



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## COCA STUDENTS RETURN TO THE STAGE WITH LIVE DANCE & THEATRE PERFORMANCES

*COCA's Pre-Professional Division Students Perform for In-Person & Virtual Audiences  
in *TRlumphant*, *Harmonious* & *Spring Improv Troupe**

**ST. LOUIS**—After more than a year since the pandemic canceled live dance and theatre, [COCA](#)'s Pre-Professional Division student artists will take their places on stage for the productions of *TRlumphant*, *Harmonious*, and *Spring Improv Troupe*. Students will perform for the first time in the new Catherine B. Berges Theatre in front of a live audience. Whether choosing to view the performances in person or from the comfort of their own home via livestream, audiences will witness the beauty of the work and reconnect to the joy and spirit of dance and theatre at COCA.

In [TRlumphant](#) (May 6–9), audiences will experience the immense talent and versatility of COCA's three dance ensembles—Ballet Eclectica, COCAdance, and the COCA Hip-Hop Crew. Featuring works created by world-class artists, including Ronald K. Brown, Nicholas Rose, and Anthony “Redd” Williams, *TRlumphant* demonstrates the continued artistic and technical development of COCA's Pre-Professional Dance Division.

The weekend's performances will highlight 18 dance pieces across three different programs, including *Minus 16*, a special piece created by renowned Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin. A long-standing COCA tradition, graduating seniors' final solo performances will be showcased on Sunday, May 9. *TRlumphant* is proudly presented by Lee Bohm.

“We are honored to be presenting the work of some of the world's greatest choreographers performed by the next generation of talented young artists. The impact of the pandemic has been significant, but our dancers are resilient and continued to engage with the art form in the safest ways possible,” said Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Co-Artistic Director of Dance at COCA. “*TRlumphant* is the culmination of many months of rehearsals across various platforms and speaks to the commitment, power, drive, and versatility of our young artists.”

COCA's Vocal Company, comprised of two student ensembles, shares songs exploring their year “together, apart” in the Spring concert, [Harmonious](#) (May 13–14). Solos and group numbers chosen by the company take a heart-centered point of view on community, loneliness, and joy. The Company is music directed by Colin Healy and directed by Jacqueline Thompson.

[Spring Improv Troupe](#) (May 16) is a showcase of improv focused on big characters and physical comedy. In the typical fashion of improvised comedy, COCA's Improv Troupe will take suggestions from the audience. The performance is directed by Ed Reggi and features junior and senior Pre-Professional Theatre Artist students.

### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

#### **TRlumphant**

Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

#### **Harmonious**

Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Spring Improv Troupe**

Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Virtual and in-person tickets are on sale and may be purchased through COCA's website at [cocastl.org/tickets](https://cocastl.org/tickets) or by phone at 314.725.6555. COCA's Health & Safety Procedures have been approved by St. Louis County. Guests should expect the following health and safety protocols:

- COCA is operating at limited capacity for the Catherine B. Berges Theatre.
- Guests must wear masks at all times on the COCA campus in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- All guests are screened at building entrance with contactless temperature checks.
- Performers will wear masks and maintain physical distance from the audience.

For a full list of health and safety protocols, visit [cocastl.org/campus-safety](https://cocastl.org/campus-safety).

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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.