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For Immediate Release

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Zoinks! Spooky Dog: A Scooby-Doo-Like Mystery
performs Feb. 11 – March 7
At Urban Culture Project's La Esquina
Audiences get to know the real Mystery Gang
in this Coterie At Night production

Uncover the hilarious secret subtext of your favorite Saturday morning cartoon February 11 to March 7 in the Coterie At Night production of *Spooky Dog: A Scooby-Doo-Like Mystery* (*Plagiarized, improvised and not for kiddies!*). The comedy will be performed evenings-only at La Esquina, 1000 W. 25th St. in the Crossroads West district of Kansas City.

Enjoy the uproarious and campy adventures of a dog detective named Spooky, his spaced-out hippie friend, and their gang! The teen-age mystery gang confronts criminals, but what do they do about their own burgeoning sexual desires? Or those tasty dog treats with unexpected side effects? Or the penchant they suddenly have for busting a move? Musical numbers, improvisation, and audience participation will be included.

“It’s like Scooby Doo on acid,” said director Ron Megee. “This is what happens when your favorite cartoon characters step out of the television. When you thought something else might be going on with these characters in the original cartoon, it is now all revealed in the show.”

In true tribute to the Hanna-Barbera time period, Megee is incorporating music, costumes and dance of the late ‘60s, early ‘70s.

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This Coterie At Night production is **PG-13** for language and sexual innuendo. Individuals under the age of 13 will not be admitted. *Spooky Dog* is a co-production with the Coterie and UMKC Theatre's professional training program. Funding is provided in part by the Missouri Arts Council and the ArtsKC Fund.

Spooky Dog: A Scooby Doo Mystery is part of the Coterie at Night series, a new audience development initiative recently launched by the Coterie. The series offers adventurous, interactive performances performed at separate venues exclusively at night.

Coterie at Night is supported with funding provided by The New Generations Program, a grant initiative cooperatively designed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and TCG (TCG). It is specifically given for *Future Audiences* programming which allows theatres to expand and strengthen existing unique and innovative audience development programs that have proven effective in reaching young, culturally specific and/or underserved audiences.

The Gang and Company

Members of the Teenage Mystery Gang are Bennett Ferguson (Spooky) Nicholas Gehlfuss (Scraggly), Helen Gonzalez (Thelma), Rachel Hirshorn (Tiffany) and Tyler Horn (Ted). Also joining in on the whodunit fun are Martin Buchanan (Mr. Woodhaven aka Big Woody) and Jessica Dressler (Mrs. Woodhaven/Fortuna).

The phantoms cooking up the mystery behind the scenes are Ron Megee (director), Mary Nichols (set designer/properties), Jon Fulton Adams (costume designer), Tim Munger (composer/sound designer), Richard Sprecker (lighting designer), Jaclyn Larson (stage manager), Chaz Bell (technical director, UMKC), Scott Hobart (technical director, Coterie and properties construction), Tim Davis (production assistant) and Anna Safar (choreography/improv assistant)

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Tickets for *Spooky Dog: A Scooby Doo Mystery* are \$12 for all ages; \$9 for Coterie season ticket holders. Discount Deal: 10 tix for \$10 each – advance phone orders only. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Coterie Theatre Box Office at **(816) 474-6552**, online at **www.coterietheatre.org**, at the Coterie Box Office in Crown Center or at the door 30 minutes prior to performance time. Coterie Theatre Box Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday, noon on performance weekends, with closing hours varying.

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La Esquina is operated by the Charlotte Street Foundation as part of its Urban Culture Project initiative. CSF nurtures, supports and recognizes outstanding artists in Greater Kansas City; presents, promotes, enhances, and encourages the visual, performing, and interdisciplinary arts; fosters economic development in the downtown area; and pursues strategic partnerships to increase resources and recognition for area artists locally, regionally, and nationally. For more about CSF, visit www.charlottestreet.org.

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NOTE: All student and professional reviewers and editors are invited along with one guest to attend PRESS NIGHT, February 13. Contact Karen M. VanAsdale at kvanasdale@coterietheatre.org to RSVP or to reserve a different performance.