

August 25, 2023

For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

David Golston

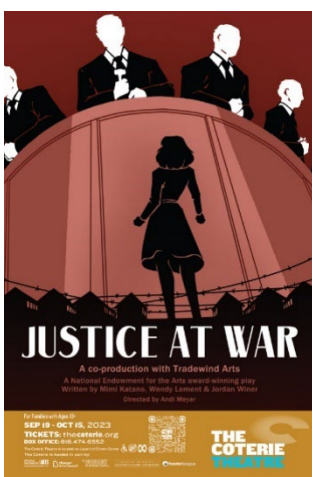
Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Office: (816) 994-8839 Cell: (785) 217-8222

Email: dgolston@coterietheatre.org



MEDIA RELEASE



.....

**The Coterie's 45th Season Opens
with NEA Award-Winning Drama
Bringing to Life Supreme Court
Decision Ending Japanese-American
Incarcerations During World War II**

Justice at War

A co-production with Tradewind Arts

.....

OVERVIEW

WHAT: *Justice at War*

by Mimi Katano, Wendy Lement & Jordan Winer
Directed by Andi Meyer

WHEN: September 19-October 15, 2023

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

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

PRICE: \$14.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60+;
\$18.00 for adults; \$6.00 - \$12.00 for Groups of 20 or more

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

Phone: (816) 474-6552 Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – Nationally-recognized as one of the nation's leading producers of new works of theatre for young people and their families, The Coterie Theatre opens its 45th Season with ***Justice at War***, the inspiring true story behind the courageous young woman whose Supreme Court

triumph ended Japanese incarcerations during World War II. A co-production with Tradewind Arts and directed by Andi Meyer, ***Justice at War*** will be performed live on The Coterie's mainstage in Crown Center for families with ages 10 and older, September 19-October 15, 2023.

THE PLAY

Based on a true story, ***Justice at War*** is a unique and interactive drama that brings to life a critical moment in U.S. history. Audiences are sworn in as Supreme Court justices to hear Mitsuye Endo's challenge to her years' long incarceration at an internment camp by the U.S. government during World War II. As an American citizen of Japanese descent, Mitsuye declares her detention unconstitutional and takes her argument all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in a compelling case that asks audiences to hear testimony, question witnesses, and reflect on crucial questions about national security, government responsibility, and the administration of justice. Both enlightening and inspiring, ***Justice at War*** is a real-life account of how one young woman defended the rights of millions.

The Coterie's production of ***Justice at War*** will run approximately 70 minutes with no intermission and is perfect for families with ages ten and older. The production 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 ARTISTS

Justice at War is written by Mimi Katano, Wendy Lement, and Jordan Winer and directed by Andi Meyer. The cast features Eunice Png (as Mitsuye Endo), Diane Bulan (Bailiff), Alton Takiyama-Chung (as Chief Justice Stone), Scott Cordes (as General DeWitt), Casey Jane (as Solicitor General Fahy), and Tanner Rose (as James C. Purcell). The artistic and production company includes Alex Murphy (Production Stage Manager), Anne Shimojima (Dramaturg), Rafael Toribio (Scenic Designer/Technical Director), Danny Lawrence (Lighting Designer), David Kiehl (Sound Designer), Zack Pierson (Composer), Paul Kim (Costume Designer), Jarrett Bertoncin (Lighting Supervisor), Adam Hooper (Properties), Ron Pratt (Master Carpenter), and Meg McSweeney (Assistant Stage Manager).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie will perform ***Justice at War*** September 19 – October 15, 2023, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The performance runs approximately 70 minutes with no intermission and will be appreciated by families with ages ten and older.

- **Individual Tickets:** Tickets are \$12.00 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 \$6.00 - \$8.00 per person depending on performance date.
- **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 \$150.00 for a flexible pass that includes 10 tickets that can be used for any show or combination of the shows remaining in the 2023/2024 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.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

During the run of *Justice at War*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

- **Opening Night** - Friday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language - Saturday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Sensory Friendly Performance** for neurodiverse audiences featuring technical adjustments, sensory supports, house lights on and flexible audience expectations - Thursday, October 5 at 11:45 a.m. & Friday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

JUSTICE AT WAR

SEPTEMBER 19 - OCTOBER 15, 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		19 9:45 am	20 9:45 am	21 9:45 am	22 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 	23 2 pm
24 2 pm	25	26 9:45 am	27 9:45 am 11:45 am	28 9:45 am 11:45 am	29 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	30 2 pm
1 2 pm	2	3 9:45 am	4 9:45 am 11:45 am	5 9:45 am 11:45 am 	6 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 	7 2 pm 
8 2 pm	9	10 9:45 am	11 9:45 am 11:45 am	12 9:45 am 11:45 am	13 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	14 2 pm
15 2 pm						

CALENDAR LEGEND



Opening Night

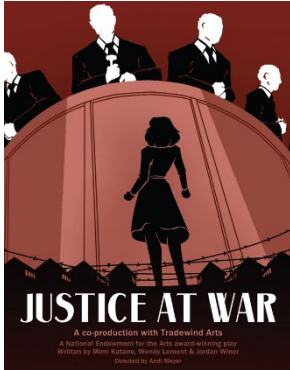


Interpreted performance in American Sign Language



Sensory Friendly Performance for neurodiverse audiences featuring technical adjustments, sensory supports, house lights on and flexible audience expectations

THE COTERIE'S 2023/2024 45th SEASON



A co-production with
Tradewind Arts

Justice at War

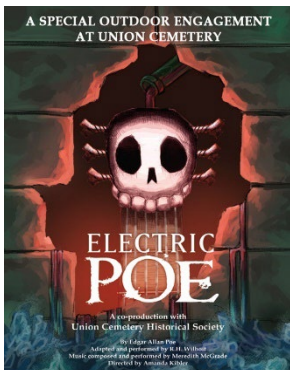
September 19 – October 15, 2023

Press / Opening Night: Friday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

by Mimi Jo Katano, Wendy Lement & Jordan Winer
Directed by Andi Meyer

Based on a true story, *Justice at War* is a unique and interactive drama that brings to life a critical moment in U.S. history. Audiences are sworn in as Supreme Court justices to hear Mitsuye Endo's challenge to her years' long incarceration at an internment camp by the U.S. government during World War II. As an American citizen of Japanese descent, Mitsuye declares her detention unconstitutional and takes her argument all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in a compelling case that asks audiences to hear testimony, question witnesses, and reflect on crucial questions about national security, government responsibility, and the administration of justice. Both enlightening and inspiring, *Justice at War* is a real-life account of how one young woman defended the rights of millions.

For Families with AGES 10+ | Approximate running time: 70 minutes



A co-produced special event with
Union Cemetery Historical Society

Electric Poe

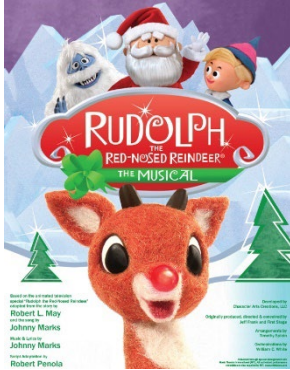
October 19 – November 5, 2023

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

by Edgar Allan Poe
Adapted by R.H. Wilhoit

Performed outdoors in one of Kansas City's hidden gems! *Electric Poe* returns to Union Cemetery to showcase three newly adapted Poe works. R.H. Wilhoit captivates as the master of the macabre, performing Poe's beloved poem, "Annabel Lee," 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. Again this year, live music will punctuate the moody masterpieces. Treat yourself and your family this Halloween to superb acting accompanied by atmospheric underscoring in front of Union Cemetery's "Holding Vault," built in 1857 in Kansas City's oldest public cemetery.

For Families with AGES 10+ | Approximate running time: 60 minutes



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical

November 7 – December 31, 2023

Press / Opening Night: Friday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Based a story by Robert L. May
and the song by Johnny Marks,
music and lyrics by Johnny Marks
Script adaptation by Robert Penola
Arrangements and orchestrations by Timothy Splain

Based on the animated television special and the stage production directed
and conceived by Jeff Frank and First Stage

Back by popular demand, the beloved television classic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer soars off the screen and onto the stage this holiday season! Rudolph and his friends, Clarice, Hermey the Elf, and Yukon Cornelius learn what makes you different makes you special. As one reviewer put it, "If adorable is at the top of your Christmas list, save an afternoon or evening for *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*... as rich as eggnog!"

For ALL AGES | Approximate running time: 60 minutes



The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical

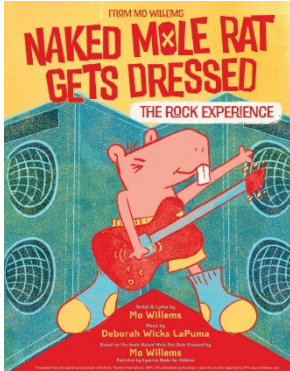
January 30 – March 10, 2024

Press / Opening Night: Friday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m.

A new Theatre for Young Audiences version
Book by Joe Tracz
Music & Lyrics by Rob Rokicki
Adapted from the book *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

A dynamic new musical adapted from the best-selling book by Rick Riordan! Featuring a thrilling original rock score, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* is an action-packed mythical adventure "worthy of the gods" (*Time Out New York*) that stormed Broadway in 2019. When teenager Percy Jackson discovers he's a demigod, he and his friends embark on an epic journey to find Zeus' missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods. As the half-blood son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, Percy has newly-discovered powers he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, and a mythology textbook's worth of monsters on his trail.

For Families with AGES 9+ | Approximate running time: 70 minutes



Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience

April 2 - May 19, 2024

Press / Opening Night: Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m.

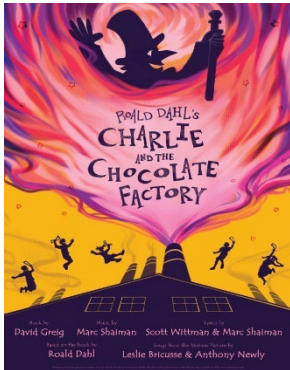
Based on *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* book by Mo Willems
Published by Hyperion Books for Children
Script and Lyrics by Mo Willems
Music by Deborah Wicks LaPuma

A rockin' show about being comfortable in your own skin — or suit!

Based on the beloved children's book by Mo Willems, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* is a charming rock 'n roll parable that uses

energetic songs and quirky characters to encourage young audiences to embrace their originality. Wilbur and all his fellow naked mole rats in the Tunnel have always been, well... naked. Wondering about other possibilities, Wilbur discovers a love for wearing clothing. When word of his new passion for getting dressed turns the whole Tunnel upside down, Wilbur sets a new trend and proves to the world there's no need to be just like everyone else.

For ALL AGES | Approximate running time: 60 minutes



Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

June 18 – August 4, 2024

Press / Opening Night: Friday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.

A new Theatre for Young Audiences version
Book by David Greig
Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman

Based on the book by Roald Dahl

Songs from the Motion Picture by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

The world-famous Willy Wonka is opening his marvelous and mysterious chocolate factory... but only to a lucky few! When Charlie Bucket and the others find their golden tickets, their boring lives explode with color and confections beyond their wildest dreams. Join Charlie, Violet, Augustus, Veruca, and Mike Teavee as they embark on a mesmerizing joyride through a world of pure imagination. Based on the cherished novel by Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* features songs from the original motion picture, including Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley's "Candy Man," "I've Got a Golden Ticket," "Oompa Loompa Song," and "Pure Imagination." It also adds a magical original score composed by Marc Shaiman with lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the wildly inventive writers of *Hairspray*.

For ALL AGES | Approximate running time: 70 minutes

ALSO THIS SEASON

[The Coterie Theatre School](#)

Fall Semester begins in October; Winter in January; Spring in March; Summer in June



The Coterie's acting classes strive to introduce students, age 3 through high school, to the joy and excitement of theatre while building self-esteem and confidence and refining their creativity, active listening, and concentration skills. School year classes are held at two metro locations: Midtown (at The Coterie) and Overland Park (Miller-Marley School of Dance and Voice).



[Project Daylight](#)

**Touring schools in the Kansas City area FREE OF CHARGE
Spring Semester**

A collaboration between The Coterie and UMKC School of Social Work

Offered FREE of charge to 6th and 7th grades in the Kansas City area, Project Daylight supports mental wellness in pre-teens/teens. Pairing a trained actor/facilitator with a graduate student in social work, the classroom-sized session addresses mental health through an innovative, interactive theatre workshop that introduces middle school students - an often-underserved group - to mental wellness concepts. Project Daylight's goals are to destigmatizing asking for help, open dialogue, and provide resiliency tools.



[Project Pride](#)

Performs in March 2024 | Auditions to be held October 2023

A group of LGBTQ and straight allied teens give voice to their experiences in a collection of hilarious and thought-provoking scenes that challenge assumptions and celebrate the diversity of the artists and the audience.

Performance Intended for TEENS & ADULTS



[Young Playwrights' Festival](#)

Performs in May 2024

Rich and varied theatrical writings evolve from a year-long process by our city's most gifted young playwrights who have emerged from The Coterie's Young Playwrights' Roundtable. See a collection of new works forged into an ambitious festival of script-in-hand readings staged by professional artists utilizing students from The Coterie's Master class program and professional directors.

Performance Intended for TEENS & ADULTS

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 43 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 National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Arts Council, The Shubert Foundation, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, and Theater League.



Production photos will available online at www.thecoterie.org/press-room.

.....

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

.....

###