

COCA SUMMER
MUSICALS
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COCAPRESENTS SEASON LEADING SPONSORS AMY, SADIE, & SACHA LEFTON

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# Tell us about your COCA experience!



Your feedback helps us continue to improve our productions and processes. We would greatly appreciate if you would fill out this survey and let us know how we did. **The survey will close on August 3.** Thank you for your support!

# **Artistic Directors' Note**

### Dear COCA Community,

Welcome to COCApresents! Under the quidance of local and international creatives, our season showcases new work and fresh, imaginative stories that challenge both our Pre-Professional Division performers and COCA audiences to better understand each other and the world around them. From work premiere performances to unique selected repertoire, and an innovative take on a holiday classic, we couldn't be more excited about the productions that we have selected for our season. The vibrant work that we are creating for the COCA stage includes the world premiere of Kaleidoscope Crown, a new play by Ashleigh Akilah Rucker rooted in family and tradition. Our Pre-Professional Division performers demonstrate their talent and versatility in Verve, a dance performance featuring the works of internationally renowned quest artists, and Harmonious, a musical spectacular focusing on the horror musical genre. To conclude the season, we present two musicals, Hadestown: Teen Edition and Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella, in rotating rep over the course of one weekend. Our Summer Rep productions feature musical theatre experiences for audiences of all ages with a classical musical for families and a contemporary folk opera. We believe the arts are for everyone, and our lineup offers something special for each age group and performing arts discipline. This year, we are again honored to have several phenomenal arts partners—Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, The Black Rep, and Saint Louis Dance Theatre. These partners and their professional productions enhance the work that we do at COCA, serve to further engage and inspire our students, and bring artistic excellence to the COCA stage.

#### Sincerely,





Shawna Flanigan Senior Director of Artistic Strategy & Programs



Contino Dans - Bayo





Kirven Douthit-Boyd Associate Director of Dance



Will Bonfiglio
Artistic Director of Theatre



Dr. Philip A. Woodmore Artistic Director of Voice

# **Credits & Sponsors**

### **About COCA**

COCA's mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts. As an innovative model for arts education and nationally accredited for artistic and educational excellence, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages and skill levels. One of the most celebrated cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves nearly 60,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from over 220 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 over 200 artists at the heart of its work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and onsite at its campus in University City.

# **Land Acknowledgements**

Land acknowledgements help us honor a place's Indigenous people—past and present—and recognize the history that brought us to where we are today and the fact that our communities are in stolen lands. Here is COCA's Land Acknowledgement:

In alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion. COCA acknowledges its community spaces, studios, and theatre rest on the traditional lands of Native People, including the Illini Confederacy, Osage Nation and Missouria tribe. We acknowledge this land is stolen land and acquired through a history of violence. We honor these tribes now and the other tribes who made their homes in St. Louis before us. We encourage you to learn more about native communities and land where you live.

# Stay in Touch!





O Instagram: @COCAstl



# Rodgers & Hammerstein's

# **CINDERELLA**

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Adapted for the Stage by
Tom Briggs
From the teleplay by
Robert L. Freedman

CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Thank you to our generous supporters of our COCApresents Season and COCA's Summer Musicals for making this show possible.

COCA Summer Musicals
Presenting Sponsor

Mary Strauss Cinderella Leading Sponsor



COCApresents Season Leading Sponsor

Amy, Sadie & Sacha Lefton

**COCApresents Season Supporting Sponsors** 





**Princess ParTEA Sponsor** 



**Creative Team** 

#### **Creative Team**

Director Shawna Flanigan
Music Director Dr. Philip A. Woodmore
Choreographer Alisa Cooper

Scenic Designer
Assistant Scenic Designer
Cameron Tesson

Lighting Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Jayson M. Lawshee
Jonathan Scully

Costume Designer
Costume Manager
Puppet Designer
Props Manager
Props Manager
Props Manager
Shevaré Perry
Cody Floyd
Hattie Barrieau
Cassie Gant

Artistic Director of Theatre Will Bonfiglio

#### Musicians

Bass Al Anderson Cello Tai Davis

**Clarinet** Kelly Austermann

**Keyboard** Tim Clark

Percussion Tonnie Kamkwalala Jr. (July 24–26)

Percussion Matthew Clark (July 27)
Piano Dr. Philip A. Woodmore

Trombone Brandon Hughes
Trumpet Brady Lewis

Violin Erika Wilson

#### **Production Team**

Production Manager
Technical Director
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Assistant
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator

Carolyn Carter
Cameron Tesson
Cassie Gant
Jaime Chipman
Jonathan Scully
Justin Foster

Deck Crew Jack Kalan

Spot Operators Ehsan Bey & Renata Grove

Artistic Project Manager Grace Austin
Stitcher Meredith LaBounty

Wardrobe Crew Breonna Williams

### **COCA Artistic Leadership**

Senior Director of Artistic Shawna Flanigan
Strategy & Programs

Artistic Director of Theatre
Artistic Director of Dance
Associate Director of Dance
Associate Director of Dance

Will Bonfiglio
Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Kirven Douthit-Boyd

Artistic Director of Voice Dr. Philip A. Woodmore

### Cinderella Magical Cast

Performances: THU, JUL 24 | 7:00PM & SAT, JUL 26 | 1:00PM

Cinderella | Safiya Austin-El

**Prince Christopher** | Byron Jenkins Fairy Godmother | Kennedy Jenkins

Stepmother | Nadia Curtiss

Stepsisters | Kaelyn McCurtis, Anani Perez, Adelyn Simpson, Haylin Travis

**Lionel** | Nick Collora

Queen Constantina | Natalie Shellhaas

King Maximillian | Taylor Martin

**Ensemble** I Eleanor Ahn, Snow Althen, Jenna Barakat, Raina Bentley, Gray Campbell, Langston Casey, Cora Donaldson, Lorelei Edwards, Alexandria Eller, Molly Fitzpatrick, Libby Hagemann, Kameron Henry, Clara Garcia, Marley Gill, Elise Goedeker, Charlotte Hoff, Varyn Kellmurray, Asher Leonard, Carissa Mitchell, Grayson Ritson, Hayden Schoemehl, Kate Sheley, Cayden Swink

Featured Dance Ensemble | Mitchell Davis, DeKylah Epps

Youth Ensemble I Imani Bedford, Jaron Bentley, Sarah Bentley, Elise Berry, Karajana Caplinger, Tre Carter, Jean Graue, Paislee Kern, Stephanie Ma, Rian Page, Isla Parsons, Lorelai Radu, Rachel Spizler

# Cinderella Enchanted Cast Performances: FRI, JUL 25 | 10:00AM & SUN, JUL 27 | 1:00PM

Cinderella | Aspen Meyer

Prince Christopher | Byron Jenkins Fairy Godmother | Kennedy Jenkins

**Stepmother** | Nadia Curtiss

Stepsisters | Kaelyn McCurtis, Anani Perez, Adelyn Simpson, Haylin Travis

Lionel | Nick Collora

Queen Constantina | Cora Donaldson

King Maximillian | Grayson Ritson

**Ensemble** I Eleanor Ahn, Snow Althen, Jenna Barakat, Raina Bentley, Gray Campbell, Langston Casey, Lorelei Edwards, Alexandria Eller, Molly Fitzpatrick, Clara Garcia, Marley Gill, Elise Goedeker, Libby Hagemann, Kameron Henry, Charlotte Hoff, Varyn Kellmurray, Asher Leonard, Taylor Martin, Carissa Mitchell, Hayden Schoemehl, Kate Sheley, Natalie Shellhaas, Cayden Swink

Featured Dance Ensemble | Mitchell Davis, DeKylah Epps

**Youth Ensemble** I Imani Bedford, Jaron Bentley, Sarah Bentley, Elise Berry, Karajana Caplinger, Tre Carter, Jean Graue, Paislee Kern, Stephanie Ma, Rian Page, Isla Parsons, Lorelai Radu, Rachel Spizler



# Come



FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON!

Uplifting Voices, Transforming Lives





# **Musical Numbers**

# Act I

"Prologue"

"The Sweetest Sounds"

"The Prince Is Giving A Ball"

"In My Own Little Corner"

"Boys and Girls Like You and Me"

"The Sweetest Sounds (Reprise)"

"In My Own Little Corner (Reprise)"

"Fol-De-Rol"

"Impossible"

"It's Possible - Finale Act 1"

# **Intermission**

## **Act II**

"Loneliness of Evening"

"Ten Minutes Ago"

"Stepsisters' Lament"

"Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?"

"Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful? (Reprise)"

"When You're Driving Through the Moonlight"

"A Lovely Night" "A Lovely Night (Reprise)"

"There's Music in You"

# **Creative Team Biographies**

# **Creative Team Biographies**

### Shawna Flanigan (Director)

Shawna Flanigan is Senior Director of Artistic Strategy & Programs. She has worked at COCA for over 20 years and previously served at COCA as Artistic Director of Theatre; Director of Arts Education and Urban Arts Director. She is also currently on the adjunct faculty at East Central College. Shawna earned a BA in Theatre Studies from Knox College and an MFA in Directing from DePaul University. She was the 2024 recipient of the Visionary Award for Outstanding Teaching Artist.

### Philip A. Woodmore (Music Director)

Dr. Philip A. Woodmore is a St. Louis-based composer, music director, and educator known for blending gospel, classical, and contemporary styles to explore music, identity, and social change. He composed the score for *Antigone in Ferguson* and *The Drum Major Instinct*, and is developing *Team M the Musical*, premiering at COCA in May 2026. He serves as Worship and Arts Director at New Sunny Mount and Artistic Director of Voice and Camps at COCA. philipawoodmore.com

### Laura Skroska (Scenic Designer)

Laura Skroska is excited to return to COCA after 2022's *Big Machine*. Laura studied technical theatre at Northwestern University and SIUE and received an MFA in Painting from Fontbonne University. Laura works as Technical Director for New Jewish Theatre, Props Master for Winter Opera St. Louis, and Props Master for Gateway Center for Performing Arts. Laura also works with Tech 12 producing virtual and hybrid events around the world. Much love to Phil and Ted, who make her work possible.

#### Cody Floyd (Costume Manager)

Cody Floyd has been COCA's Costume Assistant since 2022, working on every show during the yearly COCApresents Season and handling the range of operations that the COCA Costume Shop is involved in. Before their time at COCA, they pursued a BA in Fashion Design at Lindenwood University. In addition to their regular duties, Cody has been the Costume Designer for a variety of shows including *The Kid at the Edge of Everything, SIX: Teen Edition*, and *Hadestown: Teen Edition*.

#### Carolyn Carter (Production Manager)

Carolyn is so grateful to be here at COCA working on Summer Rep with such an incredible team. She is excited to see COCA's students stretched and celebrated in these works. Some of her credits: Production Manager at COCA, Stage Manager at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (Athena), Production Manager at Music as the Message, Stage Manager at Opera Theatre of St. Louis (New Works Collective), Stage Manager at St. Louis Shakespeare Festival (Shakespeare in the Streets). BFA Stage Management: The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts. Mom to Joy-Anna & Piper. Rev 7:12

#### **Emily Birnstein (Assistant Stage Manager)**

Emily is excited to be working on her first musical at COCA. She's been working on professional theatre for 10 years around St. Louis as well as internationally for Royal Caribbean. Thank you to everyone at COCA and to her friends and family. Nick – I love you 3000.

### Jack Kalan (Deck Crew)

Jack is a local lighting designer as well as an actor and fight choreographer who has been working lighting events for over a decade. He is thrilled to be a part of helping this production come to life at COCA! He has worked all over the St. Louis area and beyond with companies including: New Jewish Theatre, Leverage Dance Co., Resilience Dance Co., The Fringe Festival STL, Art's Mission Oak-Cliff (Dallas), Moody Performance Hall (Dallas), and more. Keep up with Jack on social media @JackKalan.

### Will Bonfiglio (Artistic Director of Theatre)

Will is a theatre artist and scholar with a background in acting, directing, playwriting, and producing. His work has been featured on stages across the country, and he is the proud recipient of three St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards. He directed COCA's 2024 production of *Six: Teen Edition* and continues to serve on COCA's Theatre faculty. Will earned an MA in Theatre and Performance Studies and an MA in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis.



Registration for Fall 2025 & Winter/Spring 2026 is now open!



Browse and register for class!

COCA inspires art experiences for students (3–99) and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals. Sign up today for in-person classes in art & design, dance, early childhood, theatre, or voice.

Don't let cost be a barrier. COCA offers a sliding scale tuition program for qualifying students.

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