting Sponsor

COCAPRESENTS SUPPORTERS

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Land Acknowledgements

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.

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
Facebook: facebook.com/COCAsl
Twitter: @COCAsl

COCA Health & Safety Procedures

COCA’s Health & Safety Procedures for theatre productions and public events are continually reviewed to ensure all protocols are in accordance with the latest public health recommendations.

Face masks are strongly recommended at COCA, not required. We highly recommend that all patrons wear face masks, especially those who are unvaccinated and those who remain vulnerable to COVID-19.
Artistic Team

Senior Director of Arts Programming
Artistic Director of Dance
Associate Director of Dance Production
Artistic Director of Hip-Hop Crew
Artistic Director of Theatre
Artistic Producer
Technical Director
Production Manager
Costume Manager
Costume Assistant
Dance & Pre-Professional Division Program Manager
Student Success Coordinator
Artistic Intern

Orlando Graves Bolaños
Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Kirven Douthit-Boyd
MJ Imani Johnson
Jennifer Wintzer
Cameron Tyler
Jayson Lawshee
Carolyn Carter
Shevaré Perry
Cody Floyd
Sam Gaitsch
Alisa Cooper
Raevyn Ferguson

Creative Team

Director/Choreographer
Producer
Costume Designer
Dramaturg
Lighting Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Scenic Designers
Sound Designer
Composer

Kevin Jenkins
Cameron Tyler
Shevaré Perry
Jamie McKittrick
Jayson Lawshee
Jonathan Scully
Sung Ho Kim
Heather Woofter
Clay Smith
Paula Dreyer
Production Team

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Technical Director/Head Carpenter/Deck Crew
Repetiteur
Sound Board Operator
Follow Spot Operator
Carpenter
Carpenter
Carpenter
Charge Artist
Costume Assistant
Costume Crew
Rehearsal Assistant
Rehearsal Assistant
Rehearsal Assistant
Rehearsal Intern

Carolyn Carter
Kentrell Jamison
Becca Sadler
Trisha Carter
Justin Foster
William Unk
Caleb Long
Sean Seifert
Zak Metalsky
Alexis Pearson
Cody Floyd
Breonna Williams
Jennifer Welch Cudnik
Carrie Fernandez
Ashley Hamann
Hallie Stein

Company Directors & Assistants

Rehearsal Assistant Ballet
Eclectica 1st/App Company
Rehearsal Assistant Ballet
Eclectica 2nd Company
Rehearsal Assistant Ballet
Eclectica 2nd Company
Rehearsal Assistant COCAdance
Rehearsal Assistant COCAdance
Rehearsal Assistant Hip-Hop Crew
Co-Director of Vocal Company
Co-Director of Vocal Company
Director of Improv Troupe

Jennifer Welch Cudnik
Carrie Fernandez
Ashley Hamann
Sam Gaitsch
Mariko Kumanomido
Arik Sexton
Alicia Revé Like
Jermaine Manor
Ed Reggi
Little Dancers

Noa Dean
JiaLi Deck
Ashlee Holloway
Jada Folarin-Hines

Eliana Wade
AJ Bentley
Scarlett Tipton

First Company
Kate Waters
Isabelle Gerardo
Michelle Jing
Lexie Kummant
Tallulah Lyons-Jahn
Sofia Shah
Jaida Smith

Second Company
Fiona Bell
Isabelle Braidwood
Elsa Cudnik
Audrey Edson
Dwight Erdmann
Chloe Lee
Jaidyn Madrid
Audrey McMillin
Bella Milligan
Declan Ryan
Zarah Vaughn
Isabelle Williams

Apprentice Company
Cate Kiso
Kylie Martin
Maria Pesce
Check out *The Little Dancer: Moments in Time* blog post to learn more behind the scenes info about the show!

Thank you to our scenic design partners for helping make *The Little Dancer: Moments in Time* possible.

Axi:Ome, Inc.
ARCHITECTURE | URBANISM | LANDSCAPE | DESIGN

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts
Creative Team Biographies

Director and Choreographer–Kevin Jenkins
Dance Magazine has praised Kevin’s work as “riveting,” and he travels throughout the country choreographing for State Street Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, San Diego Dance Theater, the School of Ballet Arizona, SUNY Purchase, CPYB, Island Moving Company, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami, The Big Muddy Dance Company, among others. He has served on faculty at Boston Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet School, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, the University of San Diego, and Master Ballet Academy.

His choreography has been performed on the Inside/Out Series at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, and he has been awarded residencies with Djerassi and the National Choreographers Initiative. Kevin trained in San Diego under Dave Mullen, Kathy Meyer, Teresa Wells, Erik Saradpon, Kevin Patterson, and Ahita Ardalan. His diverse training led to working with a variety of companies, including Mirable Ballet, Butterworth Dance Company, and San Diego Dance Theater, and in productions of Guys and Dolls and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Outside the concert dance realm, he appeared in commercials for Allstate Insurance, Latinva Fitness, and Verizon Wireless, danced backup in Las Vegas for the band NRG, and performed in ballroom productions with Mary Murphy. Stepping away from performing in 2006 he founded Garage Contemporary Ballet with Ryan Orion Beck and served as co-artistic director through 2012. The company was featured in festivals such as 4×4, Breaking Ground, Ignite, Celebrate Dance Festival, and San Diego Young Choreographer’s Prize, while also presenting their own annual season. During this period his work in dance films won him three Editor’s Choice Awards from Dance and Pointe Magazine. His films went on to be featured in the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Greensboro Dance Film Festival, San Diego Asian Film Festival, and American Dance Festival.

Focusing on freelance choreography, Kevin moved to San Francisco where he choreographed for Western Ballet, Emote Dance Theatre, the Orchestra Institute of Napa Valley, and Bay Pointe Ballet. He began creating for Convergence Ballet, Terpsicore Dance Company, Southwest Classical Youth Ballet, and Darian Lane’s film At The Ballet. Kevin enjoyed a two-year tenure with Boston Ballet School. He now lives in San Diego while creating for companies and productions around the country. He choreographed and directed Gayle Skidmore’s Hourglass music video, worked under Jeremy Lapp at Musical Theatre Guild choreographing Minnie’s Boys, choreographed Natalie Bancroft’s 2019 European musical tour, and has created for dance companies and universities such as Ballet Dallas, Bellingham Repertory Dance, Columbia Repertory Ballet, Ketchikan Theatre Ballet, Muhlenberg College, Grossmont College, LITVAK Dance, Wanderlust Dance Project, Ballet 5:8, Belhaven University, and Columbia Ballet Collaborative.

Repetiteur–Trisha Carter
Trisha began her training in Maine with Bossov Ballet Theater and continued training abroad under the instruction of Alla Sizova, Dimitri Simkin, Irina Trofimova Golovkina,
Natalia Papinashvilli, and Vadim Pisarev, ultimately leading to her acceptance into the Vaganova School in St. Petersburg, Russia. She completed her schooling at the Harid Conservatory and Kirov Academy in the United States before joining Houston Ballet II and later Ballet Florida.

Trisha has performed with multiple companies and choreographers touring both locally and internationally: Houston Ballet, Ballet Florida, Cuban Classical Ballet, Miami Contemporary Dance Company, and Dance Now Miami. She was a founding member with Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami. Her classical repertoire includes soloist roles in Anna Karenina, Cinderella, Coppelia, Don Quixote, Giselle, La Bayadere, La Sylphide, Les Sylphides, Nutcracker, Paquita, Peer Gynt, Raymonda, Romeo & Juliet, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, and Talisman, as well as contemporary works by the likes of Gerald Arpino, Kevin Jenkins, Leonardo Reale, Paolo Mohovic, Tara Lee, Vicente Nebrada, and Yanis Pikeris, among others.

Trisha holds a B.B.A. in International Business & Trade and a B.S. in International Economics, which she uses to develop the performing arts. Her greatest off-stage achievement is founding Miami Dance Hub, the dance alliance organization for South Florida, where she served as Executive Director for three years. When not dancing on stage, Trisha works with her husband, Kevin Jenkins, as his repetiteur and performs with his company, Ballet Counterpoint.

**Production Manager & Stage Manager–Carolyn Carter**

Carolyn is overjoyed to be on staff here at COCA as the Production Manager. She is so grateful to be a part of this community and the incredible work and teaching that happens here. She graduated with a B.F.A. in Stage Management from The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Some of her favorite credits include Stage Manager for *Matilda The Musical*, Assistant Stage Manager for *The Gradient*, and Stage Manager for the Imaginary Theatre Company seasons at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Stage Manager for *Avengeance and Love at the River’s Edge* at Shakespeare in The Streets, Production Coordinator for The Conservatory’s 50th Anniversary, and new mom to baby Joy-Anna Ivy. She is grateful for her officemates in this time of great transition!

**Costume Designer–Shevaré Perry**

Shevaré is a costume designer, artist, poet, and fashion educator. She explores creative expression through the overlap of visual art, theatre, 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 holds a B.S. 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.
Scenic Designer–Sung Ho Kim
Sung Ho earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design and an AA Diploma from Architectural Association of London, UK, with Royal Institute of British Architects Part I and II. He also earned his Master of Science in Architecture Studies from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a project designer for Nasrine Seraji in Paris, France, and Wellington Reiter in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Currently, Sung Ho is a tenured full professor of architecture, engaged in research with biology and computer science, at Washington University in St. Louis, and received the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. He was a founding director of Axi:Ome llc of Providence, RI, in 2001, and has been co-director of Axi:Ome llc of St. Louis since 2003.

Scenic Designer–Heather Woofter
Heather is a tenured professor and director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design at Washington University in St. Louis, with more than 15 years of teaching experience. Before, she was a project architect for Bohlin Cywinski Jackson in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Marks Barfield in London, United Kingdom; and Robert Luchetti Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a registered architect in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Missouri and passed RIBA Parts I and II in the UK. Heather curated the exhibition Metabolic City—which featured works by the Japanese Metabolists, the architecture collaborative Archigram from Britain, and Dutch artist Constant—at the Kemper Art Museum in 2009–2010. Since 2003, Heather has been a founding director and owner of Axi:Ome llc of St. Louis with Sung Ho Kim. Their practice has received national and international design awards for architecture, master planning, and industrial design.

Lighting Designer–Jayson Lawshee
Jayson M. Lawshee is a Saint Louis-based Production Director and Designer whose experiences includes Musical Theater, Opera, New Work, and Dance. An Alumni of The Sargent Conservatory of Theater Arts at Webster University, Jayson holds a BFA in Lighting Design. Jayson has designed for Metro Theater Company and COCA, as well as St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. Some lighting design credits include Billy Elliot, wUNDERland, Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963 (COCA); Last Stop on Market Street and Ghost (Metro); and Love at the River’s Edge (STLSF). He has additionally served as the Assistant Lighting Designer on the Repertory Theater of Saint Louis’ production of Pride and Prejudice. He was the Lighting Programmer for Shakespeare Festival Saint Louis’ production King Lear, and the first Electrics Intern at Wolf Trap Opera in Washington DC. Jayson often refers to the tech table as his “home” and is passionate about making theater in all forms accessible to all people.

Dramaturg–Jamie McKittrick
Jamie is an interdisciplinary artist who works in theatre as a performer, devisor, director, choreographer, intimacy choreographer, somatic practitioner, and educator. Notable original work includes Sparkle- TA DAAA!!! (Critic’s Choice Award St. Louis Fringe Festival), SURVIVE! with Swim Pony Performance Arts (“Best of the Year” by Philadelphia Weekly),
and Lady M with Swim Pony Performance Arts (Curated by LiveArts Fest). She also helped develop and devise Enchantment Theatre Company’s productions of Scheherazade, The Velveteen Rabbit, Harold and the Purple Crayon, Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, and Ma mère l’Oye. Notable work as a director includes Gruesome Playground Injuries for Creative Inhabitor (Best of St. Louis Theatre), Wonderland: Alice’s Rock & Roll Adventure for Metro Theatre Company, Lysistrata for Webster University’s Conservatory, The Birds for UMSL, as an assistant director to Wendell Beavers for the world premiere production of The Siddhartha Project, and as an assistant director to Leslie Reidel for Stravinsky’s Firebird, and Sylvester and the Magic Pebble. Notable work as an actor includes the world premiere of Mac Wellman’s Anything’s Dream, Fefu and Her Friends with Theatre Nuevo, and Eric Coble’s new one woman play, The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus, for Metro Theater Company that toured for three months before it was streamed for TYAUSA for the duration of the 2020 digital conference. Notable work as a choreographer and movement director includes SURVIVE! and Lady M for Swim Pony Performance Arts, Purr, Pull, Reign for the Philly Fringe for Johnny Showcase and Lefty Lucy, Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates, Frida Libre, and Wonderland: Alice’s Rock & Roll Adventure for Metro Theater Company, and Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963 for COCA and The Black Rep. She’s been on faculty at Webster University Conservatory of the Arts, Lindenwood University, Muhlenberg College, and UMSL.

Sound Designer—Clay Smith
Clay picked up his first guitar at age eight after seeing The Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show, just like a million other kids. Unlike most of those kids, Clay grew his initial interest in music into a lifelong passion and career. By age ten, Clay had joined The Arsenal, his first band, and in middle school he rocked with The Odyssey. Clay studied classical guitar in college and traveled the Pacific Northwest performing with a variety of rock groups: Good Question, Pilot, CPR, Rod and Clay, and The Click, to name a few. While Clay enjoyed performing and always knew music would be integral to his life, he had yet to discover his true calling. The demand for Clay’s recording and producing skills, coupled with his love of the work, led him to officially create SoundSmith Studios. SoundSmith has now been in business and thriving for more than 20 years. In that time, the business continued to grow and expand, both in the physical space of the studio and in the variety of services offered. Clay’s deepest joy comes from collaborating with musicians and businesses to help them realize their creative aspirations.

Composer—Paula Dreyer
Paula Dreyer is a classically trained contemporary composer and pianist living in the Pacific Northwest who seeks to inspire, include, and connect individuals through music. She has created her own, unique sound—weaving a wide range of influences from the Romantic and Impressionistic eras, film composers, Spanish music, and solo improvisation albums from the masters. Listeners are transported through her music that is sophisticated yet intimate, melancholic yet hopeful, hauntingly melodic, and rhythmically alive.
Hip-Hop Crew Auditions
JAN 6 | 6–8PM | Ages 10–18 | Register at cocastl.org

Audition for COCA Hip-Hop Crew, one of COCA’s Pre-Professional Division student dance companies that provides training and performance opportunities in hip-hop & commercial dance.

2023 Regional Summer Intensive Auditions
JAN 13–15 | AGES 11+

Scan for RSIA registration & program information
March 24–26 | Ages 15+ | Tickets at cocastl.org

COCAwrites Festival headliner The Wolves chronicles six Saturday mornings in the lives of a girls’ high school indoor soccer team as they prepare for their games each week. The Wolves deal with love, loss, and identity in ways that real teenagers do. The adolescent team members, each identifiable and different, are depicted in one of the most absorbing and specific ways in the American Theatre. Pulitzer Prize finalist The Wolves is the debut play of playwright Sarah DeLappe. COCA’s Production of The Wolves is directed by Ashleigh Akilah Rucker.
Experience the immense talent and versatility of COCA’s three Pre-Professional Division dance companies—Ballet Eclectica, COCAdance, and COCA Hip-Hop Crew—in COCA’s annual spring repertoire, TRIumphant. The weekend features 18 works across three programs from distinguished choreographers, including Justin Conte, Nina Flagg, Tom Gold, Abdur Rahim Jackson, and Marcus Jarrell Willis.

TRIumphant marks the last opportunity to witness the artistry of COCA’s Pre-Professional Division 2023 graduating seniors. Join us Friday, May 5, for an evening of innovative works and your chance to hear from our graduates about their time at COCA and future plans.
With an infectiously unforgettable score from Stephen Schwartz, *Pippin* is the story of one young man’s journey to be extraordinary. Winner of four 2013 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, this updated circus-inspired version of *Pippin* captivates and appeals to the young at heart throughout the world. Heir to the Frankish throne, the young prince Pippin is in search of the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. He seeks it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh, and the intrigues of political power (after disposing of his father, King Charlemagne the Great). In the end, though, Pippin finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but rather in the unextraordinary moments that happen every day.
Summer Intensives

cocastl.org/summer-intensives

Advanced Arts Training for Ages 11–19

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:

- Art & Design
- Ballet & Contemporary
- Circus Leadership
- Theatre Design
- Voice
Find your place in the arts

Register today for Winter/Spring classes
Spring Break Arts Camps are Back

Get a jump start on summer at COCA! Join us over spring break for a week of unique and fun arts learning experiences from Summer Arts Camp favorites. Register for Spring Break Arts Camps today.

MAR 20–24 | Ages 5–10
COCA wishes to thank this generous group of donors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT