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MOTHER RETURNS TO COCA FOR A SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY PERFORMANCE

Celebrate the Power of a Mother's Love this Mother's Day

ST. LOUIS (April 17, 2024)—Kirven Douthit-Boyd's original new work, *MOTHeR*, will return to COCA for a special Mother's Day performance on Sunday, May 12, at 3:00 p.m. *MOTHeR* celebrates and honors all mothers everywhere with this moving story about the power of motherhood. Performed by a cast of 18 students in COCAdance, COCA's Pre-Professional Division modern and contemporary dance company, and one professional artist, *MOTHeR* tells the story of five mothers and their influence on their families.

"I am looking forward to remounting this very special work. Over the next few weeks, I will spend time making some adjustments to the movement to better serve the story, and I am excited to collaborate with new creatives to enhance the aesthetic," said Kirven Douthit-Boyd, *MOTHeR* Choreographer, COCA Associate Director of Dance, and Artistic Director of COCAdance. "The students are eager to revisit the work, and I am so proud to have another opportunity to share the piece with our community."

MOTHeR centers on a family who uses the power of dance to elevate their existence. Mother and her four sisters serve as protectors of their family, orchestrating movement of the natural world to transport them to sovereignty. They are magical agents of change who use their individual and collective powers to lead their family on a journey that is both worldly and ethereal. This production encompasses alchemy, robust original sound, vibrant imagery inspired by the cultural aesthetic of Afrofuturism, and movement vocabulary that blends cultural and contemporary dance, to tell the story of five women who will stop at nothing to protect the prosperity of their children.

The Creative Team for *MOTHeR* includes well-known St. Louis creatives: Axi:Ome (scenic design), Lamar Harris (original music composition), Brandin Vaughn (costumes), Maureen Berry (lighting), and Kareem Deanes (projections).

Tickets may be purchased online at cocastl.org or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. Ticket prices range from \$26–30. Audience members are also invited to make Mother's Day memorable with a special brunch before the performance. [Tickets for the MOTHeR's Day Brunch & Performance](#) are available for \$75 per person.

The 2023–2024 COCApresents Season is proudly presented by Mary Strauss with supporting sponsor Mercy. Additional support of *MOTHeR* provided by Caryl Sunshine.

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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