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For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

David Golston

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Office direct: (816) 994-8839 Cell: (785) 217-8222

Email: dgolston@coterietheatre.org



PRESS RELEASE



The Coterie Flies High This Summer with TYA Premiere of the 'Truly Scrumptious' Musical, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

WHEN: **June 17 – August 3, 2014**

Press / Opening Night: **Friday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center Shops, Kansas City, Missouri

PRICE: \$10.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;
\$15.00 for adults. Groups of 20 or more: \$5.00 - \$6.50 per person.

INFO / RESERVATIONS: **The Coterie Box Office**

Phone: **(816) 474-6552**

Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – Everyone's favorite fine, four-fendered friend, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, lands at The Coterie in Kansas City this summer. Based on the hit MGM motion picture and featuring The Sherman Brothers' original music from the film, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* receives its Theatre for Young Audiences World Premiere as part of The Coterie's Lab for New Family Musicals, directed by Jeff Church, from June 17 – August 3, 2014.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

Originally billed as “the most phantasmagorical musical in the history of everything...,” ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*** is a fantastic musical adventure featuring an out-of-this world car that flies through the air and sails the seas. It tells the story of eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts who, with the help of his children, Jeremy and Jemima, and the ever-lovely Truly Scrumptious, sets about saving a former Grand Prix-winning race car from the scrap heap. Soon they discover the car has magical properties, including the ability to float and take flight! After word gets out about its extraordinary abilities, trouble ensues when the evil Baron Bomburst decides he wants it all to himself, launching Caractacus, Jeremy, Jemima, and Truly on a series of high-flying high jinx to save the miraculous motorcar.

Produced as part of The Coterie's acclaimed Lab for New Family Musicals, this production will mark the World Premiere of the Theatre for Young Audiences version of ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***. Originally written as a novel for young adults by famed James Bond author and creator, Ian Fleming, ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*** was adapted by Roald Dahl into a quirky but charming script for the hit 1968 MGM motion picture. The film transformed the story into a musical by adding songs written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, composers of several Disney classics including *Mary Poppins*, *The Jungle Book*, and *The Aristocats*, among others. The Coterie's production will feature many of the original tunes from the movie including “Truly Scrumptious,” “Toot Sweets,” “Hushabye Mountain,” and the Oscar-nominated title song, “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.”

When adapting the show for London's West End in 2002, producers were faced with the daunting prospect of bringing the indomitable personality of Chitty to life - including seeing the car take flight and set sail - live on stage. The Coterie now faces similar challenges for its production. “*Some time ago, I saw the stage musical in London with a car that flew using hydraulics to lift and tilt it. How will we do it? Well, I'm working with designer Alex Espy, who is creating the car from a concept I had for staging the show in an imaginative, new way,*” explains Coterie Producing Artistic Director Jeff Church. “*This is the first time permission for the musical has been given to try a new way of showcasing the car. We're very excited to show our audiences... but I'm not giving away any secrets early!*” The London production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, on which The Coterie's Theatre for Young Audiences version is based, ran a record-setting three and one half years and was nominated for two Olivier awards. In 2005, the Broadway production of the show

received five Tony Award nominations, 10 Outer Critics Circle Award nominations, and four Drama Desk nominations.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will be produced as part of The Coterie Shines elementary and family series and will be appreciated by all ages, 5 years old through adult. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, Theater League, the ArtsKC Fund, and The Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

In addition to featuring a full roster of Kansas City's best local talent, the cast of ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*** will include the Coterie debut of Broadway veteran Jerry Jay Cranford, who will play the roles of Baron Bomburst and Lord Scrumptious, as well as serve as choreographer for the production. Cranford previously performed featured roles in *Les Miserables* on Broadway and in its national tour, in the national tours of *Singing in the Rain* and *Anything Goes*, and the European tour of *Evita*. Since last year, Cranford has worked as a professor at Kansas State University.

Other local actors in the cast are Jake Walker (as Caractacus Potts), Stefanie Wienecke (as Truly Scrumptious), Martin Buchanan (as Grandpa Potts), Damian Blake (as Boris the Spy), Bob Linebarger (as Mr. Coggins), Hughston Walkinshaw (as The Childcatcher), Julie Shaw (as Baroness Bomburst), Teddy Trice (as Goran the Spy), Stefanie Stevens (Ensemble), and Andrew Thompson (Ensemble). Additionally, the cast features several young professional actors including Allison Banks (as Jemima Potts) and Lucas Dorrell (as Jeremy Potts), as well as Dakota Hoar, Marshall Hopkins, Malena Marcase, Reagan Danel Ogle, and Callie Rodina in the ensemble.

The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director), Anthony T. Edwards (music director), Angleyn Benson (Associate Musical Director), Jerry Jay Cranford (choreographer), Scott Hobart (set designer & technical director), Art Kent (lighting designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Trevor Frederiksen (properties designer), Alex Espy (car designer), Erika Bailey (dialect coach), Angleyn Benson (conductor & pianist), Brett Jackson (reed instruments), William J. Christie (production stage manager), Melissa E. Koerner (production assistant & deck manager), Matthew Henrickson (production assistant), and Daphany Edwards (production assistant).

ABOUT THE COTERIE'S LAB FOR NEW FAMILY MUSICALS

The Theatre for Young Audiences version of ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*** is a product of The Coterie's Lab for New Family Musicals, which works with Broadway authors, composers, and publishers to transform this and other Broadway favorites to a scale and running time suitable for family theatre. The Coterie's Lab for New Family Musicals was created in 2004, by Producing Artistic Director Jeff Church. The program has successfully helped accomplished Broadway composers find their way into the field of young audiences with such shows as *Shrek the Musical*, *Seussical*, and *The Happy Elf*, all of which lived on through subsequent productions nationwide. The Coterie assists in the creation of musicals for family audiences by reviewing the script and assisting in its adaptation, working hand-in-hand with the Broadway creators during rehearsals and previews, and providing a company highly responsive to changes and developments.

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, now in its 35th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *Time* magazine, will perform ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*** June 17 - August 3, 2014, in The Coterie Theatre located on level one of Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, June 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Tickets: Tickets are \$10.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$15.00 for adults.

Group Pricing: The Coterie offers groups of 20 or more a special preview rate of \$5.00 per person the first week of the run, June 17-June 22. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50 per person on weekdays and \$6.50 per person on weekends (Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays).

Subscriptions: New this season, The Coterie introduces the Spotlight Club Pass, which works like season tickets without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Club members pay \$90.00 for a flexible pass that includes 10 tickets - a savings of 40% off individual ticket prices - that can be used for any show or combination of shows in the 2013/2014 Season.

Target Saturdays: To help encourage a love for the arts in young adults and children, Target generously sponsors The Coterie's Saturday matinees. Patrons who purchase a full price admission to any Saturday matinee will receive one free ticket per order. (Some restrictions apply).

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All tickets and the new Spotlight Club Passes are on sale now and may be purchased by calling The Coterie's box office at (816) 474-6552, dropping by the box office on level one of the Crown Center Shops, or by visiting www.thecoterie.org.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

Take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

Opening Night Celebration - Friday, June 20, 7:00 p.m.: A FREE post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board.

A FREE Book & 2-for-1 tickets on Target Saturdays - Saturdays, June 21, July 5, 12, 19, 26, and August 2, 2:00 p.m.: Receive a FREE copy of the young adult novel, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Rides Again* by Frank Cottrell Boyce (while supplies last), and purchase a full price admission and receive one FREE admission per order. Some restrictions apply (see website for details).

Company Q&A – Saturday, June 21 & Sunday, June 22, 2:00 p.m.: FREE post-performance question and answer period with members of the company.

Cast Photo Op & Autograph Session – Fridays, June 27, July 11, 18, 25, and August 1, 7:00 p.m.: FREE meet and greet with members of the cast.

“How to Host High Tea” – Sundays, June 29 & July 20, 12:45-1:15 p.m.: The Daughters of the British Empire will hold a FREE pre-show discussion on the finer points of hosting a formal tea, Truly Scrumptious-style.

Give-Away Sundays – Sundays, July 6, 13, 27, and August 3, 2:00 p.m.: Every audience member will be automatically eligible to win FREE Coterie gifts, such as posters signed by the cast, backstage tours of the theater, and Spotlight Club Passes to attend Coterie's 2014/2015 Season.

Interpreted performance in American Sign Language - **Saturday, July 12, 2:00 p.m.**

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR






JUNE 17 – AUG 3, 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		17 11 am	18 11 am	19 11 am	20 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	21 2 pm
22 2 pm	24 11 am	25 11 am 1:30 pm	26 11 am 1:30 pm	27 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm		
29 2 pm	1 11 am	2 11 am 1:30 pm	3 11 am 1:30 pm			5 2 pm
6 2 pm	8 11 am 1:30 pm	9 11 am 1:30 pm	10 11 am 1:30 pm	11 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	12 2 pm	
13 2 pm	15 11 am 1:30 pm	16 11 am 1:30 pm	17 11 am 1:30 pm	18 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	19 2 pm	
20 2 pm	22 11 am 1:30 pm	23 11 am 1:30 pm	24 11 am 1:30 pm	25 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	26 2 pm	
27 2 pm	29 11 am 1:30 pm	30 11 am 1:30 pm	31 11 am 1:30 pm	1 11 am 1:30 pm 7 pm	2 2 pm	
3 2 pm						



Clockwise (starting at bottom left): Jake Walker (as Caractacus Potts), Allison Banks (as Jemima Potts), Lucas Dorrell (as Jeremy Potts) & Stefanie Wienecke (as Truly Scrumptious). Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

FREE PERFORMANCE EVENTS

-  **Opening Night Celebration**
with free post-show reception
-  **Target Saturdays** Receive a free book (while supplies last) and one free admission per order with purchase of a full price admission (some restrictions apply).
-  Pre- or post-performance **Question & Answer sessions** with the Company or instructional discussion on "How to Host a High Tea," presented by The Daughters of the British Empire.
-  Pre- or post-performance **Fun Events** such as photo op & autograph sessions with members of the cast or book, poster, and season pass give-aways.
-  **Interpreted performance**
in American Sign Language.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Music and Lyrics by
Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
Adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sams
Based on the MGM Motion Picture
Licensed Script Adapted by Ray Roderick
Part of The Coterie's
Lab for New Family Musicals
World Premiere Theatre for
Young Audiences version
directed by Jeff Church

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International [MTI]. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, New York, NY. Tel: 212-541-4684. Fax: 212-397-4684. www.mtishows.com

Due to the nature of live theatre, play selection, performance schedule and casting are subject to change.

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