



Press Contact:



OVERVIEW:

www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO

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For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock

Written by Wendy Lement, Derek Nelson and Cliff Odle

Directed by Jeff Church

WHEN: September 20 – October 21, 2016

Press / Opening Night: Friday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m.

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

PRICE: \$11.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;

\$15.00 for adults; \$5.00 – \$6.50 for Groups of 20 or more

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

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

Kansas City, MO – The Coterie Theatre, nationally recognized as one the leading live theatres for families and young audiences in the country, opens its 38th season with The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock, which tells the true story of the 'Little Rock Nine' and the – more – The Coterie's The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock, page 2 desegregation of Central High School as a uniquely interactive stage drama that asks audiences to become citizens of 1957 Little Rock and witness one of the most important moments in Civil Rights history. Directed by Jeff Church, The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock will be performed live on The Coterie's stage September 20 – October 21, 2016.

ABOUT THE PLAY Set in 1957, it has already been three years since the Supreme Court ended the racial segregation of public schools with their historic Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. Even though African American students were now legally allowed to enroll in traditionally white schools, they still faced daily harassment. In fact, Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, was only then admitting its first nine African American students. Deemed the 'Little Rock Nine,' these high schoolers suddenly found themselves on the front line of a segregation battle that required tenacity and extraordinary strength of character. Their fight to attend Central High, in the midst of a community uprising, received national attention and became a defining moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

Despite being invited to enroll at Central High School, the 'Little Rock Nine' faced endless insults and bullying. They were trained not to react to the barrage of abuse, but after months of torment, one of the students decided to fight back and was expelled from school. It is this act of defiance by Minnijean Brown that sets the stage for *The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock*. In the role as citizens at a town hall meeting in 1957 Little Rock, the audience will not only see what it was really like for the 'Little Rock Nine' inside Central High, but they will also be encouraged to question key characters in the story, discuss pertinent issues, and make their own recommendations as to the best next steps.

Written and originally produced by Theatre Espresso in Boston, *The Nine Who Dared* is similar in style and structure to *And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trials of Anthony Burns*, which the company also created and The Coterie co-produced with UMKC Theatre last season. "Both pieces present a true life story with multiple points-of-view, and each encourages its young audience to interact with historical characters and think through the ethical and philosophical questions raised in the story," explains director, Jeff Church. "Over 7,000 youth and family audiences will see this interactive production depicting integration efforts, with both pain and triumph. The play asks them to participate in the performance and during the 'town hall' so – more – The Coterie's *The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock*, the experience becomes a truly thought-provoking – and memorable – look at history."

The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock will run approximately 75 minutes with no intermission and will be best appreciated by adults, teens, and young people aged twelve and older. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS *The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock* will feature dozens of characters played by ten actors. The cast features Ron Lackey, Sherri Roulette-Mosley, Leah Swank-Miller, Dianne Yvette, Donovan Woods, Ariel Talacko, Thomas Waller, Joseph Fournier, Michael DeCoursey, and Rasheedat "Ras" Badejo. The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director), William J. Christie (production stage manager), Tristan James (set designer), Jarrett Bertoncin (light designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume

designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Scott Hobart (technical director), and Danielle Walsh (production assistant).

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS The Coterie, named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by TIME magazine, opens its 38th season with *The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock*, September 20 – October 21, 2016, 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 23, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Tickets: Tickets are \$11.00 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 \$5.00 per person the first week of the run, September 20-25, 2016. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50-\$6.00 per person on weekdays and \$6.50 per person on weekends (Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays).

Subscriptions: In lieu of season subscriptions, The Coterie offers the Spotlight Club Pass, which works like a season ticket without committing to a set schedule.

Spotlight Club members pay \$100.00 for a flexible pass that includes 10 tickets – a savings of 40% off individual ticket prices – that can be used for any show or combination of shows in the 2016/2017 Season. – more – The Coterie's *The Nine Who Dared: Courage in Little Rock*, page 4

All tickets and Spotlight Club 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.