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For Immediate Release

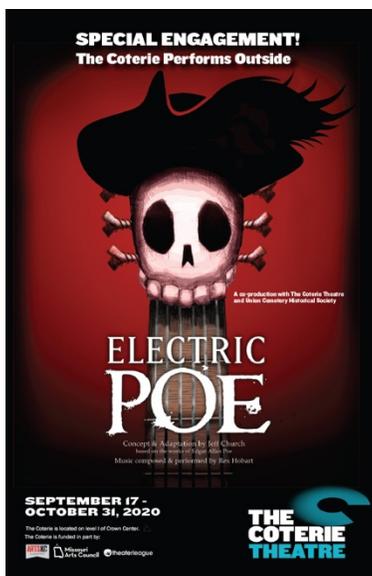
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The Coterie and  
Union Cemetery Historical Society's  
Sold-Out Engagement of Poe Classics  
Performed in Union Cemetery  
Now Available On Demand Online

***ELECTRIC POE***

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**OVERVIEW:**

WHAT: ***Electric Poe***

Co-produced with Union Cemetery Historical Society ([www.uchskc.org](http://www.uchskc.org))

By Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted by Coterie Artistic Director Jeff Church

Composed by Rex Hobart

WHEN: **Available Anytime On Demand**

PRICE: \$11.00 for individuals; \$25.00 for families

WATCH NOW AT: [www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie)

**Kansas City, MO** – Due to popular demand, and just in time for Halloween, The Coterie presents the streaming debut of ***Electric Poe***, recorded during its sold-out engagement in Union Cemetery. A unique reading for families with ages 10 and older, ***Electric Poe*** features R.H. Wilhoit delivering two of Edgar Allan Poe's best-known works, with musical underscoring by guitarist Rex Hobart. Adapted and directed by Coterie producing artistic director, Jeff Church, and co-produced with Union Cemetery Historical Society, ***Electric Poe*** is now available to view anytime at [www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie).

## COTERIE'S FIRST STREAMING PERFORMANCE

While The Coterie has spent the last 41 years producing entertaining and thought-provoking professional stage productions for students and families, ***Electric Poe*** marks the company's first performance made available online. Streaming now at ShowTix4U, ***Electric Poe*** is a unique way to add a spooky groove to any Halloween festivity while supporting The Coterie, a beloved Kansas City institution that is nationally recognized for creating new works of theatre for young people.

Recorded during its world premiere, sold-out run in Kansas City's historic Union Cemetery, ***Electric Poe*** features two moody masterpieces by Edgar Allan Poe brought to life - and death - by actor and Coterie teaching artist, R.H. Wilhoit. In the style of an 1850's orator, Wilhoit presents readings of *The Premature Burial* and *The Masque of the Red Death*. First appearing in 1844 in the *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper*, Poe took advantage of concerns at the time in *The Premature Burial*. In The Coterie's reading, a speaker delivers something of an antique TED Talk about his mortal fear, when it appears to manifest right before our eyes. Then, in 1842's *The Masque of the Red Death*, Prince Prospero walls himself and his courtiers away from the outside world where the contagious Red Death reigns. Composer and musician, Rex Hobart, accompanies the performance of ***Electric Poe*** live on electric guitar.

*ThePitchKC.com* praised the live performance of ***Electric Poe*** as, "creative... gripping direction... Wilhoit commands attention throughout... *Masque of the Red Death* was always going to seem newly resonant during a pandemic, and The Coterie's production is genuinely creepy (Hobart's leering guitar chords are a major part of the chill)." *BroadwayWorld.com* called it, "haunting... Wilhoit, in the style of an 1850's orator, is magnificent bringing to life two masterpieces by the wizard of the macabre... an outstanding performance." *KCParent.com* raved, "an electrifyingly spooky-good show... truly a brilliant and ingenious idea... Wilhoit and Hobart captivate..." Kevin Fewell, president of the Union Cemetery Historical Society, co-producer of ***Electric Poe***, summed up his experience by saying, "Both of these stories are perfectly suited to Union Cemetery which was established in 1857 in response to the cholera epidemic of the day. Our grounds at sunset sets the perfect tone for this unique pairing of Edgar Allan Poe classics."

***Electric Poe*** runs 52 minutes, including a brief Q&A with performers and Union Cemetery historian, Fewell, following the performance. ***Electric Poe*** is best appreciated by families with ages ten and older. The Coterie is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League.

## VIRTUALLY IN CLASSROOMS

With field trips unlikely this semester, The Coterie has arranged to make *Electric Poe* available to educators and their classrooms online through Classroom Immersions, a new series of virtual residencies led by professional teaching artists that use interactive lesson plans to enhance language and theatre arts education. Students in Grades 8-12 will view *The Masque of the Red Death* from *Electric Poe*, then be joined virtually by Wilhoit, who will lead a writing workshop inspired by Poe's writings. The Coterie's Classroom Immersions are available through December 2020 to educators nationwide. More information and booking details are available at [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org).

## ON DEMAND ANYTIME

*Electric Poe* is available to view on demand anytime for \$11.00 for individuals or \$25.00 for families (plus fees) at [www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/thecoterie).



The cast of The Coterie & Union Cemetery Historical Society's co-production of *Electric Poe* features (left to right) R.H. Wilhoit and Rex Hobart (photos by Jordan Spatz) and is performed at the holding vault in Kansas City's historic Union Cemetery.

## ABOUT THE COTERIE

The Coterie Theatre was designated by *TIME* magazine in the top three theaters for young audiences in Nov. 2004, calling it "groundbreaking... one of the nation's most respected." The Coterie, located in Kansas City, Missouri, has been at the forefront of commissioning new works or adaptations that contribute to the field of theatre for young audiences. More than 50 world or American premieres for all ages have been produced by The Coterie over the last 25 years, during Artistic Director Jeff Church's tenure, including hosting multiple major Broadway composers and lyricists to shape quality musicals for youth and families. The Coterie is interested in intergenerational conversation, and consistently includes teen programming in its season and outreach efforts. The Coterie's community programming redefines traditional notions of work for young audiences with its unique dramatic writing programs, teen LGBTQ work, as well as its AIDS/STD education/prevention program, free of charge to 8,000 teens per year, overseen by Executive Director Joette Pelster and a dedicated staff. All these components serve an average of 80,000 per year through over 350 performances. The Coterie Theatre School has locations throughout greater Kansas City. Donate at [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org).

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