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COCA PRE-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION STUDENTS PERFORM SEASON-CULMINATING REPERTOIRE THIS MONTH

Performances Showcase Talent of Dance, Theatre, & Voice Pre-Professional Division Students

ST. LOUIS (May 3, 2024)—This month, COCA’s Pre-Professional Division dance, theatre, and voice students will conclude their seasons with performances showcasing their talent, variety, and versatility. Young artists in COCA’s dance companies, Ballet Eclectica and COCADance, are united as they present choreographic works by world-renowned artists for [Triumphant](#), May 9–11. Kirven Douthit-Boyd’s new work, [MOTheR](#), returns for a special Mother’s Day performance to celebrate and honor motherhood on May 12. The following weekend, Allegro Vocal Company performs their end of season music spectacular, [Harmonious](#), May 17 & 18, and audiences can participate in the fun for COCA Improv Troupe’s performances of [COCA Improv Troupe: COCA Ignites!](#), May 19.

“The immense talent of COCA’s Pre-Professional Division young artists will captivate audiences for four season-culminating performances this month,” said Dr. Philip A. Woodmore, COCA Artistic Director of Voice. “The productions offer a glimpse into the advanced training, hard work, and dedication needed to pursue their passion for the arts.”

Triumphant highlights the versatility of our young artists as they present 12 dance works across three unique programs and COCA’s graduating seniors grace the stage one last time. Throughout the year, dance students participated in creative development residencies with distinguished guest artists, including Justin Conte, Tom Gold, My’Kal Stromile, and Omari Wiles. Each guest artist mounted new work specifically for COCA dancers to be performed during *Triumphant*.

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. 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.

Highlighting COCA’s top voices in Allegro Vocal Company, *Harmonious* focuses on different genres of music to celebrate a broad range of prominent musical styles spanning the past century. *Harmonious* celebrates the great music of Stephen Sondheim with a few of his well-known classics along with some of Dr. Phil’s favorite pop songs such as Toto’s “Africa.”

COCA Improv Troupe: COCA Ignites! offers a fun, interactive performance by the company members in COCA’s Improv Troupe. Performers practice long-form and short-form improvisation, sketch comedy, and activities that involve audience participation. Using prompts, games and thematic music, audiences will help to create the characters, settings and stories that drive these performances.

Tickets may be purchased at cocastl.org or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873.

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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