



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS GENERATE NEW WORK FOR UPCOMING COCA PRODUCTIONS

*Choreographic Lab Showcase & Kaleidoscope Crown*  
Feature New Work Performed by COCA's Young Artists

**ST. LOUIS**—This November, [COCA-Center of Creative Arts](https://www.cocastl.org) will present *Choreographic Lab Showcase* (November 5–6) featuring choreography by COCA Alumnus Mason Cummings and *Kaleidoscope Crown* (November 13) by playwright Ashleigh Akilah Rucker. Cummings and Rucker are two artistic voices generating new work in the St. Louis region and developing COCA's young student artists.

Cummings is an interdisciplinary choreographer, dancer, and writer. He has studied at COCA, The Ailey School, and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His choreography has been presented at the Jack Crystal Theater in New York City and Spoke the Hub's Solo Fancy.

Rucker is a writer, director, and producer from San Diego, California. She studied at the University of California and has spent a decade using theatre and the arts to educate underserved communities throughout Southern California. Her short films include *#Click* and *We Three*, and she directed Rusty Proctor's *Faith Ties*.

**WHAT & WHEN:** ***Choreographic Lab Showcase***  
Friday, November 5 at 7:00PM  
Saturday, November 6 at 5:00PM

This performance presents the culmination of COCA alumnus Mason Cummings' *Choreographic Lab* experience at COCA. Under the guidance of Co-Artistic Directors of Dance Kirven Douthit-Boyd and Antonio Douthit-Boyd and mentors Claudia Schreier, Gemma Bond, Jamar Roberts, and Tommie-Waheed Evans, Cummings has worked with COCA Pre-Professional Division students in Ballet Eclectica and COCAdance to present a showcase of his choreography and share his experience of his 6-week journey at COCA.

***Kaleidoscope Crown***  
Saturday, November 13 at 7:00PM

*Kaleidoscope Crown* tells the story of a young girl who awakes with a shocking new ability: with every new feeling her hair is catapulted into multicolor tresses. Her new development throws the uniformity and peace of her small traditional village into disarray. Rucker draws inspiration from the art and traditions of the African Diaspora bringing the culture to the forefront of this work.

COCA was selected as one of eight theatres in the country to present new work through ReImagine TYA in association with TYA/USA and The Kennedy Center.

**WHERE:** Catherine B. Berges Theatre at COCA  
6880 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130

**AVAILABLE INTERVIEWS:** Mason Cummings, Choreographer and COCA Alumnus  
Ashleigh Akilah Rucker, Playwright  
Kirven Douthit-Boyd, COCA Co-Artistic Director of Dance  
Delaney Piggins, COCA Artistic Producer

**EVENT WEBSITE:** [cocastl.org/coca-presents/on-stage](http://cocastl.org/coca-presents/on-stage)

**TICKETS:** Tickets may be purchased online at [orders.cocastl.org](http://orders.cocastl.org) or by phone at 314.725.6555.

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:** Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test is required for theatre audiences. Masks are to be worn at all times on the COCA campus. [View COCA's Health & Safety Procedures.](#)

**SPONSORS:** COCApresents season is made possible by: Berges Family Foundation, Hearst Foundations, Mary Ranken Jordan & Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation, Mary Strauss, Lee Bohm, The Cheshire, and Missouri Arts Council. The development of *Kaleidoscope Crown* was supported by ReImagine: New Plays in TYA, a joint effort of Childrens Theatre Foundation of America, The Kennedy Center, TYA/USA, and Write Now.

COCA Core Sponsors include: Emerson, Spry Digital, Regional Arts Commission, Arts and Education Council, Pershing Charitable Trust, The Saigh Foundation, Gertrude & William A. Bernoudy Foundation, Dula-Kobusch Charitable Trust, and The Bellwether Foundation.

COCA Pre-Professional Division Supporters include: Bayer Fund, The Strive Fund, Twinkle Toes Foundation. This project has been supported by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program.

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## **ABOUT COCA**

COCA's mission is to *enrich lives and build community through the arts*. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves over 50,000 students, audience members, artists and families from over 220 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of over 200 artists at the heart of its work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.