

2022-23 Season

COTERIE THEATRE

CASTING BREAKDOWN

Akeelah and the Bee

By Cheryl L. West

Based on the book by Doug Atchison

1st Rehearsal 8/30/22; Performs 09/20/22 to 10/16/22

Co-Directors: Teresa Leggard, Jeff Church

A girl with natural spelling talent from the South Side of Chicago, young Akeelah Anderson is forced to expose her hidden smarts when her principal pushes her to participate in the school spelling bee. At first fearful of being mocked as a “brainiac,” Akeelah eventually agrees to be coached by reclusive and strict Dr. Larabee. Plus, her mother doesn’t see the pulchritude (a new word audiences will learn) of spelling an amazing word—so to make it to the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, Akeelah will need to make some hard choices and find all the help she can get.

Adult Roles:

Gail – a hospital worker/mother, widowed, raising two teen youth on her own. Black female in her 30s/early 40s.

Dr. Larabee – retired scholar, serves as a mentor, very private after the loss of his daughter. Black male in his 50s or 60s.

Principal Welch/also 4th Pronouncer – any ethnicity or gender.

Batty Ruth/also District Judge – neighbor to Gail's family, older Black female.

Mr. Chiu/also 3rd Pronouncer – Competitive father to spelling bee participant Dylan. Asian male in his 30s/40s.

Tell-Tale Electric Poe

By Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted by Coterie Artistic Director Jeff Church, Composed by Rex Hobart

Performs October 20-30, 2022

One actor...one musician delivering Poe stories and poems with musical lines and retorts from a reactive electric guitar! This show overflows with poetry, riffs, ghosts and morbid prose floating in an atmospheric setting. Horrifying and humorous, our sublime

creation blends old with new. Featuring: *The Premature Burial* and the oft-requested *Tell-Tale Heart*, as well as several Poe poems.

1 adult male (precast)

A Charlie Brown Christmas

By Charles M. Schulz

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson

1st Rehearsal 11/01/22; Performs 11/15/22 to 12/31/22

Directed by William Christie; music directed by Gary Adams; Choreography by Marc Wayne

The animated classic will come to life on The Coterie stage - and a live jazz trio will play the underscore using the original Vince Guaraldi arrangements. Charlie Brown takes 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.

Adult roles:

Charlie Brown: forlorn but resilient. Any ethnicity.

Lucy: ambitious, in private has some compassion for Charlie Brown. Any ethnicity.

Linus: blanket-carrying philosophical, and a good best friend to Charlie Brown. Any ethnicity.

Snoopy: creative, silent anarchist. Must be able to move. Any ethnicity.

Sally: Determined, also harboring a crush on Linus. Sister to Charlie Brown. Any ethnicity.

Schroeder: devoted to playing Beethoven. Any ethnicity.

Violet: Lucy's best friend, blunt. Any ethnicity.

Pigpen: happy, dust covered, wants a good role in the pageant this year. Any ethnicity.

Only One Day a Year

By Michelle Tyrene Johnson

This world premiere, National Endowment for the Arts award-winning play intertwines present day with the last segregated days of Fairyland amusement park. Inspired by overlooked Kansas City history with two stories told in tandem: In the early 1960s in Kansas City, Rose James uses smarts and determination to try to defeat the racial segregation policy that allowed blacks to visit Fairyland Park only one day each year. Years later, Rose's granddaughter, Ella, uses her talent and grandmother's spirit to shine a light on an injustice at her school. Rose and Ella tap into "black girl magic" and empowerment to bring about meaningful change to their lives.

1st Rehearsal 02/12/23; Performs 01/31/23 – 03/05/23

Directed by Nedra Dixon, assistant directed by Teresa Leggard

Only One Day a Year was postponed in Jan/Feb of 2022, due to the pandemic. The production has a cast in place.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (The Musical)

Based on the book by Mo Willems

By Mo Willems and Mr. Warburton

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

1st Rehearsal 03/14/23; Performs 04/04/23 to 05/21/23

Director Shanara Gabrielle, Music Direction by Anthony Edwards, Choreography by Marc Wayne

Whatever you do, don't let the Pigeon star in his own musical production! Starring an innovative mix of actors, puppets, songs, and feathers—plus a script written by Mo Willems, the creator of the #1 New York Times best-selling, Caldecott Honor "Pigeon" picture books, this comedic musical production is even more fun than staying up late to have a hot dog party!

Adult Roles:

Actor 1: THE PIGEON (PUPPETEER): The snappy, sassy, and demanding bird who never gets what he wants, but that doesn't mean he'll ever stop trying. Any ethnicity, male. Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Actor 2: A. THE BUS DRIVER: A professional who loves her work and, eventually, The Pigeon. Prides herself on ALWAYS being on time. **B. BACKUP DUCKLING 4 (Puppeteer)** Any ethnicity, female. Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: F3

Actor 3: **A. HOT DOG VENDOR:** A guy that just loves sharing hot dogs. But not with Pigeons. **B. PASSENGER: BUSINESS MAN** A no-nonsense man in a suit off to his new job. Hope he's not late.com! **C. BACKUP DUCKLING D. AIRPLANE ENGINE** Personification of the sound effect of an airplane. Any ethnicity, male. Vocal range top: E4 Vocal range bottom: D3

Actor 4: **A. THE DUCKLING (Puppeteer):** An adorable Duckling who gets a hot dog by just asking politely (operated Avenue Q-style). **B. BUS Puppet (Puppeteer)** A vision of the bus that dances in a fantasy sequence. **C. BUS DRIVER'S MOM** Bus Driver's have moms too, you know. **D. PUPPY (Puppeteer)** An adorable, woofy puppy-teer (operated Avenue Q-style). **E. THE BUS ENGINE** Personification of the sound effects of an engine working. Also can do an engine *not* working! Any ethnicity, female. Vocal range top: C5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Actor 5: **A. CITY WORKER:** Grunty guy just doing his job putting up signs around town. **B. PASSENGER: TEENAGER** A kid who can't wait to go see the latest superhero movie that's opening RIGHT NOW! **C. BACKUP DUCKLING 2 (Puppeteer)** Any ethnicity, male. Vocal range top: C5 Vocal range bottom: D3

Actor 6: **A. 2nd PIGEON (Puppeteer):** Twin to The Pigeon, it pokes it's head out in opening scene (operated Avenue Q-style). **B. PASSENGER: LITTLE OLD LADY** Very excited to go see her newborn grandchild at the hospital. **C. BACKUP DUCKLING 3 (Puppeteer)** Any ethnicity, female. Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: C4

Doctor Dolittle

Book, Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

Eccentric Doctor Dolittle, a country physician, has learned to talk to animals—complicating his life and leading to trouble with authorities. Accompanied by his tutor and mentor, Polynesia (a 200-year-old parrot)—as well as a a trusty band of human and animal companions—the Doctor sets out to change the way animals are treated and understood in the world. The songs include “I’ve Never Seen Anything Like It,” “My Friend the Doctor,” and the marvelous Academy Award winning song, “Talk to the Animals.” World premiere TYA version.

1st Rehearsal 06/06/23; Performs 06/27/23 to 08/06/23

Directed by Jeff Church, Music Direction by Anthony Edwards, Choreography by Marc Wayne

Adult roles:

Doctor Dolittle: eccentric veterinarian, obsessed with the study of animals. Any ethnicity, male. Vocal range top: Ab4 Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Polynesia: full of advice, the doctor's 200 year old parrot. Any ethnicity. Any ethnicity, female. Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: C4

Madelyn Mugg: wise, animal-loving pushcart owner who goes on journey with the doctor. Any ethnicity, older female. Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: Bb3

Emma Fairfax: gets mixed up with the doctor when he flees the country from her uncle, the magistrate. Any ethnicity, female. Vocal range top: Db5 Vocal range bottom: Ab3

General Bellows/Albert Blossom: Bellows is a magistrate with a grudge against Dolittle; Blossom is a pompous Yorkshire owner of a dilapidated circus. Any ethnicity, older male. Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: C4

Gertie/Straight Arrow: Gertie is the wife of the circus owner. Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: E4. Straight Arrow is a former ladies school Brit who self-exiled to a remote island to create an animal sanctuary. Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: C5. Any ethnicity, female.

CASTING POLICIES

The Coterie is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity designed to promote a positive model of diversity and the elimination of discrimination in theatre. We will provide full and fair consideration to Actors of all ethnicities (including but not limited to African-American, Asian/Asian-Pacific American, Hispanic-American, Native American, multi-cultural), sex, gender identity and/or expression, women, seniors, and Actors with disabilities.

Unless otherwise textually indicated, all parts/roles shall be open to all Actors without prejudice. In furtherance of the commitment to equal employment opportunity in the Theatre for Young Audiences industry, we accept the obligation to ensure opportunities for hiring ethnic minorities, women, seniors and performers with disabilities. With awareness of the special role youth-oriented theatre must play in shaping attitudes by reflecting a multi-ethnic/multi-cultural society, we aim for increased non-traditional casting opportunities in our productions.

Mission/Values/EDI&J Commitments: <https://thecoterie.org/mission-values>