

June 17, 2016

For Immediate Release

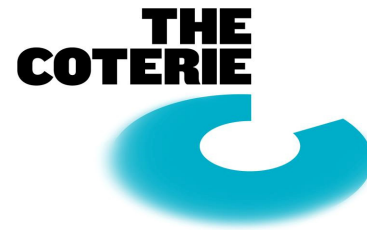
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## PRESS RELEASE

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**The Coterie Brings Popular Characters to Life on Stage in Musical World Premiere**

***Madagascar:  
A Musical Adventure***

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### **OVERVIEW:**

**WHAT: *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure***

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture

Book by Kevin Del Aguila

Original Music and Lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Someillan

Directed & Choreographed by Jerry Jay Cranford

Musical Direction by Anthony T. Edwards

**WHEN: June 14 – August 7, 2016**

**Press / Opening Night: Friday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**PRICE:** \$12.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;  
\$17.00 for adults; \$5.00 - \$7.00 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** – Nationally-recognized Coterie Theatre concludes its 37<sup>th</sup> season of live theatre for young audiences this summer with the world premiere of ***Madagascar: A Musical***

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**Adventure**, a new stage adaptation of the popular DreamWorks animated motion picture.

**Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** is written by Kevin Del Aguila, directed and choreographed by Jerry Jay Cranford with musical direction by Anthony T. Edwards, and will be performed live on The Coterie's stage June 14 – August 7, 2016.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

Receiving its world premiere on stage this summer at The Coterie, **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** follows the hilarious antics of Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Gloria the hippo, and Melman the giraffe on their madcap journey from New York's Central Park Zoo to the beaches of Madagascar. With ten memorable new songs added to a pop favorite from the original score, their journey goes from the wilderness to just plain wild when they are tracked by Skipper and his always plotting penguins, and then learn to "*Move it! Move it!*" from King Julian and his loyal lemur subjects. Brought vividly to life on stage by imaginative sets, colorful costumes, and a high-energy, dance-filled production, **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** is a musical celebration of friendship and the perfect indoor escape for any family's summer outing.

Bringing together all the crack-a-lackin' friends from *Madagascar* is a charming and fast-paced story, produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTIShows.com), written by Kevin Aguila, who is the Emmy Award-winning writer of the animated PBS show "Peg + Cat", the book-writer of the hit Off-Broadway musical *Alter Boyz* (New York Outer Critics Circle Award, Lucille Lortel and Drama Desk Award nominations), and recipient of the Heideman Award for his play *The Greekest of Tragedies* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Original music for **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** was created by George Noriega & Joel Someillan, who for eight years have worked as the production and writing team known as Jilipop, a children's entertainment production company that has developed music for "Dora the Explorer" and "Go Diego Go," as well as many other projects for Nickelodeon TV and Film and Broadway Across America. The Coterie's production of **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** will be directed by Jerry Jay Cranford, who returns after having directed last summer's *A Year With Frog and Toad* and previously appeared in and choreographed The Coterie's theatre for young audiences premiere of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. A four year veteran playing the Genie in Disneyland's stage musical *Aladdin*, Cranford was also a long-time cast member of the Broadway production and tour of *Les Misérables*.

**Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** will run approximately 70 minutes with no intermission and

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will be appreciated by all ages. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund. The production is sponsored by KPMG.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

The cast of ***Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*** features Patrick Beasley (as Alex the Lion), Donovan Woods (as Marty the Zebra), Enjoli Gavin (as Gloria), Joey Boos (as Melman), Francisco Javier Villegas (as King Julian, Zeke, Police Officer, Ship's Captain, Foosa, et al.), Steven Eubank (Skipper, Lars Lemur, Steak, et al.), Darrington Clark (as Kowalski, Foosa Leader, Steak, et al.), Fisher Stewart (as Private, Mort, Steak, Foosa, et al.), Kyra Weinberger (as Rico, Candy, Lynn Lemur, Steak, et al.), and Callie Rodina (as Maurice, Zelda, Mason, Old Lady, Animal Control, Foosa, et al.).

The artistic and production company includes Jerry Jay Cranford (director/choreographer), Anthony T. Edwards (musical director), William J. Christie (production stage manager), Jordan Janota (set designer), Art Kent (light designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Nicholas Ruby (properties designer), Scott Hobart (technical director), Chloé Robbins-Anderson (production assistant/deck manager), Amanda Miller (production assistant intern), and Jacob Kilburg (assistant director).

## **ABOUT THE COTERIE'S LAB FOR NEW FAMILY MUSICALS**

The theatre for young audiences adaptation of *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure* 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 *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *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 37th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform ***Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*** June 14 – August 7, 2016, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, June 14, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

**Individual Tickets:** Tickets are \$12.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$17.00 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 13-19, 2016. After preview week, groups pay only \$6.00 per person on weekdays and \$7.00 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 a season ticket without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Club members pay \$100.00 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 2015/2016 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 ***Madagascar: A Musical Adventure***, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

**Friday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration.** A free post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board of directors.

**Friday, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and August 5, 7:00 p.m.: Friday Family Fun Night.** Post-performance autograph session and photo op with cast members.

**Saturday, June 18, and Sunday, June 19, 2:00 p.m.: Question & Answer session.** A free

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Q&A with members of The Coterie's staff and artistic company will immediately follow the performance.


**Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m.:** Interpreted performance in American Sign Language.

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

### MADAGASCAR - A Musical Adventure

JUNE 14 – AUGUST 7, 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		14 11 am	15 11 am	16 11 am	17 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	18 2 pm
19 2 pm	20	21 11 am	22 11 am 1 pm	23 11 am 1 pm	24 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	25
26 2 pm	27	28 11 am	29 11 am 1 pm	30 11 am 1 pm	1 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	2 2 pm
3 2 pm	4	5 11 am 1 pm	6 11 am 1 pm	7 11 am 1 pm	8 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	9 2 pm
10 2 pm	11	12 11 am 1 pm	13 11 am 1 pm	14 11 am 1 pm	15 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	16 2 pm
17 2 pm	18	19 11 am 1 pm	20 11 am 1 pm	21 11 am 1 pm	22 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	23 2 pm
24 2 pm	25	26 11 am 1 pm	27 11 am 1 pm	28 11 am 1 pm	29 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	30 2 pm
31 2 pm	1	2 11 am 1 pm	3 11 am 1 pm	4 11 am 1 pm	5 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	6 2 pm
7 2 pm						

#### CALENDAR LEGEND

-  **Opening Night**
-  **Friday Family Fun Night** featuring post-performance autograph session and photo op with cast members
-  Post-performance **Question and Answer session** with the company
-  **Interpreted performances** in American Sign Language



Left to right: Enjoli Gavin (as Gloria), Patrick Beasley (as Alex), Joey Boos (as Melman) & Donovan Woods (as Marty) in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*. Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

*Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* 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](http://www.mtishows.com)

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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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