

March 20, 2015

For Immediate Release

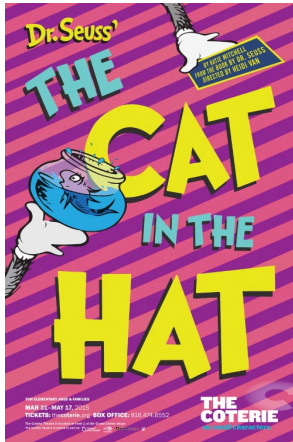
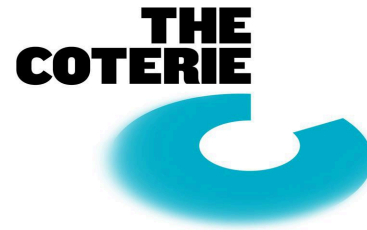
Press Contact:

David Golston

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Office: (816) 474-6785 ext. 230 Cell: (785) 217-8222

Email: dgolston@coterietheatre.org



PRESS RELEASE

The Coterie Brings Dr. Seuss Favorite
to Life on Stage in
Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*
Adapted by Katie Mitchell
Directed by Heidi Van

WHEN: **March 31 - May 17, 2015**
Press / Opening Night: Friday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

PRICE: \$10.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;
\$15.00 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

Kansas City, MO – The Coterie continues its 2014/2015 Season with *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*, based on the beloved early childhood book by Dr. Seuss. Directed by Heidi Van, *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* will be performed live on stage March 31 – May 17, 2015.

- more -

ABOUT THE PLAY

Since 1937, Dr. Seuss' books have been delighting children and families alike. Perhaps the most recognizable of Seuss' characters, The Cat in the Hat was the second book Seuss wrote in his collection to encourage literacy and make reading fun for beginners.

Originally produced by National Theatre of Great Britain, Katie Mitchell's stage adaptation of *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* maintains the book's fun simplicity and famous imagery, recreating the story page-by-page. The moment the Cat's tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears around the door, Sally and her brother know that The Cat In The Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met. With the trickiest of tricks and craziest of ideas, he is certainly fun to play with. And he turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure. But what will mum find when she gets home...?

Alongside The Cat (played by Jake Walker), Thing 1 (Tony Pulford) and Thing 2 (Pancha Brown), cause uproarious mischief standing on balls, balancing teacups, and making a general mess in the home of Boy (Donovan Woods) and Sally (Deanna Mazdra) and their Fish (Damian Blake).

Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat will be best appreciated by people aged five and older. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League.

Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat is sponsored by:

LearningQuest[®]
529 EDUCATION SAVINGS PROGRAM

American Century Investments Services, Inc., Distributor and Underwriter.
4500 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Heidi Van (Director) is an actor, creator, and producer of contemporary experimental live theatre. She is the founder and curator of The Fishtank Performance Studio, an intimate black box theater she opened to the public six years ago. She has installed performances in windows, on sidewalks, at a prison, and in a lingerie shop. This is Heidi's first directing credit at The Coterie, although she has previously performed in over 10 Coterie productions, including *The BFG*, *Between Land and Sea: A Selkie Myth*, and *Number the Stars*. She has also worked at the New Theatre Restaurant, Unicorn

- more -

Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, The Living Room, and The Fishtank. Heidi has toured nationally and internationally, most recently to Uppsala, Sweden, with a performance of Arthur Miller's one act, *Elegy For A Lady*. *Time Magazine* recognized her for the installation of this performance in *Birdies*, an intimate apparel apothecary. Heidi is mother to two girls, Marianne and Pauline, who are her sunshine, her inspiration, and loves.



Jake Walker (The Cat) has been a professional actor for 17 years. At The Coterie, Jake has been seen in *Playing for Time*, *Red Badge Variations*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*. Recently in Kansas City he's performed as Hamlet in *Hamlet* with Kansas City Actors Theatre, Bassanio in *Merchant of Venice* at Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, and as Trip in *Other Desert Cities* for Unicorn Theatre. Next up, Jake will be back at The Unicorn in *Tribes* this summer.



Donovan Woods (Boy) was recently seen around Kansas City touring with The Coterie's production of *To Whom it May Inspire*. His previous credits include *Footloose*; *Shrek the Musical*; and *Almost, Maine* at Crane River Theater. Donovan holds a degree in Music from Kansas State University.



Deanna Mazdra (Sally) makes her debut on The Coterie main stage, however she was part of The Coterie's Dramatic Health Education Project. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from University of Central Missouri. Other credits include *Columbus Day* with The Living Room Theatre, *Cabaret* at Stray Dog Theatre, *Next to Normal* at She and Her, and *Grease* and *Seussical* at Crane River Theater.



Damian Blake (The Fish) returns to The Coterie where he has appeared in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Lyle the Crocodile*, and *Slashdance!*. He was recently seen as The Preacher in *Violet* with Spinning Tree Theatre, as well as in *Golden! Girls Gone Wild* with LateNight Theatre, and *An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein* at The Fishtank. Damian travels the midwest with his wife, Annie Cherry, as themed entertainment for hire, and is also an internationally recognized Charlie Chaplin impersonator, having appeared as Chaplin in print, on film, and for numerous corporations worldwide.



Tony Pulford (Thing 1) is an actor in The Coterie's Dramatic Health Education Project, and was most recently on The Coterie main stage in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*. Previously, he appeared in *Red vs. the Wolf*, *Cinderella*, *Cinderella!*; *The Nutcracker*, and *Urinetown: The Musical* at Northwest Missouri State University, where he earned a B.A. in Theatre.



Pancha Brown (Thing 2) was born in Bogota, Columbia, where she lived in an orphanage until being adopted by American parents who helped her learn English while watching Broadway musicals. Today, she holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Central Missouri. Over the past year, she has split her time between New York and Kansas City. This is Pancha's first production at The Coterie. Previously, she was seen in *The King and I*, and *Damn Yankees* (script-in-hand) at Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre, and *Damn Yankees* with Theatre in the Park.

The artistic and production company of *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* also includes Georgianna Londré Buchanan (resident costume designer), Art Kent (resident lighting designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Tanya Brown (stage manager), Scott Hobart (resident technical director), and Mackenzie Goodwin Tran (production assistant).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, now in its 36th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* March 31-May 17, 2015, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, April 3, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Tickets: Tickets are \$10.00 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 the run, March 31-April 4. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50 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 Club Pass, which works like 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 2014/2015 Season.

All tickets and 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.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

During the run of *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

Weekday performances are interactive! Built into each weekday performance is a pre-show experience that will help school groups explore Dr. Seuss' world and engage students physically and cognitively.

Reach Out & Read Book Drive - The Coterie is proud to partner with Reach Out & Read Kansas City on a drive to collect children's books during the run of *Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat*. Leave new

or gently used books at The Coterie Box Office for children 0-10 years old. Donation will encourage families to read together.

Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night celebration featuring a free post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board.

Saturday, April 4, 2:00 p.m.: Post-performance **Question and Answer session** with members of the company

Fridays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15: Bring the whole family for **Friday Family Nights**

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.: **Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

**DR. SEUSS'
THE CAT IN THE HAT**

MARCH 31 – MAY 17, 2015

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

Calendar Legend:

-  **Opening Nights**
-  **Friday Family Night**
-  **Post-performance Question and Answer session**
-  **Interpreted performances in American Sign Language**



Left to right: Damian Blake (as The Fish), Donovan Woods (as The Boy), and Deanna Mazdra (as Sally). Photo by J. Robert Schraeder. Dr. Seuss text, characters and images TM and © 2009 Dr. Seuss Enterprises, L.P. All rights reserved.

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

###