



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COCA PRESENTS NEW ADAPTATION OF *THE NUTCRACKER***

*Performances to Feature Guest Artists from Dance Theatre of Harlem & COCA Young Performers*

**ST. LOUIS (November 14, 2024)**—This holiday season, COCA will present its first-ever production of [The Nutcracker](#) with an exciting adaptation of the holiday classic that follows the lead characters on a journey through historical St. Louis landmarks. *The Nutcracker* is choreographed by guest artist Tom Gold, a former soloist with the New York City Ballet and is set to the original score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Performances are Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

In this production, Ballet Eclectica, COCA's Pre-Professional Division classical and contemporary ballet company, and COCA young ballet dancers ages 6–18 will perform alongside two professional dancers from New York City's Dance Theatre of Harlem, Carly Greene and David Wright, and COCA alumna JiaLi Deck, who is currently a freshman at Barnard College studying dance and sociology.

“Our pre-professional ballet company and students of COCA will take the stage with our incredibly talented guest artists to bring this story to life,” said Antonio Douthit-Boyd, COCA's Artistic Director of Dance. “This production showcases COCA's commitment to preparing young artists to discover and achieve more than they've ever imagined as well as the continued growth of our Dance Program.”

This version of the story of *The Nutcracker* is based on the E.T.A. Hoffmann story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* but is set in 1920s St. Louis and features landmarks throughout.

Tickets to *The Nutcracker* are \$31 and may be purchased at [cocastl.org](http://cocastl.org) or by contacting the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. The performance is recommended for ages four and older.

Audiences are also invited to participate in caroling with COCA's Allegro Vocal Company on Friday, December 13 at 6:15 p.m. and Saturday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m., and join for Afternoon Nutcracker Tea with variety of sweet and savory treats on Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Tickets for the Afternoon Nutcracker Tea are \$25 and may be purchased at [cocastl.org](http://cocastl.org).

The 2024–2025 COCApresents Season is presented by Leading Sponsors Amy, Sadie, and Sacha Lefton. *The Nutcracker* is presented by Leading Sponsor Mercy and Supporting Show Sponsors The Strive Fund and an anonymous donor with additional support from Beth Fisher and Amit Shah. Afternoon Nutcracker Tea is sponsored by Alison and John Ferring.

### **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 60,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 250 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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