

January 23, 2015

For Immediate Release

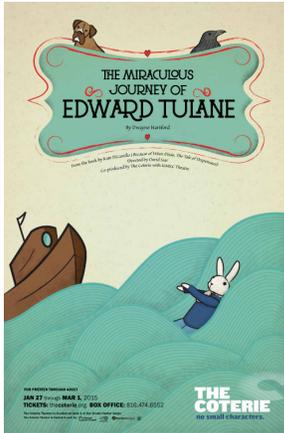
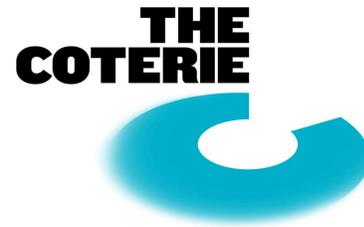
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## PRESS RELEASE

### The Coterie & UMKC Theatre Begin a Miraculous Journey with *Edward Tulane*

#### OVERVIEW:

**WHAT:** *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

Written by Dwayne Hartford

Based on the book by Kate DiCamillo

Directed by David P. Saar

**WHEN:** January 27 – March 1, 2015

**Press / Opening Night:** Friday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

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

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

Phone: (816) 474-6552 Online: [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org)

**Kansas City, MO** – The Coterie and UMKC Theatre present *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a drama adapted from the beloved young adult novel by Kate DiCamillo, author of the best-selling books *Because of Winn-Dixie* and *The Tale of Despereaux*. Directed by David P. Saar, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* will be performed live on stage January 27-March 1, 2015.

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## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

Edward Tulane is a three-foot tall toy rabbit, beautifully made, with a wardrobe of exquisite clothes. Though he's made of china and can't move, he can certainly think. And despite being much loved, he doesn't love anyone but himself. On a cruise ship, Edward is thrown overboard by mean boys, thus beginning an unexpected journey that carries him through many years to different owners. Edward, the china rabbit, discovers that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

The play, ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***, is adapted from the popular young adult novel by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press, 2006). The book was the winner of the *Boston Globe Horn Book Award*, a nominee for the *Quills Award*, and named one of the "Top 100 Chapter Books" of all time by *School Library Journal*. DiCamillo is also the author of *Because of Winn-Dixie* (a Newbery Honor book), *The Tale of Despereaux* (2003 Newbery Medal winner), and *A Tiger Rising* (a National Book Award finalist), among others. Her most recent book, *Flora & Ulysses*, was published in September 2013 and was a *New York Times* best-seller.

The stage adaptation of ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** made its premiere at Childsplay (Tempe, AZ) in 2013. The critically-acclaimed production was adapted by Childsplay's resident playwright Dwayne Hartford and directed by Childsplay's founding artistic director, David P. Saar. "Everyone at Childsplay fell in love with ***Edward***. The entire company committed two years to its adaptation and development," says Saar, who will also direct the production at The Coterie. "I was immediately excited when asked if I'd direct the show again for The Coterie. I loved the personal challenge of re-imagining the production with Kansas City actors. It's an achingly beautiful story that just has to be shared."

Reviews of Childsplay's premiere production uniformly praised its ability to capture the charm of the original, calling it "heartwarming and uplifting... David Saar's brilliance and sensitivity infuse his direction of Dwayne Hartford's enchanting and inspirational play" (BroadwayWorld.Com) and "by turns hilarious and heart-wrenching, with an imaginative staging that lives up to the show's magical moniker.... ***Edward Tulane*** is a triumph." (AZCentral.com). "This tale of a china rabbit doll who learns to love will touch your heart... [and] stay with you... ***Edward Tulane*** is a celebration of the magic of theatre and the wonder of life." (TalkinBroadway.com).

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** will be most appreciated by adults, teens, and youth aged nine or older. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

The cast of ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** features Joseph Fournier (as The Musician), as well as UMKC graduate acting students Emily Nan Phillips (as The Traveler), Nicole Marie Green (as The Woman), and Spencer Christensen (as The Man). The artistic and production company includes David P. Saar (director), Kyle Sorrell (composer/music director), Trevor Frederiksen (set designer), Art Kent (resident lighting designer), Marc Vital (costume designer), Jason Bauer (sound designer), Alex LeFrance (properties designer), William J. Christie (resident production stage manager), Logan Schoenbaechler (technical director), April Brewer and Chloé N. Robbins-Anderson (production assistant/deck managers), Adam Terry (assistant technical director), Tyler Wilson (assistant costume designer), Bret Engle (properties assistant), and Scott Hobart (resident technical director).

## **ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCTION**

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** will be presented as a co-production between The Coterie and UMKC Theatre, a collaborative relationship that has become an annual tradition for The Coterie since it began in 1992, with *The Red Badge of Courage* and continued most recently with *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* in January 2014. Originally founded as a program that offered MFA actors the chance to work alongside established theatre professionals, the co-productions have since grown to feature both student actors as well as MFA designers and coaches from nearly every area of UMKC's Department of Theatre. The Coterie is proud to continue its long-standing relationship with UMKC Theatre, which benefits up-and-coming young professionals by providing practical, professional work experience, both on stage and behind the scenes.

## **SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS**

The Coterie, now in its 36th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** January 27-March 1, 2015, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015, 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, January 27-February 2, 2015. 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:** In lieu of season subscriptions, The Coterie offers 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 2014/2015 Season.

All tickets and 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](http://www.thecoterie.org).

## **NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS**

During the run of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

**Friday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration.** A free post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board of directors.

**Friday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.: Improv Aftergame.** The Coterie's comedy troupe, The Culture Hacks, perform a hilarious improv set using audience suggestions. Culture Hacks members are a select group of students from our advanced teen Comedy Master class.

**Saturday, January 31, and Sunday, February 1, 2:00 p.m.: Question & Answer session.** A free Q&A with members of The Coterie's staff and artistic company will immediately follow the performance.

**Saturday, March 14, 2:00 p.m.: Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language.

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

### THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

JANUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<b>27</b> 9:45 am	<b>28</b> 9:45 am	<b>29</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>30</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 7:30 pm	<b>31</b> 2 pm
<b>1</b> 2 pm		<b>3</b> 9:45 am	<b>4</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>5</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>6</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	<b>7</b> 2 pm
<b>8</b> 2 pm		<b>10</b> 9:45 am	<b>11</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>12</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>13</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	<b>14</b> 2 pm
<b>15</b> 2 pm		<b>17</b> 9:45 am	<b>18</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>19</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>20</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	<b>21</b> 2 pm
<b>22</b> 2 pm		<b>24</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>25</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>26</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am	<b>27</b> 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	<b>28</b> 2 pm
<b>1</b> 2 pm						

#### Calendar Legend:

-  **Opening Nights**
-  **Interpreted performances**  
in American Sign Language
-  Pre- or post-performance **Question and Answer session**, speaker, discussion, or other event
-  Pre- or post-performance **Fun Event**: Improv Aftergame, autograph session, photo op, gift give-away, or other event



Photo credits: *The Miraculous Adventures of Edward Tulane* at Childsplay (Tempe, AZ), directed by David Saar. Photo by Tim Trumble.

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* was originally commissioned and produced by Childsplay in Tempe, Arizona. David P. Saar, Artistic Director. Steve Martin, Managing Director.

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## THE REMAINING 2014/2015 SEASON

Following *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, The Coterie's 2014/2015 Season continues with *To Whom It May Inspire [in poetry, stories & song]*, a world premiere created to uplift and enlighten young hearts and minds, March 3 – 7, 2015; *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*, featuring all the favorite moments from the classic Dr. Seuss story, March 31 – May 17, 2015; and *A Year with Frog and Toad*, a charming Tony-nominated musical for whole family, June 16 - August 2, 2015.

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