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For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Coterie Returns to Oz with the Hit, Multi-Cultural Musical *The Wiz*

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OVERVIEW:

WHAT: *The Wiz*

Book by William F. Brown | Music by Charlie Smalls

Directed by Jeff Church

Music Direction by Anthony Edwards | Choreography by Vanessa Severo

WHEN: **November 12, 2013 - January 5, 2014**

Press / Opening Night: Friday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center Shops, Kansas City, Missouri

PRICE: \$12.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;
\$17.00 for adults; Groups of 20 or more: \$6.00 - \$7.00 per person.

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

Phone: 816.474.6552 Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – By popular demand, The Coterie returns to Oz with the Tony® Award-winning musical *The Wiz*, a modern reimagining of L. Frank Baum’s “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” Directed by Jeff Church, *The Wiz* will be performed live on stage through January 5, 2014.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

The timeless musical sensation **The Wiz** is a multi-cultural view of Oz with a soulful twist. It tells a touching story of friendship, family, and the universal power of home, while featuring a slew of now-classic pop songs like *No Bad News*, *Brand New Day*, *Home*, and *Ease On Down the Road*, made famous by Diana Ross and Michael Jackson as the hit single from the film version of **The Wiz**. The 1975 original Broadway production won seven Tony® Awards, including Best Musical. Based on The Coterie's 2011 acclaimed staging, the 2013 holiday production also features the return of the leading cast as Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, and Lion ease their way down a fabulous yellow brick road to meet the great and powerful Wiz.

The Coterie's original staging of the show received universal accolades for its eye-popping production of **The Wiz**. *The Kansas City Star* praised the show as, "One phenomenal trip... nothing short of fantastic... a production so imaginative that it's in a class by itself... it assembles the biggest group of local African-American actors on a local stage that anyone can remember and showcases superb performances..." *The Pitch* hailed the show as, "One of the most gifted casts of the year... there isn't a single weak spot... This **Wiz** transports us to a wonderland and then gently returns us home." *KCMetropolis.org* agreed, saying "The cast was loaded with triple threats... Each of the main characters was stellar... **The Wiz** brought back a lot of great childhood memories for me. There isn't a bad song in the entire show and this performance was packed with talent and imagination. Kudos to the Coterie."

Produced as part of The Coterie's 2013 Shines series, **The Wiz** will be appreciated by all ages. The running time is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Coterie restages its critically-acclaimed 2011 production of **The Wiz** with all of the leading actors returning to their roles, including Emily Shackelford (as Dorothy), Tosin Morohunfola (as Scarecrow), Brad Shaw (as Tinman), Christopher Barksdale (as Lion), Damron Russel Armstrong (as Uncle Henry/Wizard), Enjoli Gavin (as Addaperle/Evillene), and Nedra Dixon (as Aunt Em/Glinda). The show has an ensemble cast featuring Shawna Downing, Teal Holliday, Robert Moore, Chelsea Russell, Bradley Turner, Francisco Javier Villegas, and Malena Marcase.

The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director), Anthony T. Edwards (music director), Vanessa Severo (choreographer), Megan Wherley (set designer), Ron Megee (properties), Brad Shaw (costume designer), Art Kent (lighting designer), David Kiehl (sound effects), Amy M. Abels Owen (production stage manager), Scott Hobart (technical director), Damron Russel Armstrong (assistant director), Daniel Warneke (sound designer), and Luci Kersting (production assistant).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, now in its 35th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform ***The Wiz*** November 12, 2013 – January 5, 2014, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, November 15, 2013, 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: Groups of 20 or more pay only \$6.00 per person on weekdays and \$7.00 per person on weekends (Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays).

Subscriptions: *New this season!* The Coterie introduces the Spotlight Club Pass. A great option for busy families, a Spotlight Club membership is like purchasing season tickets without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Club members pay \$90.00 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 2013/2014 Season.

Target Saturdays: To help encourage a love for the arts in young adults and children, Target generously sponsors The Coterie's Saturday matinees. Patrons who purchase a full price admission to any Saturday matinee will receive one free ticket per order. Some restrictions apply (see website for details).

All tickets and the new 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.





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PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

NOV 12, 2013 - JAN 5, 2014

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

Calendar Legend

-  Opening Nights
-  Interpreted performances in American Sign Language
-  Post-performance Question and Answer session with the Company
-  Post-performance Improv Aftergame by the Culture Hacks



The Wiz features Tosin Morohunfola (as Scarecrow), Emily Shackelford (as Dorothy), Brad Shaw (as Tinman), and Christopher Barksdale (as Lion). Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

THE REMAINING 2013/2014 SEASON

Following *The Wiz*, The Coterie's 2013/2014 Season continues with *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem*, a World Premiere by Laurie Brooks inspired by the Salem Witch Trials, January 28 – February 23, 2014; *Geek Mythology: I Was a Teenage Immortal*, a World Premiere musical inspired by Greek mythology, February 25 – March 9, 2014; *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, a musical review of the hit animated T.V. series, April 8 - May 18, 2014; and the premiere youth and family theatre version of the Broadway musical based on the popular film, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, June 17 - August 3, 2014.

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

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