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## 2023–2024 COCAPRESENTS SEASON OPENS WITH *THE CARP WHO WOULD NOT QUIT AND OTHER ANIMAL STORIES*

*Traveling Production by Honolulu Theatre for Youth Brings to Life Traditional Fable Retellings from Japan and Okinawa for Young Audiences*

**ST. LOUIS (October 18, 2023)**—COCA’s 2023–2024 COCApresents Season opens with [\*The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories\*](#), a traveling production by Honolulu Theatre for Youth that brings to life traditional fable retellings from Japan and Okinawa to teach important lessons of persistence, respect, and kindness. Introducing live original music, language, and performance traditions from these cultures, this interactive performance is specifically developed for COCA’s youngest audiences, ages 3 to 5, and their families. The performances will be on Sunday, October 29 at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the Catherine B. Berges Theatre.

“At COCA, we believe that attending theatre is an important way to both inspire imagination and to build empathy and understanding. Introducing theatre for our youngest audiences into our COCApresents series is an exciting opportunity,” said Shawna Flanigan, COCA Artistic Director of Theatre. “We are so honored to be a part of young children’s first theatre going experience and share with them the work of this incredible company.”

Tickets may be purchased online at [cocastl.org](http://cocastl.org) or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. Ticket prices range from \$12–15.

Audience members are also invited to register for a 20-minute [Koi Puppet-Making Workshop](#) between performances at 1:45 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. COCA teaching artists will work with children, ages 3–9, on making and decorating a koi puppet to keep.

Founded in 1955, [Honolulu Theatre for Youth \(HTY\)](#) is one of the oldest and most respected children’s theatres in the country. HTY has served more than five million people through school and family performances and drama education programs. HTY believes that drama education and theatre are unique, socially based education, and art forms that help their participants and audiences walk in the shoes of others, allowing them to expand their imaginations, enrich their lives, and discover the infinite possibilities in the world.

The 2023–2024 COCApresents Season is proudly presented by Mary Strauss. Very Asian Foundation is a Promotional Partner for *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories*.

### 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 onsite at its campus in University City.

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