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For Immediate Release

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**The Coterie Brings World Famous  
Feline to Life in New Musical  
for Lasagna Lovers  
(and Monday Haters) of All Ages**

***Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude***

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### **OVERVIEW:**

**WHAT:** *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*

Based on the Comic Strip "GARFIELD" by Jim Davis

Book by Michael J. Bobbitt and Jim Davis

Music and Lyrics by John L. Cornelius II

Directed by Jerry Jay Cranford

**WHEN:** June 13 – August 6, 2017

**Press / Opening Night: Friday, June 16, 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, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;  
\$17.00 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](http://www.thecoterie.org)

**Kansas City, MO** – This summer, The Coterie brings the world's most celebrated feline to life on stage in a charming family musical, *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*. Adapted for the stage by character creator, Jim Davis, the musical is directed by Jerry Jay Cranford and features a live

trio headed by musical director, Anthony T. Edwards, on keyboards. On stage at The Coterie June 13 – August 6, 2017, **Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude** is produced in community partnership with Wayside Waifs, who together with The Coterie, will offer a variety of free performance extras over the summer, including on-site adoptable pet viewings and post-show humane education discussions about the importance of showing em-PAW-thy toward animals.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

In this brand new musical adaptation of everyone's favorite sarcastic tubby tabby, Garfield awakens to find his birthday – the most important day of the year – has fallen on a Monday. *The horror!* To make matters worse, all his friends – Jon, Odie, Arlene, and even his nemesis, Nermal – have completely forgotten it's his big day. Only his beloved teddy bear, Pookie, understands his disappointment. Feeling rejected, Garfield leaves the comforts of home and strikes out to find adventure. Making it as far as the alley, Garfield soon realizes in the outside there's no T.V., the food is garbage (literally), and animal control is always just around the corner. In the end, Garfield learns little things like, you know, the value of friendship and that *"home is where the heart - and the food - is."*

The Coterie's production of **Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude** gives audiences the chance to celebrate Garfield's actual 39<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 19, 2017. *"I always enjoy seeing how Garfield has become a part of people's lives, and with each new generation, a new kind of relationship with Garfield forms,"* said Garfield creator Jim Davis in 2015 when discussing the show's original production at Adventure Theatre MTC in Washington D.C. *"When [I was] first approached... about a new show, I turned [it] down - twice. I'm certainly glad that the third time [was] the charm."*

Once convinced Garfield could make the leap from the comic page to the theatre stage, Davis, along with playwright Michael J. Bobbitt and musician and lyricist John L. Cornelius, II, created **Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude**, a delightful new musical that brings to life the iconic cat that kids, parents, and grandparents all love. "Cats and chaos... it's a splendid combination," raved DCTheatreScene.com in a review of Adventure Theatre's original production, "snappy dialogue and toe tapping musical numbers... makes it genuinely enjoyable for kids and adults alike. Garfield has always had universal appeal and it is not lost here... a summer-must see..."

The Coterie's production of **Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude** will run approximately 55 minutes with no intermission and is *purr*-fect for families with all ages. The production is funded in part by Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

**Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude** is produced in community partnership with



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The cast of **Garfield:**

**The Musical with**

**Cattitude** features (as pictured, front row:)

Steven Eubank (as Garfield), Andy Perkins (as Jon Arbuckle), (back row:) Lauren Taylor (as Nermal), Darrington Clark (as Odie), and Brianna Renee Woods



Photo by J. Robert Schraeder

(as Arlene). The production features a live band featuring musicians Anthony T. Edwards (conductor/piano), Sam Wisman (percussion), and Brett Jackson (reeds). The artistic and production company includes Jerry Jay Cranford (director), Anthony T. Edwards (musical director), William J. Christie (production stage manager), Jordan Janota (set designer), Jarrett Bertocin (lighting designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Sandy Leppin (properties), Scott Hobart (technical director), and Chloé Robbins-Anderson (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, concludes its 38th season with **Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude**, June 13 – August 6, 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, June 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

**Individual Tickets:** Tickets are \$12.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$17.00 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, June 13-18, 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 Pass, which works like a season ticket without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Pass holders 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 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](http://www.thecoterie.org).








## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE & NOTABLE EXTRAS

### GARFIELD THE MUSICAL WITH CATTITUDE

JUNE 13 – AUGUST 6, 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		13 11 am	14 11 am	15 11 am	16 11 am 7 pm	17 2 pm
18 2 pm	19	20 11 am	21 11 am 1 pm	22 11 am 1 pm	23 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	24 2 pm
25 2 pm	26	27 11 am	28 11 am 1 pm	29 11 am 1 pm	30 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	1 2 pm
2 2 pm	3 11 am	4	5 11 am 1 pm	6 11 am 1 pm	7 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	8 2 pm
9 2 pm	10	11 11 am 1 pm	12 11 am 1 pm	13 11 am 1 pm	14 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	15 2 pm
16 2 pm	17	18 11 am 1 pm	19 11 am 1 pm	20 11 am 1 pm	21 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	22 2 pm
23 2 pm	24	25 11 am 1 pm	26 11 am 1 pm	27 11 am 1 pm	28 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	29 2 pm
30 2 pm	31	1 11 am 1 pm	2 11 am 1 pm	3 11 am 1 pm	4 11 am 1 pm 7 pm	5 2 pm
6 2 pm						

#### CALENDAR LEGEND

-  **Opening Night**
-  **Wayside Waifs' adoptable animals meet and greet** on site at the The Coterie
-  **Post-performance Question and Answer session** with the company
-  **Wayside Waifs' benefit** performance
-  **Friday Family Fun Night** featuring post-performance autograph session and photo op with cast members
-  **Post-performance conversation about em-PAW-thy** with a Wayside Waifs' Humane Educator and their furry companion
-  **Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language

During the run of *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras offered in community partnership with



**Friday, June 16: Opening Night Celebration.** A FREE post-performance reception with The Coterie's company, staff, board of directors, and representatives of Wayside Waifs.

**Friday, June 16 & Tuesday, July 18: Wayside Waifs Adoptable Animals Meet and Greet.** A FREE meet and greet with adoptable animals from Wayside Waifs on site at The Coterie.

**Saturday, June 17 & Sunday, June 18: Post-Performance Q&A.** A FREE post-performance question and answer period with members of the company.

**Fridays, June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, & August 4: Cast Photo Op & Autograph Session.** A FREE post-performance meet and greet with members of the cast.

**Thursday, July 6; Sunday, July 23; & Wednesday, August 2: Wayside Waifs Post-Performance**

**Conversation on em-PAW-thy.** A FREE post-show conversation about practicing em-PAW-thy toward all living beings, led by Wayside Waifs' Humane Educator and their furry companion.

**Saturday, July 8: Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language.

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*Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude* was originally produced by Adventure Theatre MTC, Glen Echo, MD, Michael J. Bobbitt, Producing Artistic Director, directed by Nick Olcott, and is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com).

© Paws, Jim Davis Michael J. Bobbitt, and John L. Cornelius II

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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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