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For Immediate Release

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**THE
COTERIE
WRITES**



The Coterie's Annual Young Playwrights Festival April 24 and 25 Showcases Local Teen Writers

*Professional actors perform short plays and monologues
by The Coterie's Young Playwrights Roundtable*

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: **The Coterie's 2013 Young Playwrights Festival**
Professional actors perform short plays and monologues by
The Coterie's Young Playwrights Roundtable

WHEN: **7:00 p.m., April 24 and 25, 2013**

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

PRICE: **\$5.00 General Admission**

INFO / RESERVATIONS: **Coterie Theatre Box Office**
Phone: (816) 474-6552 Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO - It's The Coterie's favorite time of the year: World premiere readings from some of Kansas City's most talented teen playwrights will be showcased during the annual Young Playwrights Festival at 7:00 p.m., April 24 and 25, at The Coterie Theatre, on level 1 of the Crown Center Shops. Professional actors, directors and designers work to present a collection of six staged readings, plays and monologues from teen members of The Coterie's Young Playwrights Roundtable.

The highly creative Roundtable brings together a group of select young adults that meet throughout the year to write and share plays. Members of the Roundtable are invited to join after attending a Reaching the Write Minds workshop, The Coterie's citywide in-school program to identify emerging playwrights.

"I am very passionate about this program and these playwrights, especially this year. Their work is really incredible," said Jeff Church, producing artistic director. "Through my work with the Young

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Playwrights Roundtable, I'm able to stay more connected to The Coterie's target audience and get a fascinating insight into the minds of young adults today."

This year's festival will incorporate six readings into one act. All are recommended as PG and are appropriate for preteens through adults.

Directors for this year's festival are Amanda Kibler, Coterie education director, Brian Gehrlein, and Tosin Morohunfolo. Festival coordinator and stage manager is Fiona Carmody and the producer and facilitator of the festival is Jeff Church. Funding for the Young Playwrights Festival is provided by the Sprint Foundation and the Curry Family Foundation.

Admission for the Young Playwrights Festival is \$5.00 and reservations are encouraged. Reservations can be made by phone (816) 474-6552, on our website at www.thecoterie.org, or in person at The Coterie Box Office. During Festival performance days, the Box Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All seating is general admission and the theater doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

THE FESTIVAL READINGS

The 2013 Young Playwrights Festival will feature staged readings of the following selected plays:

- ***Tom & Jerry*** written by Audrey Gleason (Shawnee Mission Northwest High). Can Jerry survive being Tom's toothbrush? Directed by Tosin Morohunfolo.
- ***The Whiny Lifeguard*** written by Jessica Oeser (Lansing High). A theatrical overview of a day in the life of a 17-year old lifeguard. Directed by Amanda Kibler.
- ***Passive Abrasive*** written by Tessia Phillips (The Barstow School). What it's like when a playwright lets us hear the subtext between Maggie and Katelyn. Directed by Tosin Morohunfolo.
- ***Whatever You Want It to Be*** [excerpt] written by Danielle Fay (Washington High). Sheila has a little decision to make with God - and he's got a sense of humor. Directed by Amanda Kibler.
- ***More of a Man*** [excerpt] written by Sam Danley (Platte County High). Try being 'out' in high school and then discover you like someone in your arch-enemy's gang. Directed by Brian Gehrlein.
- ***Whimsi-Girl!*** written by Seadon A. Smart (Olathe North High). Even her mother wishes Amber would be more normal, but still she dances with the furniture in her room. Directed by Tosin Morohunfolo.

ABOUT REACHING THE WRITE MINDS

Reaching the Write Minds was established during Jeff Church's residency at The Kennedy Center to give a voice to emerging young playwrights. Highly acclaimed for its innovative approach to motivate and encourage young talent, Church launched Kansas City's Reaching the Write Minds program in 1992. During the Reaching the Write Minds five-hour seminar, students learn to create settings, build characters and, ultimately, devise a scenario for a complete play.

Playwright facilitators for 2012-2013 were Nancy Marcy, Ry Kincaid, Nathan Jackson, and Vi Tran. Selected participants from the Reaching the Write Minds seminars are subsequently invited to become members of the Young Playwrights Roundtable.

Lauded because the program is a series of interactive working sessions, not a contest, the Young Playwrights Roundtable stimulates young writers through their instruction via a mentoring approach between Church and peer members of the Roundtable. Members meet throughout the school year. Once students are selected, they remain members of the Roundtable until they graduate from high school.

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

The 2012-2013 Young Playwrights Roundtable members are **David Beckley** (Shawnee Mission North High), **Sam Danley** (Platte County High), **Aaron Dupuis** (The Barstow School), **Danielle Fay** (Washington High), **Will Fleming** (The Barstow School), **Camrie Gibson** (Washington High), **Audrey Gleason** (Shawnee Mission Northwest High), **Elana Goldenberg** (Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy), **Paul Harkins** (Arrowhead Middle), **Samantha Harms** (Lansing High), **Dylan Kelley** (Olathe North High), **Ivory Lacina** (Olathe North High), **Maggie Lang** (Olathe North High), **Carolina Mach** (Shawnee Mission Northwest High), **Brennan Mills** (Trailridge Middle), **Jessica Oeser** (Lansing High), **Tessia Phillips** (The Barstow School), **Gabrielle Richmond** (F.L. Schlagle High), **Kashae Roark** (F.L. Schlagle High), **Sophie Ross** (Shawnee Mission Northwest High), **Seadon Smart** (Olathe North High), and **Lizzie Williams** (Truman High).

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