



# NEWS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 7, 2019

Beth McClure, Director of Marketing and Communications  
[bmcclure@COCAstl.org](mailto:bmcclure@COCAstl.org), 314.561.4868

## **U.S. PREMIERE TOUR OF *EMILY BROWN AND THE THING* COMES TO COCA THIS WEEKEND**

*Audience favorite Tall Stories returns to COCA with acclaimed production for young families*

**ST. LOUIS, Mar. 5, 2019** – This weekend, March 9 and 10, COCA will present the highly acclaimed production *Emily Brown and the Thing*, an imaginative adaptation of the much-loved book by the award-winning duo Cressida Cowell (author of *How to Train Your Dragon*) and Neal Layton. This production, from Tall Stories (creators of *The Gruffalo* and *The Snail and the Whale* stage shows) is touring North America for the first time in 2019. *Emily Brown and the Thing* is one of a series of four books featuring the irrepressible Emily Brown.

One evening, Emily Brown and her old grey rabbit Stanley find a Thing crying outside their window. He's lost his cuddly and absolutely can't get to sleep without it. Emily and Stanley bravely set off into the Dark and Scary Wood in search of the missing cuddly but on their return they find the Thing can't sleep without hot milk either – or his tickly cough medicine... The daring duo head into the Whirling Wastes and even into the Whiny Witches' Cavern in search of the lost things - but nothing seems to help. The question is: what is really troubling the Thing – and will anyone ever get to sleep?

The show is suitable for children aged 3+ and their grown-ups. The North America tour follows a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a UK tour & international dates at Sydney Opera House, IPAY, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hong Kong & Paris. Created in Tall Stories' unique style, and told with original music, puppetry, physical storytelling and lots of comedy, *Emily Brown and the Thing* is a fantastic tale of derring-do for everyone aged 3 to 103!

**WHAT:** Tall Stories' *Emily Brown and the Thing*

**WHERE:** Staenberg Performance Lab at COCA, 524 Trinity Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130

**WHEN:** SAT, MAR 9 | 11:00AM, 1:00PM & 5:00PM  
SUN, MAR 10 | 1:00PM & 5:00PM

**PRICES:** \$20 for single tickets. Tickets can be purchased in person at COCA during box office hours, by phone at 314.561.4877 or online.

**PRaise:** "A slick storybook adaptation with a big heart... one of the company's finest hours!" - *The List*  
"A brilliant show: funny, touching, and completely satisfying" - *Edinburgh Guide*  
"Constantly amuses, delights and enthrals" - *The Stage*  
"A beautifully crafted three-hander... Tall Stories have a reputation for creating wonderful children's theatre every year, and 2014's offering is no exception." - *Three Weeks*

### **ABOUT**

**THE BOOK:** This is the second book in the Emily Brown series (the others include *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*, *Emily Brown and the Elephant Emergency* and *Cheer up your Teddy Bear*, Emily Brown). *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown* won the 2006 Nestle Prize.

**PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos available at: <https://www.tallstories.org.uk/emily-brown-and-the-thing/venue-resources>

**SPONSORS:** The 2018- 2019 COCA Presents Season *is made possible* by Wells Fargo Advisors; *The Little Dancer and Into the Woods* Sponsor: Mary Strauss; *Hotel* Sponsor: The Cheshire St. Louis; *Media* Sponsor: St. Louis Public Radio; *Series* Sponsors: Lion's Choice, Aetna, Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation, and Missouri Arts Council; *COCA Core Supporters*: Regional Arts Commission, Arts & Education Council, and Emerson; *COCA Pre-Professional Division Supporters*: Monsanto Fund, The Strive Fund, Twinkle Toes Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts; *Millstone Gallery Sponsors*: The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation, Millstone Foundation, and Missouri Arts Council.

**UPCOMING COCA PRESENTS PERFORMANCES:**

**Seedfolks**

COCA Theatre Company

SAT, APR 13 | 1:00PM &amp; 5:00PM

SUN, APR 14 | 1:00PM &amp; 5:00PM

This “spoken musical” chronicles a diverse, immigrant community working together through struggles and triumphs. After a young Vietnamese girl plants beans in a vacant lot to connect with the memory of her father, she unintentionally creates a community garden which begins to bridge divides across her neighborhood. Ages 4+.

**TRlumphant**

COCA dance &amp; The COCA Hip-Hop Crew

FRI, MAY 3 | 7:00PM

SAT, MAY 4 | 3:00PM

SUN, MAY 5 | 3:00PM

Featuring powerful, playful and poignant choreography from internationally acclaimed artists, COCA’s Dance Ensembles: Ballet Eclectica, COCA dance & the COCA Hip-Hop Crew, conclude their seasons and say farewell to graduating dancers as they perform one last time. Featuring choreography from guest artists Claudia Schreier, Artistic Director of NYC-based Claudia Schreier & Company, and choreographer and dancer Gemma Bond of American Ballet Theatre. Ages 5+.

**Into the Woods**

COCA Summer Musical

FRI, JUL 26 | 7:00PM

SAT, JUL 27 | 1:00PM &amp; 5:00PM

The Brothers Grimm hit the stage with an epic fairytale about wishes, family and the choices we make. James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone’s favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, and relevant, piece. Ages 5+.

###

**About COCA**

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country, one of only 16 schools in the nation accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS), and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals—all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. Visit [www.cocastl.org](http://www.cocastl.org) to learn more.

**About Tall Stories**

Tall Stories brings great stories to life for audiences of all ages. The company is a registered charity which tours the UK and the world with its exciting blend of storytelling theatre, original music and lots of laughs. Tall Stories was founded in 1997 by co-directors Olivia Jacobs and Toby Mitchell. Tall Stories shows have played in the West End, on Broadway and in the Sydney Opera House – as well as all sorts of venues and countries in between.

“Tall Stories sets the benchmark for children’s theatre” - *The Sunday Times*