

February 24, 2017

For Immediate Release

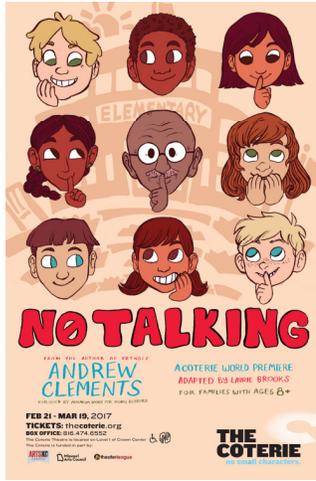
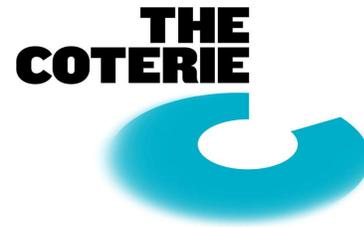
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PRESS RELEASE

The Coterie presents
the World Premiere of a
Family-Friendly Comedy about
the Power of Silence from
the Best-Selling Author of *Frindle*

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: ***No Talking***

Adapted by Laurie Brooks

Based on the story by Andrew Clements

Directed by Jeff Church

WHEN: February 21 – March 19, 2017

Press / Opening Night: Friday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m.

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

PRICE: \$11.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;

\$15.00 for adults; \$5.00 - \$6.50 for Groups of 20 or more

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

Phone: (816) 474-6552

Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – The Coterie Theatre, nationally-recognized as a top creator of new works of theatre for school-aged youth and family audiences, presents the world premiere of ***No Talking***, a new comedy based on the story by Andrew Clements, best-selling author of “Frindle.” Adapted by Laurie Brooks and directed by Jeff Church, ***No Talking*** will be performed live on The Coterie’s

- more -

stage, February 21 – March 19, 2017.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In ***No Talking***, it's boys vs. girls when the noisiest, most talkative fifth graders in history create a contest to see who really can talk the least. When fifth grader Dave Packer studies Gandhi for a report on India, he learns that Gandhi was silent one day each week to calm his mind. Though Dave likes to talk nonstop, he's determined to give the idea a try. But when confronted by a female classmate, their friendly competition soon turns into an all-out challenge and rollicking fun ensues in this comedy with a big heart.

No Talking is based on a short story by Andrew Clements, best-selling author of dozens of popular books for young readers including his debut novel, "Frindle," which was named as one of "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children" by the U.S. National Education Association, among many other honors. In its review of Clements' book, "***No Talking***," *The New York Times Book Review* raved, "Andrew Clements set the standard for the school story in 1996 with his first novel, *Frindle*... ***No Talking*** is his best school story since."

Long-time Coterie collaborator, Laurie Brooks, will adapt ***No Talking*** to the stage. Brooks is the playwright behind several successful Coterie commissions and world premieres, including *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem*, *Everyday Heroes*, and *The Wrestling Season*, which was featured at The Kennedy Center's One Theatre World 2000, published in "Lies and Deceptions Quartet," a collection of plays for young adults, and has been produced by theatre companies nationwide since its Coterie premiere. Brooks' adaptation of ***No Talking*** brings Clements' story to life as a light-hearted, high-energy comedy that explores the value of listening, the wisdom of thinking before speaking, and how silence can lead to surprising, new opinions about the world around us.

The Coterie's world premiere production of ***No Talking*** will run approximately 65 minutes with no intermission and will be best appreciated by families with ages eight and older. The production is funded in part by Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League. Additional funding was provided by Joseph Appelt.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The cast of ***No Talking*** features Vanessa Severo (as Actor Extraordinaire), Brad Shaw (as Gandhi), Jacob Valle (as Dave), Rasheedat "Ras" Badejo (as Lynsey), Zach Faust (as Jason), and Callie Rodina (Emily). The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director),

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William J. Christie (production stage manager), Scott Hobart (set designer/technical director), Jarrett Bertoncin (lighting designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), and Danielle Walsh (production assistant).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, continues its 38th season with **No Talking**, February 21-March 19, 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, February 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Tickets: Tickets are \$11.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$15.00 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, February 21-26, 2017. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50-\$6.00 per person on weekdays and \$6.50 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 2016/2017 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.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

During the run of **No Talking**, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration. A free post-performance reception with the company, staff, and board of directors.

Saturday, February 25, and Sunday, February 26, 2:00 p.m.: Question & Answer session. A free

- more -

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

Fridays, March 3, 10, and 17, 7:00 p.m.: Friday Family Fun Night. Post-performance autograph session and photo op with cast members.

Saturday, March 11, 2:00 p.m.: Interpreted performance in American Sign Language.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

NO TALKING

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 19, 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		21 9:45 am	22 9:45 am	23 9:45 am 11:45 am	24 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	25 2 pm
26 2 pm	27	28 9:45 am 11:45 am	1 9:45 am 11:45 am	2 9:45 am 11:45 am	3 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	4 2 pm
5 2 pm	6	7 9:45 am 11:45 am	8 9:45 am 11:45 am	9 9:45 am 11:45 am	10 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	11 2 pm
12 2 pm	13	14 9:45 am 11:45 am	15 9:45 am 11:45 am	16 9:45 am 11:45 am	17 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	18 2 pm
19 2 pm						

 **No Talking will feature a post-show forum exploring the play's theme built into every weekday performance**

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



Left to right: Zach Faust (as Jason), Rasheedat "Ras" Badejo (as Lynsey), Callie Rodina (as Emily), and Jacob Valle (as Dave) in *No Talking*. Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

No Talking is adapted from the story by Andrew Clements published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

THE REMAINING 2016/2017 SEASON

Following *No Talking*, The Coterie's 2016/2017 Season concludes with two musicals for all ages: Mo Willem's own adaptation of his beloved, *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, April 4 – May 21, 2017; and *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*, June 13 – August 6, 2017.

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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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