

October 6, 2023

For Immediate Release

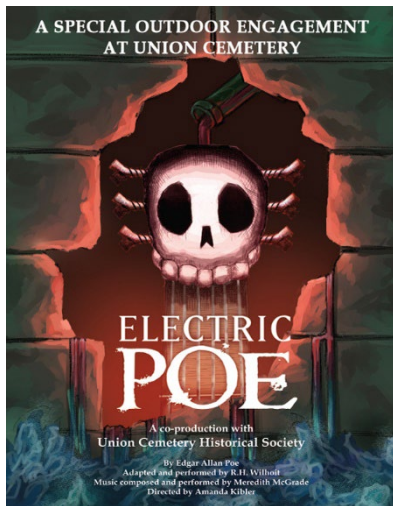
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**The Coterie Returns to Union Cemetery
for Special Engagement
Bringing New Poe Adaptations
To Life (and Death) with
Live Electric Guitar Underscoreing**

Electric Poe

***A co-production with
Union Cemetery Historical Society***

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: ***Electric Poe***

A co-production with Union Cemetery Historical Society

By Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted and performed by R.H. Wilhoit

Music composed and performed by Meredith McGrade

Directed by Amanda Kibler

WHEN: **October 19 – November 5, 2023**

Press / Opening Night: Friday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: **Union Cemetery**, 227 East 28 Terrace, Kansas City, MO

PRICE: **\$25.00 per person** regardless of age

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 *Electric Poe*, a unique theatrical event for families with ages 10 and older. *Electric Poe* features R.H. Wilhoit delivering three of Edgar Allan Poe's most loved works with live musical underscoring by guitarist Meredith McGrade. *Electric Poe* is a co-production with Union Cemetery Historical Society and is adapted by Wilhoit and directed by Coterie education director, Amanda Kibler. Just in time for Halloween, it will be performed outdoors at sunset in one of Kansas City's hidden gems, Union Cemetery, October 19-November 5, 2023.

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

By popular demand, The Coterie's *Electric Poe* returns to Union Cemetery to showcase three newly adapted Poe works. Actor and Coterie teaching artist, R.H. Wilhoit, captivates as the master of the macabre, performing Poe's beloved poems, "Annabel Lee," and his ode to obsession, "Berenice," as well as his claustrophobic classic, "The Cask of Amontillado," in which a man takes fatal revenge on his friend by entombing him within a stone wall. Music will once again punctuate the moody masterpieces with reactive retorts from an electric guitar played live by composer and musician, Meredith McGrade, underscoring Wilhoit's dynamic delivery.



Electric Poe features R.H. Wilhoit performing as Edgar Allan Poe in front of Union Cemetery's "Holding Vault"

Wilhoit's previous turns as Poe have left audiences breathless, and critics spellbound. *BroadwayWorld* called his suspenseful storytelling, "haunting... Wilhoit, in the style of an 1850's orator, is magnificent bringing to life... masterpieces by the wizard of the macabre... an outstanding performance." *ThePitchKC* called *Electric Poe*, "creative... gripping... genuinely creepy... leering guitar chords are a major part of the chill." *KCStudio.org* noted, "*Electric Poe* brings an authentic chill to Union Cemetery... preserve[s] Poe's romantic voice while dialing in on the stories' most propulsive moments... engaging for adults but chaste enough for older kids."

Wilhoit will once again perform *Electric Poe* in front of Union Cemetery's "Holding Vault," built circa 1857, in order to bring the stories to life outside. Audiences have the opportunity to learn about the historical significance of Union Cemetery and the many important figures in Kansas City history that are buried there through a limited number of guided, pre-performance tours. Led by a member of the Union Cemetery Historical Society (UCHS), 60-minute walking tours are available on October 20, 27, and

November 3. A portion of each show and tour combination ticket will benefit UCHS and their efforts to preserve Kansas City's oldest public cemetery.

The Coterie's *Electric Poe* will run approximately 60 minutes and will be best appreciated by families with ages 10 and older.

THE ARTISTS

Electric Poe is directed by Coterie education director, Amanda Kibler, who previously directed *PUFFS* and *Dear America* for The Coterie's mainstage. R.H. Wilhoit serves as adapter and actor and Meredith McGrade performs as the musician. The artistic and production company includes Mackenzie Goodwin (production stage manager), David Kiehl (sound designer), Jarrett Bertoncin (lighting designer), Zan de Spelder (associate lighting designer), Georgianna Londré (costume designer), and Dorian Allen (production assistant).



Electric Poe features R.H. Wilhoit as Edgar Allan Poe

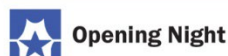
SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie will begin *Electric Poe* on October 19 and run through November 5, 2023, in Union Cemetery, 227 East 28 Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri. Press Night will be held on Friday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. The performance runs approximately 60 minutes with no intermission and will be best appreciated by families with ages 10 and older. Admission is \$25.00 for everyone regardless of age. Pre-show guided cemetery tours are an additional \$15.00 per person. All tickets are on sale now by calling The Coterie's box office at 816.474.6552 or visiting www.thecoterie.org.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR ELECTRIC POE

OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 5, 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				19 6:30 pm	20 6:30 pm 	21 6:30 pm
22 6:30 pm	23	24	25	26 6:30 pm	27 6:30 pm	28 6:30 pm
29 6:30 pm	30	31 6:30 pm	1	2	3 6:30 pm	4 6:30 pm
5 6:30 pm						

CALENDAR LEGEND



Opening Night

ABOUT THE COTERIE

The Coterie Theatre was designated by *TIME*

magazine in the top three theaters for young audiences in Nov. 2004, calling it “groundbreaking... one of the nation’s most respected.” As a not-for-profit professional company founded in 1979 in Kansas City, Missouri, The Coterie has been at the forefront of commissioning new works or adaptations that contribute to the field of theatre for young audiences. More than 100 world or American premieres for all ages have been produced by The Coterie over the last 44 years, including hosting multiple major Broadway composers and lyricists to shape quality 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. 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 Missouri Arts Council, The Shubert Foundation, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, and Theater League.



THE 2023/2024 SEASON

Following *Electric Poe*, The Coterie’s 2023/2024 Season continues with the highly anticipated return of the holiday classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*, November 7-December 31, 2023; the new Theatre for Young Audiences adaptation of Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, January 30-March 10, 2024; the fun family musical from Mo Willems, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, April 2-May 10, 2024; and the new Theatre for Young Audiences version of *Roald Dahl’s Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, based on the beloved novel and hit Broadway musical, June 18-August 4, 2024.

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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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