

January 24, 2020

For Immediate Release

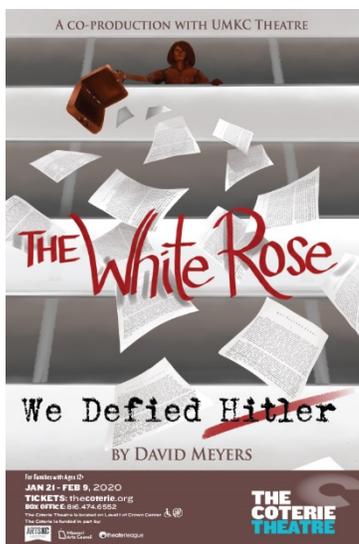
Press Contact:

David Golston

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

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

Email: [dgolston@coterietheatre.org](mailto:dgolston@coterietheatre.org)



.....

**The Coterie and UMKC Theatre  
Stage True Story of Sophie Scholl  
and Students Behind Rare Act of  
Public Resistance During WWII**

***The White Rose:  
We Defied Hitler***  
by David Meyers

.....

**OVERVIEW:**

WHAT: ***The White Rose: We Defied Hitler***  
by David Meyers  
Directed by Markus Potter & Jeff Church

WHEN: **January 21 – February 9, 2020**  
**Press / Opening Night: Friday, January 24, 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, students, and seniors 60 and older; \$15.00 for adults

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office  
Phone: (816) 474-6552 Online: [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org)

**Kansas City, MO** – The Coterie Theatre continues its 41<sup>st</sup> season of live theatre for families and young audiences with ***The White Rose: We Defied Hitler***, a co-production with UMKC Theatre and written by David Meyers. An inspiring true story for families with ages twelve and older, ***The White Rose*** tells the story of Sophie Scholl how the White Rose movement became one of the few public acts of German resistance to Nazi rule during WWII. Directed by Markus Potter and Jeff Church, ***The White Rose*** will be produced in educational partnership with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and community partnership with Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City. It will be performed live on The Coterie's stage, January 21 – February 9, 2020.

## THE PLAY

In 1943, a 21-year-old German college student, Sophie Scholl, along with her older brother, Hans, and several other students, were detained by police and accused of distributing of leaflets produced by The White Rose, a small underground movement that denounced Hitler and the rule of the Nazi party in Germany. Police claimed someone witnessed Sophie flinging fliers from the top floor of the atrium at her university. Under the Third Reich, such an act was considered treasonous and punishable by death. ***The White Rose: We Defied Hitler*** is a gripping and intriguing play that examines the true story of Sophie's detainment once she was in Gestapo custody. The play contains little-known facts about Sophie, her brother Hans, and the civil disobedience of the White Rose movement, which instigated one of very few German-led acts of public resistance to Nazi rule. It looks at how Sophie's moral strength is tested while being interrogated for her crimes, forcing her to question whether to save her own life or continue her righteous crusade. Based on real events, ***The White Rose*** is a challenging new work that examines the role of ordinary people in extraordinary times.

In conjunction with ***The White Rose***, The Coterie will offer educators post-show, in-school workshops that will be led by trained teaching artists and will challenge students to think critically about the events in the play and help put the story into historical context. Over the past four years, The Coterie's pre-show, in-school workshops have served over 10,000 area students in more than 500 workshops at over 150 schools.

The Coterie's production of ***The White Rose: We Defied Hitler*** will run approximately 70 minutes with no intermission and will be best appreciated by families with ages twelve and older. The Coterie is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Shubert Foundation.

## A CO-PRODUCTION

***The White Rose*** will be presented in co-production between The Coterie and [UMKC Theatre](#), a collaborative relationship that has become an annual tradition for The Coterie since it began with *The Red Badge of Courage* in 1992, and continued most recently with *Secret Soldiers: Heroines in Disguise* in 2019. Originally founded as a program that offered MFA actors the chance to work alongside established theatre professionals, the co-productions have since grown to feature both student actors as well as MFA designers and coaches from nearly every area of UMKC's Department of Theatre. The Coterie is proud to continue its long-standing relationship with UMKC Theatre, which benefits up-and-coming young professionals by providing practical, professional work experience, both on stage and behind the scenes.

## THE ARTISTS

Directed by Markus Potter and Jeff Church, the cast of ***The White Rose*** will feature Morgan Lynn Sterrett (as Sophie Scholl), Robert Gibby Brand (as Kurt Grunwald), and Jordan Luty (as Hans Scholl). The artistic and production company also includes Danielle Renee (production stage manager), Scott Hobart (Coterie technical director), Morgan Cole (UMKC Technical Director), Lee O Barker (set designer), Zan deSpelder (lighting designer), Selena Gonzalez-Lopez (projections designer), Lauren Long (costume designer), Tom Mardikes and Mary Robinson (sound designers), Mary Robinson (composer), Samuel Klaas (properties/set dressing), Austin Van Winkle (master electrician), Joel Kipper (conservatory production manager), Hilary Surface and Sadie DeSantis (swing stage managers), Chloé Robbins (Coterie production assistant), and Bailey Kirk (UMKC Production Assistant).

## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Coterie will produce *The White Rose* in educational partnership with:



[The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education](http://mchekc.org) (MCHE), a nonprofit organization that focuses on teaching the history of the Holocaust, applying its lessons to counter indifference, intolerance, and genocide. MCHE is in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring the **White Rose Student Essay Contest**, which is named in memory of Hans and Sophie Scholl and commemorates the heroic efforts of these brave young people, members of the White Rose, who gave their lives for the causes of understanding, tolerance, and freedom. This year's theme is "The Holocaust in the East." Essays must be postmarked by March 27, 2020. More information is available online at [mchekc.org/white-rose-student-essay-contest](http://mchekc.org/white-rose-student-essay-contest).

**On Sunday, January 26, members of MCHE will attend *The White Rose* in special acknowledgement of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Coterie will produce *The White Rose* in community partnership with:



[Girls on the Run of Greater Kansas City](http://gotrkcc.org) (GOTRKC), a nonprofit organization and positive youth development program for girls in 3rd through 8th grades. More than 4,000 girls in the greater Kansas City area will participate in 2020 with GOTRKC, a 10-week program led by more than 800 trained volunteer coaches that takes the girls through lessons such as banning negative self-talk, the dangers of gossip, healthy eating habits, and a community service project, to name a few, and concludes each spring and fall season with the Girls on the Run 5K, a non-competitive celebration of the girls' achievements.

**GOTRKC invites its members to see *The White Rose* on "Girls on the Run Day," Saturday, February 1.**

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets, Spotlight Passes, and Group Reservations for The Coterie's 2019/2020 mainstage season are on sale now through The Coterie's box office at **816.474.6552** or [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org).

- **Subscriptions:** In lieu of season subscriptions, The Coterie offers passes which work like season tickets without committing to a set schedule. Passes range from \$110.00-\$150.00 and include a variety of benefits including 10 flexible tickets that can be used on a combination of shows in the 2019/2020 Season, priority seating, ticket exchanges, and other privileges.
- **Individual Tickets:** Tickets for *The White Rose* are \$12.00 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 each production. After preview week, groups for *The White Rose* pay only \$5.50 - \$8.00 per person depending on performance date.

Performance Calendar

**THE WHITE ROSE:  
We Defied Hitler**

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 9, 2020						
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	29 9:45 am 11:45 am	30 9:45 am 11:45 am	31 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	1 2 pm
2 2 pm	3	4 9:45 am 11:45 am	5 9:45 am 11:45 am	6 9:45 am 11:45 am	7 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	8 2 pm
9 2 pm						

**CALENDAR LEGEND**

-  Opening Night
-  Post-performance **Question and Answer session** with the company
-  **Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language

**NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS**

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

- **Friday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration.** A free post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board of directors.
- **Saturday, January 25, and Sunday, January 26, 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.
- **Saturday, February 1, 2:00 p.m.: Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language.

When available, production photos will be posted online at:

[www.thecoterie.org/press-room](http://www.thecoterie.org/press-room)

**THE COTERIE’S REMAINING 2019/2020 SEASON**

Following *The White Rose*, The Coterie’s 2019/2020 Season continues with a new perspective for all Potterheads, *PUFFS or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*, February 25 – March 22, 2020; a rock-and-roll musical about groovy, guitar-slinging *Pete the Cat*, April 7 – May 17, 2020; and the beloved musical about the mermaid princess, Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*, June 16 – August 2, 2020.

.....

A version of this play was originally produced at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in July 2017, under the leadership of Ed Herendeen, Producing Director, and Peggy McKowen, Associate Producing Director.

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

.....

###