

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Youth to Perform Developmental Theatre Rendition of Edgar Allan Poe's writings at Columbia State

In celebration of this years "Big Read" kick-off, the general public is invited to witness a FREE rendition of Edgar Allan Poe's writings **Tuesday, October 27th and Tuesday, November 3rd 12:30 – 1:45pm** in the Ledbetter Auditorium at Columbia State Community College. Clarissa Lega from Artistree, Inc. along with writer/director Clay Harris will be working with youth from Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury, Perry and Wayne counties in the performances. FREE reading materials will be given to the public.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee awarded an (ABC grant) Arts Build Communities grant to the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance for this "Living Literature: Edgar Allan Poe" workshops and performance in Maury County. This innovative program guides high school students, directed by professional artists, in the process of writing dialogue, creating characters and performing short stories and poems of Edgar Allan Poe. The program also links an additional grant awarded to the organization, The Big Read, from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Community Foundation is provided funding for the ABC grant by the Tennessee Arts Commission and Tennessee Legislative Body. This arts program will have an effect on high school students, early readers, college students, and the community at large.

Clay Harris, writer and director known across the state for his amazing talent, will work in each county for 5 days with high school students. They will rehearse scenes from stories and poems of Edgar Allan Poe which is the featured author of this years "Big Read". They will follow with a day of rehearsals at Columbia State Community College where each of five groups will come together to perform the play.

The four puppeteers from Wood & Strings Theatre will be working in adjoining counties working on a puppet production workshop with those high school students building puppet characters and sets that will be performed at Columbia State. The performances will be taped and aired on the Cable Channel in Maury Co. for young audiences.

The partnership of the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance and Clarissa Lega from Artistree, Inc. has been constructed to design programs in the arts that will specifically address the Workforce needs in training the youth to better fit into a productive society. All have a

common mission and identify the ability of the arts to teach and motivate. The projects, prove to be successful in impacting the participating students as well as impressing the members of the Workforce industry and the school educators who witnessed the students in the execution of their work.

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