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For Immediate Release

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**The Coterie Announces  
the Virtual Premiere of  
*A KIDS PLAY ABOUT RACISM***

**AWARD-WINNING TYA ARTIST KHALIA DAVIS  
LEADS AN ALL BLACK CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM  
FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ADAPTING  
JELANI MEMORY'S *A KIDS BOOK ABOUT RACISM***

**THE COTERIE, ALONG WITH 37 TYA THEATRES  
ACROSS THE NATION ARE CO-PRODUCING THE  
VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE, LED BY BAY AREA  
CHILDREN'S THEATRE, SEATTLE CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE, AND ALLIANCE THEATRE**

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**OVERVIEW:**

**WHAT: *A KIDS PLAY ABOUT RACISM***  
Adapted and Directed by Khalia Davis

**WHEN: Available only August 1 & 2, 2020**

**WHERE: Streaming at [www.broadwayondemand.com](http://www.broadwayondemand.com) for Families with Ages 5 & Older**

**PRICE: FREE**

**INFO: [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org)**

**Kansas City, MO** – The Coterie Theatre, joining a groundbreaking collaboration among 37 Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) across the United States, led by the lead producing team of Bay Area Children's Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, will present the virtual premiere of *A Kids Play About Racism*, a theatrical adaptation of Jelani Memory's *A Kids Book About Racism*. Premiering August 1 and 2 on the streaming platform Broadway On Demand, the new work is adapted and directed by award-winning director and TYA artist Khalia Davis and

will be brought to life by an entirely Black and BIPOC cast and creative team from across the United States. ***A Kids Play About Racism*** will utilize theatre to offer young children and families a way to engage in meaningful conversation about race. As part of the production, educational materials developed by Seattle Children's Theatre in collaboration with the Northwest African American Museum will extend the experience and enhance age-appropriate engagement. All 37 partnering theatres are members of Theatre for Young Audiences USA (TYA/USA), the national organization representing the field of theatre for children and family audiences.

## THE PLAY

"I jumped at the opportunity to adapt Jelani Memory's book *A Kids Book About Racism* into a theatrical piece for young audiences simply because it meant we were recognizing the importance of including children in these difficult conversations," shared lead artist Khalia Davis. "This show embraces the full spectrum of emotional response children may have as they navigate comprehending racism and how it may affect them."

"When I wrote *A Kids Book About Racism*, I wrote it from my own kids. I never could have imagined it would have spread so far and wide to thousands of kids all over the world, or turned into a nationwide theatrical event. I am thrilled to see what Khalia and these other amazing artists create," offered Jelani Memory, whose book provides the inspiration for the production. *A Kids Book about Racism* is part of Memory's children's book publishing company A Kids Book About, which offers titles on a range of big topics to explore including feminism, belonging, gratitude, cancer, and many more.

The scale and breadth of this co-production has been made possible in part through the network cultivated by TYA/USA, which connects organizations and artists across the country focused on theatre for young people and families. Through the last few months, TYA/USA has offered a range of programming to provide deep connections and resource sharing in response to COVID-19. Through this network, TYA theatres across the country have been able to come together to find ways to support each other and their audiences through new and innovative collaboration models.

***A Kids Play About Racism*** will be streaming on Broadway On Demand on August 1 and 2, 2020, along with accompanying interviews and educational videos.

## THE ARTISTS

***A Kids Play About Racism*** is adapted and directed by Khalia Davis, with music composed by Justin Ellington and Costume Design by Ron McCann (California). It will be performed by Davied Morales (California), Angel Adedokun (California), Moses Goods (Hawaii), Rapheal Hamilton (Arizona), Isaiah Harris (Texas), Jessenia Ingram (Georgia), and Regan Sims (New York).

The work is produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Alliance Theatre, in partnership with Adventure Theatre MTC, Arts on the Horizon, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Chicago Children's Theatre, Children's Theater of Madison, Children's Theatre Company, Childsplay, Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, The Coterie Theatre, Dallas Children's Theater, Dare to Dream Theatre, Des Moines Performing Arts, Filament Theatre, First Stage, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Imagination Stage, The Kennedy Center, Magik Theatre, Metro Theater Company, Nashville Children's Theatre, New York City Children's Theater, Oregon Children's Theatre, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Orpheum Theatre Group, Pink Umbrella Theater Company, ReNew Productions, Rose Theater, Seattle Children's Theatre The Growing Stage - The Children's Theatre of New Jersey, The Gottabees, The Open Eye Theater, TheatreWorksUSA, Trike Theatre, Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, and Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.

**About Khalia Davis:** Khalia Davis (she/her) is a bicoastal multidisciplinary artist splitting her time between the San Francisco/Bay Area and New York. Directed and devised new works with prominent theaters such as Bay Area Children's Theater, Atlantic Theater Company's Atlantic for Kids, New York City Children's Theater, Spellbound Theatre and more. Ms. Davis recently served as the Director of Inclusion and Education with Brooklyn Children's Theatre restructuring their children's musical theater programming through an anti-racism lens and currently teaches with New York City Children's Theater, the Atlantic Acting School, and for Disney Theatrical Group leading music and movement workshops and facilitating audience and community engagement. She is also an Artistic Associate for the nationally-known arts education organization The Story Pirates. As a performer, she has worked regionally and toured nationally on both coasts. Recently awarded the 2019 Emerging Leader Fellowship with TYA/USA and the NYCCT Leader Fellowship for 2019/2020. BA in Theater Arts from the University of Southern California. To learn more about Ms. Davis, check her out at [www.khaliadavis.com](http://www.khaliadavis.com).

**About The Coterie:** Designated by *TIME* magazine in the top three theaters for young audiences in Nov. 2004 ("groundbreaking...one of the nation's most respected"), The Coterie, located in Kansas City, MO, 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 STD/AIDs education and 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, offering process-based drama classes for Grades K-12, has locations throughout greater Kansas City.

**About Broadway On Demand:** Broadway On Demand is the premiere streaming service offering an extensive and wide-ranging library of video on demand content, exclusive livestream events, interactive platforms, and educational resources. It is designed as a virtual performing arts complex offering not only Broadway shows and movie musicals but also, individual artists, concert series, performance venues, and theatres around the world. Additionally, using a unique licensing interface, approved middle school, high school, and college productions will have the opportunity to be streamed to a global audience. Broadway On Demand fulfills Broadway's long-held promise of being the 'longest street in the world'.

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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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