

November 10, 2017

For Immediate Release

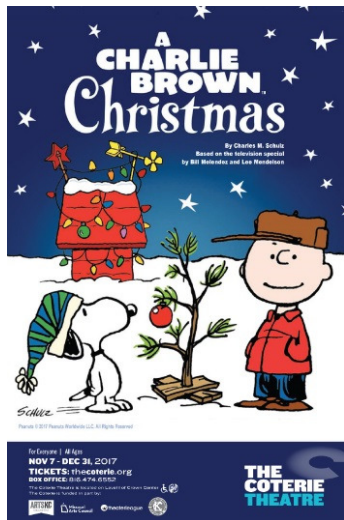
Press Contact:

David Golston

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

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

Email: dgolston@coterietheatre.org



PRESS RELEASE

**Extraordinary Popular Demand
Brings *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
Back to The Coterie Stage
with a Live Jazz Trio Playing
Vince Guaraldi Classics**

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Written by Charles M. Schulz

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson

Stage adaptation by Eric Schaeffer

By special arrangement with Arthur Whitelaw & Ruby Persson

WHEN: November 7 – December 31, 2017

Press / Opening Night: Friday, November 10, 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

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

Phone: (816) 474-6552

Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – The Coterie Theatre brightens up the holiday season by bringing the beloved animated holiday special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, to life on stage featuring a live jazz trio playing

- more -

Vince Guaraldi's original arrangements. Written by Peanuts creator Charles Schultz and based on the television special, ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** will be directed by William J. Christie with musical direction by Gary Adams. It will be performed on The Coterie's stage in Crown Center, November 7 – December 31, 2017.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In 1965, the animated holiday classic, ***A Charlie Brown Christmas***, made its network television debut delighting families across the country. Today, ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** is rapidly becoming a tradition for generations of children and adults in Kansas City as The Coterie once again brings the show to life on stage. A reviewer for *The Kansas City Star* wrote The Coterie's 2015 production, "*serves up a live action, Christmas-sized helping of... first class... innovative... theatrical magic. ...Young people are deliberately included and collectively charmed.*"

Capturing all the appeal, wit and wisdom of the 1965 animated special, the stage adaptation of ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** brings to life the whole Peanuts gang, including Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and Lucy. The production also features a live jazz trio playing Vince Guaraldi's original musical arrangements, including the Peanuts theme *Linus and Lucy*, *Christmas Time is Here*, and all the favorites from the holiday classic. Additionally, every performance ends with a special encore of *Snoopy's Christmas*, which tells the tale of Snoopy's Christmas Eve encounter with the Red Baron. Originally released by The Royal Guardsmen in 1967, the show-stopping number celebrates its 50th anniversary this fall.

The story of ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** follows Charlie Brown on a memorable journey as he tries to direct the school Christmas pageant. In their letters to Santa, everyone seems to be acting materialistic - so Charlie Brown tries to restore holiday spirit with a ragged little fir tree. Experience the power of this wonderful story live onstage as Charlie Brown turns to his best friend Linus to learn the season's real meaning.

A Charlie Brown Christmas will run approximately 55 minutes with no intermission and can be appreciated by all ages. The production is funded in part by Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The cast of ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** features Justin Barron (as Charlie Brown), Evan J. Lovelace (as Snoopy), Shon Ruffin (as Lucy), Tony Pulford (as Linus), R.H. Wilhoit (as Pigpen), Darcie A. Hingula and Mia Grace McManamy (sharing the role of Frieda), Vincent Wagner (as Schroeder), Ai Vy Bui (as Violet), Deanna Mazdra (as Sally), David LeVota (as Sherm), and musicians Gary Adams (pianist), Sam

- more -

Wisman (bassist), and Jeff Harshbarger (percussionist) as the live jazz trio.

The artistic and production company includes William J. Christie (director; based on the original 2015 staging for The Coterie by Jeff Church), Gary Adams (musical director), Marc Wayne (choreographer), Scott Hobart (set designer/resident technical director), Jarrett Bertoncin (resident lighting designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (resident costume designer), David Kiehl (resident sound designer), Joyce Merrill (properties), William J. Christie (resident production stage manager), and Danielle Walsh (deck manager/production assistant).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, now in its 39th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** November 7 – December 31, 2017, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, November 10, 2017, 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.
- **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 2017/2018 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.
- **Gift Certificates:** The Coterie offers gift certificates for holiday shoppers looking for the perfect gift. Available in any denomination, gift certificates are redeemable for show tickets, Spotlight Passes, and acting classes. Purchase online at www.thecoterie.org.

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH COAT DRIVE



Throughout the run of ***A Charlie Brown Christmas***, The Coterie will collect new and gently used winter clothes to be donated to Operation Breakthrough, an organization that provides a safe, loving and educational environment for children in poverty and empowers their families through advocacy, emergency aid and education. Collection boxes are located in The Coterie lobby, level one of Crown Center, November 7-December 31, 2017.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 31, 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		7 10 am	8 10 am	9 10 am 12 pm	10 10 am 12 pm	11 2 pm
12 2 pm	13	14 10 am	15 10 am 12 pm	16 10 am 12 pm	17 10 am 12 pm 7 pm	18 2 pm 4 pm
19 2 pm 4 pm	20 10 am 12 pm	21 10 am 12 pm	22	23	24 2 pm 4 pm 7 pm	25 2 pm 4 pm
26 2 pm 4 pm	27	28 10 am	29 10 am 12 pm	30 10 am 12 pm	1 10 am 12 pm 7 pm	2 2 pm 4 pm
3 2 pm 4 pm	4	5 10 am	6 10 am 12 pm	7 10 am 12 pm	8 10 am 12 pm 7 pm	9 2 pm 4 pm
10 2 pm 4 pm	11	12 10 am	13 10 am 12 pm	14 10 am 12 pm	15 2 pm 4 pm 7 pm	16 2 pm 4 pm
17 2 pm 4 pm	18	19 2 pm 4 pm	20 2 pm 4 pm	21 2 pm 4 pm	22 2 pm 4 pm 7 pm	23 2 pm 4 pm
24	25	26 2 pm 4 pm	27 2 pm 4 pm	28 2 pm 4 pm	29 2 pm 4 pm	30 2 pm 4 pm
31 2 pm 4 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 performance** in American Sign Language



Vincent Wagner (as Schroeder), Evan Lovelace (as Snoopy) and Shon Ruffin (as Lucy) in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

Production photos are available online at:

www.thecoterie.org/press-room

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

During the run of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration. A free post-performance reception with the company, staff, and board of directors.

Saturday, November 11, and Sunday, November 12, 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.

Fridays, November 17 and 24, and December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 7:00 p.m.: Friday Family Fun Night. Post-performance autograph session and photo op with cast members.

Saturday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.: Interpreted performance in American Sign Language.

- more -

THE REMAINING 2017/2018 SEASON

Following *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, The Coterie's 2017/2018 Season continues with the world premiere of author Terry Brooks' *The Secret of Courage*, January 23 – February 11, 2018; the classic tale about never growing older, *Tuck Everlasting*, February 27 – March 31, 2018; a bi-lingual, interactive adaptation of the classic fairy tale, *Jack and the Bean Magico!*, April 17 – May 20, 2018; and the summer musical for all ages, *Goosebumps: The Phantom of the Auditorium – The Musical*, June 19 – August 5, 2018.

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

A Charlie Brown Christmas is presented by special arrangement with Tams-Whitmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Ave., New York, New York, 10022. Peanuts © 2017 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. All Rights Reserved
.....

###