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## COCA ANNOUNCES 2024 SUMMER MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

*Lineup Features Mainstage Musical Production of [The Color Purple](#)  
and [Everybody's Talking About Jamie: Teen Edition](#)*

**ST. LOUIS (November 15, 2023)**—COCA is excited to announce [The Color Purple](#), a musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and the popular 1985 Steven Spielberg film, as its mainstage summer musical for 2024. Featuring a Grammy Award-winning score infused with jazz, ragtime, gospel, and African blues, this moving tale is a testament to the healing power of love, faith, resilience, and sisterhood.

*The Color Purple*, July 20–21, will celebrate 20 years of COCA summer musicals with a cast of current students and COCA alumni. The production will be directed by Duane Foster with music direction by Dr. Philip A. Woodmore and choreographed by Christopher Page-Sanders. COCA's annual Summer Musical, *The Color Purple*, is proudly presented by Mary Strauss.

“Over the past two decades, COCA Summer Musicals have been a source of inspiration, talent, and community. From the first read through to the final bow, these productions have showcased the immense creativity and dedication of our students, and we want to honor that legacy,” said Shawna Flanigan, COCA Artistic Director of Theatre. “To commemorate this special milestone, we're planning an incredible production of *The Color Purple* that will feature alumni and current students on stage together. On opening night, there will be a special alumni party so that our alumni have the opportunity to connect and celebrate with us.”

Additionally, COCA will present the teen edition of [Everybody's Talking About Jamie](#), a musical with high-energy production numbers and a message of self-discovery, resilience, and acceptance, August 2–3. Jamie, a 16-year-old who doesn't quite fit in, dreams of becoming a drag queen. Supported by his loving mother and close friends, Jamie overcomes discrimination and bullying to step out of the darkness and into the spotlight. COCA's talented teens will be some of the first to perform this sensational story that is sure to warm the hearts of audience members.

Tickets for *The Color Purple* are on sale now at [cocastl.org](http://cocastl.org) or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. Tickets for *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* will go on sale in June 2024.

*The Color Purple* and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* are recommended for ages 13 and up.

### 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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