

October 3, 2022

For Immediate Release

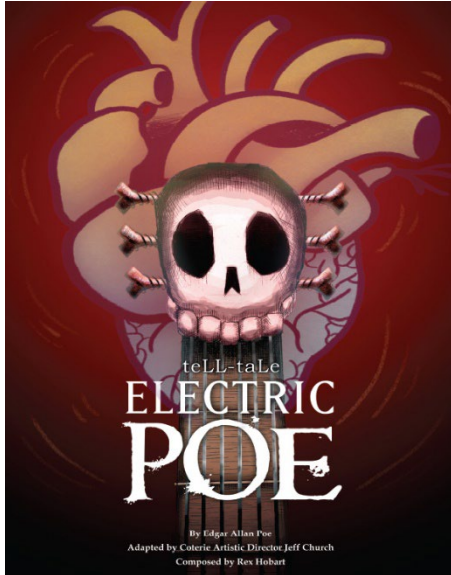
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**The Coterie Brings Poe's
Moody Masterpieces to Life with
Live Electric Guitar Underscoreing**

Tell-Tale Electric Poe

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OVERVIEW:

WHAT: ***Tell-Tale Electric Poe***
By Edgar Allan Poe
Adapted by Jeff Church
Composed by Rex Hobart

WHEN: **October 20 – October 30, 2022**
Press / Opening Night: Friday, October 21, 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;
\$6.00-\$8.00 for groups of 20 or more

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

Kansas City, MO – For two weeks only, The Coterie will present the return special engagement of ***Tell-Tale Electric Poe***, a unique theatrical event for families with ages 10 and older that features R.H. Wilhoit

delivering two of Edgar Allan Poe's best-known works with musical underscoring by guitarist Rex Hobart. Adapted and directed by Coterie producing artistic director, Jeff Church, ***Tell-Tale Electric Poe*** will be performed live on The Coterie's mainstage located in Crown Center, October 20-October 30, 2022.

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

In ***Tell-Tale Electric Poe***, two moody masterpieces by Edgar Allan Poe are brought to life - and death - by one actor and one musician. Actor and Coterie teaching artist, R.H. Wilhoit, delivers Poe stories and poems with musical lines and retorts from a reactive electric guitar played live by composer and musician Rex Hobart. Presented on The Coterie's mainstage, Wilhoit will perform readings of *The Premature Burial* and the oft requested *The Tell-Tale Heart*, as well as several Poe poems in a production that overflows with riffs, ghosts, poetry, and morbid prose floating in an atmospheric setting. Horrifying and humorous, the sublime creation blends old with new.

First appearing in 1844 in the *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper*, Poe took advantage of concerns at the time in *The Premature Burial*. In The Coterie's reading, a speaker delivers something of an antique TED Talk about his mortal fear, when it appears to manifest right before our eyes. Then, in 1843's classic psychological thriller *The Tell-Tale Heart*, a man confronts himself and the audience with his desire to commit unspeakable acts simply because of an old man's watchful eye. As a profound and horrifying plunge into the paranoia of a man's mind, *The Tell-Tale Heart* is one of Poe's best known and most highly regarded stories.

"For the first time in some years, we're including *The Tell-Tale Heart* in our annual *Electric Poe* production. And because we're inside on The Coterie stage for this year's performances, we're able to do a lot of special effects!" exclaimed Church. "Hollis Wilhoit and guitarist Rex Hobart will also perform Poe's onomatopoeia poem, 'The Bells,' as well as his classic, *The Premature Burial*."

The Coterie's ***Tell-Tale Electric Poe*** will run approximately 50 minutes and will be best appreciated by families with ages 10 and older.



Tell-Tale Electric Poe features R.H. Wilhoit and Rex Hobart. Photos by Jordan Rice.

THE ARTISTS

Tell-Tale Electric Poe is adapted and directed by Jeff Church. The cast features R.H. Wilhoit (as the actor) and Rex Hobart (as the musician). The artistic and production company includes Steve Emerson (production stage manager), Marc Wayne (technical director/master carpenter), David Kiehl (sound designer), Jarrett Bertocin (lighting designer), and Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer).



Tell-Tale Electric Poe features Rex Hobart and R.H. Wilhoit.
Photos by J. Robert Schraeder.

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie will begin *Tell-Tale Electric Poe* on October 20 and run through October 30, 2022, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. The performance runs approximately 50 minutes with no intermission and will be appreciated by families with ages 10 and older. All tickets are on sale now by calling The Coterie's box office at **816.474.6552** or visiting www.thecoterie.org.

- **Individual Tickets:** Tickets are \$12.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors 60 and older; and \$15.00 for adults.
- **Group Pricing:** The Coterie offers groups of 20 or more special rates ranging from \$6.00 - \$8.00 per person, depending on performance date.

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, a not-for-profit professional company 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

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR TELL-TALE ELECTRIC POE

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 30, 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				20 7 pm	21 7 pm	22 4 pm 7 pm
23 2 pm 5 pm	24	25	26	27 7 pm	28 7 pm	29 4 pm 7 pm
30 2 pm 5 pm						

CALENDAR LEGEND



Opening Night

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 (Young Playwrights' Roundtable), teen LGBTQ work (Project Pride), and mental health workshops in a dramatic format (Project Daylight), all free of charge, as overseen by Executive Director Joette Pelster and a dedicated staff. All these components serve an average of 97,000 per year through over 350 performances. The Coterie Theatre School has locations throughout greater Kansas City. Donate at www.thecoterie.org.

OUR FUNDERS

The Coterie is funded, in part, by National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Arts Council, The Shubert Foundation, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, and Theater League.



THE 2022/2023 SEASON

Following *Tell-Tale Electric Poe*, The Coterie's 2022/2023 Season continues with the beloved holiday classic, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, November 15-December 31, 2022; the world premiere of a new play inspired by overlooked Kansas City history, *Only One Day a Year*, January 31-March 5, 2023; the fun family musical, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*, April 4-May 21, 2023; and the world premiere of the youth and family version of *Doctor Dolittle*, based on the popular movie musical, June 27-August 6, 2023.

Production photos will available online at <https://www.thecoterie.org/press-room>.

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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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