

## For Immediate Release

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### **Rose Theater Launches 2017-18 Season** ***Babe the Sheep Pig welcomes new audiences on Sept. 8 in season opener***

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The Rose Theater will launch its 2017-18 season on Sept. 8, 2017, with the opening of ***Babe the Sheep Pig***, a play based on the novel that inspired the Oscar-winning movie.

The upcoming season will continue to provide entertaining and educational offerings for children and families. The nine mainstage shows in the 2017-18 season weave all the magic and whimsy that audiences have come to expect from The Rose with a variety of stories that explore a general message of finding one's place in the world and learning to accept others.

"This is a season where we explore very current themes in today's world through delightfully entertaining stories," says Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick. "In ***Babe the Sheep Pig***, we find a character who must go against conventional wisdom and understanding to uncover a hidden talent. ***Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*** is a madcap ride of music and dance based on the Dreamworks motion picture, but amid the crazy characters and frenetic choreography, we have a story about finding oneself in unfamiliar territory, relying on old friends and making new ones, even though they may share a different background than ourselves."

World premiere shows such as ***Van Gogh & Me*** and ***The Meaning of Maggie*** continue the message of finding one's place in the world. ***Van Gogh & Me*** uses the historical facts of the famed artist's life to delve into issues of bullying and acceptance of those different from oneself. The characters in ***The Meaning of Maggie*** learn the power of family and personal resilience as the young protagonist aspires to achieve her dream of becoming a future President of the United States -- while at the same time, navigating the challenges of a newly-diagnosed dad with multiple sclerosis. As events unfold in the show, Maggie discovers her inner strength and how to pull together with others.

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“We are especially proud to bring **Seedfolks** to The Rose stage,” says Gutschick. “This extraordinary play is based on a Newbery Medal-winning book by Paul Fleischman. It tells the story of an immigrant neighborhood that is transformed by a community garden. The brilliant actress Sonja Parks embodies 13 distinct voices of Gibb Street in this enthralling solo production. It is a production unlike any other seen on The Rose stage and demonstrates how just one person can impact the lives of an entire community.”

Shortly after its performance on The Rose stage, the production of **Seedfolks** will begin playing off-Broadway at New York City’s New Victory Theatre in May.

The Rose will give a rock-and-roll twist to Lewis Carroll’s traditional story with **Wonderland: Alice’s Rock & Roll Adventure**. Carrying on with the season’s theme, **Wonderland** finds Alice wandering down a daringly different rabbit hole where she must find her own voice while learning to accept the differences of the new people she meets along her journey.

On a journey of a different kind, **Curious George & the Golden Meatball** finds everyone’s favorite little monkey traveling the globe to help his friend vie for The Golden Meatball culinary competition. Along the way, George learns what it means to be a supportive friend, and that even when we come from different backgrounds, we can all pull together to succeed.

The Rose’s premium show offerings continue this theme. **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical** will be featured on The Rose mainstage Dec. 1-23, 2017. Based on the popular book by Barbara Robinson, the Christmas musical presents the holiday with madcap fun and a good deal of mayhem, but also challenges audiences to look beyond the surface to discover the good in people.

The season will conclude with the Broadway phenomenon, Disney’s **Newsies**, June 1-17, 2018. Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, **Newsies** demonstrates the power of young people to affect change upon the world, no matter their position in life.

“**Newsies** is a wonderful underdog story. What a great message to share with young people -- that they can make a difference in the world and fight the injustices they see in their communities,” says Gutschick.

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One of the most popular additions to The Rose season has been its series of theatrical pieces tailored for preschool children. The Rose continues this work in the 17-18, now under the moniker FIRST STAGE. These productions -- described as “a small stage for big imaginations” -- offer young theatergoers a unique opportunity to experience theater. FIRST STAGE productions are ideal for preschoolers, children with sensory needs, or others who desire a gentler, more interactive and personal performance. FIRST STAGE productions are presented on The Rose’s Hitchcock Stage, a black-box style theater well-suited to immersing young audiences in the art of theater. Children will be able to choose traditional seating or sit on the floor near the performance areas, and all audience members can expect to interact directly with the performers and even help shape the course of the show. The shows will feature gentle tones and visuals, with no loud sounds or full blackouts.

This year’s FIRST STAGE series includes ***Point A to Point B*** and ***Wynken, Blynken & Nod***. ***Point A to Point B*** was originally produced by Arts on the Horizon and was inspired by the America on the Move exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. The show features a pair of whimsical opposites discovering the mysteries of cause and effect. ***Point A to Point B*** will be presented October 21 - November 12, 2017. The world premiere of ***Wynken, Blynken & Nod*** will take place February 10, 2018 and will run through March 4. This show is an adaptation of the poem by Eugene Field written by Rose teaching artist Ashley Lavery.

The Rose’s seven regular season mainstage shows are free with Rose membership or \$20 per ticket for non-members. Tickets for the FIRST STAGE series shows held on The Rose’s Hitchcock Stage are \$12. Tickets to The Rose’s holiday production of the two premium shows, ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** and ***Disney’s Newsies*** are \$27 main floor, \$22 balcony. Rose members receive a \$7 discount off the price of premium event tickets and \$2 off the price of the FIRST STAGE series. Discount vouchers for mainstage shows are available at area Hy-Vee stores. The lobby opens 45 minutes prior to each performance. Seating begins 30 minutes before curtain.

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2017-18 MEMBERSHIP SHOWS

**Babe the Sheep Pig**

September 8-24, 2017

By David Wood. Based on the Book by Dick King-Smith  
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



The season opens September 8 with a story of courage and camaraderie, ***Babe the Sheep Pig***.

***Babe the Sheep Pig*** is based on the novel that inspired the Oscar-winning movie. The show, directed by Gutschick, will run through September 24.

***“Babe the Sheep Pig*** tells a thrilling tale about sharing your gifts with the world. We believe families will walk away inspired by Babe’s bravery and decision to follow an unconventional dream,” says Gutschick.

In the show, a tiny piglet arrives at the Hogget Farm. He is mentored by a wise dog named Fly, who shares the secrets of sheepherding with the young pig. Babe soon learns that he has a unique gift for gently herding sheep. But when Babe finds himself at the Grand Challenge Sheep Dog Trials, is it his moment to shine or will he be laughed off the stage?

The 65-minute production of ***Babe the Sheep Pig*** will be presented on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation for guests who are deaf and hard of hearing and audio description services for blind audiences will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, September 16. The 5 pm performance on Saturday, September 16 is designated as sensory friendly, with special accommodations made for families attending with a child on the autism spectrum or with other special needs. The show is recommended for children ages five and up.

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## **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure**

*October 6-22, 2017*

Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture.

Book by Kevin Del Aguila.

Original Music and Lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Somellian.

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.



Audiences will get wild in this stage adaptation of the popular Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture, **Madagascar**, playing October 6-22. Long-time Rose teaching artist Kevin Ehrhart will direct the production.

**Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** features all the furry friends from the film - Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Gloria the Hippo, Melvin the Giraffe and even lemur King Julian and the perpetually plotting penguins. The unlikely menagerie embarks on an exciting expedition that takes them from the safety of Central Park Zoo to mysterious Madagascar.

**“Madagascar** helps us move beyond our impulsive responses to major challenges in life. It’s a show about emotional maturity, wrapped within a hilariously fun time,” says Gutschick.

With its animal antics and adventures, the must-see manic musical is 60 minutes long without an intermission and is recommended for families with children ages five and up.

**Madagascar: A Musical Adventure** will be presented on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. There will be 10 am performances on Sunday, October 15 and Sunday, October 22.

Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, October 14. The 5 pm performance on Saturday, October 14 is designated as sensory-friendly, with special accommodations made for families attending with a child on the autism spectrum or with other special needs. Contact The Rose Box Office for information on the resources available for families.

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WORLD PREMIERE!

**Van Gogh & Me**

November 3-12, 2017



By Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick

In **Van Gogh & Me**, Rose artistic director Matthew Gutschick paints an endearing story in this original play about artist Vincent Van Gogh and his friendship with a young girl living in a provincial French town. Based on actual events, **Van Gogh & Me** looks at the colorful and sometimes challenging creative career of the artist famous for such iconic works as “The Starry Night” and “Sunflowers.” When Van Gogh retreats to a small town with citizens are puzzled by his eccentricities, he is befriended by a reluctant child named Adeline. Slowly Van Gogh and Adeline navigate the fragile waters of friendship as she learns how he created his greatest paintings, giving audiences a new appreciation of the artist and his beautiful post-impressionistic works.

“Van Gogh’s paintings evoke a sense of childlike wonder and kindness. When I learned that this young girl went on in adulthood to correct the world’s mistaken impression of Van Gogh as a moody and even cruel person, I knew this story had to be put onstage,” says Gutschick, who wrote the piece specifically for The Rose stage.

**Van Gogh & Me** will be directed by guest director John Hardy, who most recently led the production of *The Jungle Book* during the 2016-17 season and *Jackie & Me* during the 2013-14 season. His work has also been seen in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Othello* at the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival.

While younger children may not comprehend the play’s plot lines about bullying, cruelty and the challenges of mental illness, audiences ages ten and up will find the biography of the great artist compelling. In the end, **Van Gogh & Me** leaves an impression about respecting human differences, appreciating art and finding friends. The show runs 60 minutes without an intermission.

**Van Gogh & Me** will be presented November 3-12, 2017, on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. A bonus performance will be offered on Sunday, November 12 at 5 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, November 11. A sensory-friendly performance will be offered on Saturday, November 11 at 5 pm.

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WORLD PREMIERE!

## **The Meaning of Maggie**

January 26 - February 11, 2018

# THE MEANING OF MAGGIE



Adapted by Victoria Stewart.

Based on the book by Megan Jean Sovern, published by Chronicle Books.

On the surface, Maggie Mayfield looks is on-the-go pre-teen with high ambitions -- after all, she plans to be President of the United States. She is frequently Student of the Month; she is a shareholder of Coca-Cola stock and the defending Science Fair champion. But as ***The Meaning of Maggie*** shows, she is also dealing with the fact that her ultra-cool dad is struggling with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, a fact that is causing tremendous strain on their family.

This world premiere production of ***The Meaning of Maggie*** is based on the book by Megan Jean Sovern. It is a remarkable story of a working-class family pulling together in the face of a serious illness. The show will run January 26 - February 11, 2018 at The Rose.

***"The Meaning of Maggie*** is a story about how growing up is an adventure that lets us strengthen the best parts of ourselves and reaffirms the importance of family," says Gutschick, who will direct the piece.

Using humor, ***The Meaning of Maggie*** deals with serious issues, including a parent dealing with a chronic illness, family tensions between siblings and parents and growing up, making it best for children ages 8 and up. It will make its world debut on The Rose stage on January 26, 2018 and will run through February 11. Shows are Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, February 3. A sensory-friendly performance will be available on Saturday, February 3 at 5 pm.

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## Seedfolks

February 23 - March 11, 2018

By Paul Fleischman.

Produced by Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.



The Rose welcomes Ivey Award-winning actress Sonja Parks to Omaha for a unique, one-woman production of **Seedfolks**. Parks portrays more than 20 characters during the hour-long show. Stunning projections and animations will envelop the stage while the air fills with the cacophony of a busy city: music mixed with the roar of construction work and blaring car horns. This is **Seedfolks**, a stunning tapestry of humanity. The play tells the story of a young girl who decides to turn the rat-infested lot next to her apartment into a place to plant some beans. Her one small act doesn't go unnoticed. Soon, the entire neighborhood is pulling together to do their part to make the world a better place.

"**Seedfolks** is unflinchingly honest and unabashedly heartwarming," says Gutschick. "The show is filled with raw, inspiring stories you will never forget. It is a powerful way to teach children about the impact one person can have on a community and how important it is to sow seeds of both friendship and hope."

**Seedfolks** is based on a Newbery Medal-winning novel by Paul Fleischman, who also adapted the story for the stage. Each chapter is told from the viewpoint of a different person living near a vacant lot in a large city. Peter Brosius, artistic director of the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, directed the world premiere of the production, which will come to Omaha February 23 - March 11, 2018. The production utilizes dynamic projections and innovative staging by designer Jorge Cousineau to create a theater experience unlike any other.

With its message about being a good neighbor and coping with the stress of city life, The Rose recommends **Seedfolks** for children ages 8 and up. The show runs 60 minutes without an intermission.

**Seedfolks** will be presented Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 7 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, March 3. A sensory-friendly performance will be presented on Saturday, March 3 at 7 pm.



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## Wonderland:

### Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure

March 23 - April 8, 2018

Book by Rachel Rockwell. Music by Michael Mahler.  
Lyrics by Michael Mahler and Rachel Rockwell.



Lewis Carroll's classic story gets curiouser and curiouser in **Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure**. This rock concert-meets-children's theater production is certain to have audiences dancing in the aisles as Alice encounters the familiar faces of Wonderland whirled together with a wide range of modern musical styles, from glam rock glitter and pop-hook punk to jangly guitar grinds and stadium anthem swagger. Anything is possible in **Wonderland!**

**Wonderland** composer Michael Mahler is known for his sticky, melodic and smart songs. He recently penned the score for the musical *Hero* and helped revise the lyrics for the new Cameron Mackintosh production of *Miss Saigon*. Mahler's score will be performed live on stage with characters playing keyboards, drums, guitar and more.

Guest director Justin Perez will lead the production. Perez's work was last seen on The Rose stage in its 2013 production of *Big Nate*, which fittingly also featured an onstage rock concert. Perez is co-directing *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play* with Gutschick in June 2017 at the Parallel 45 Theatre in Traverse City, Michigan. He is also an ensemble member with the Dance Cartel in New York City.

"This is a high-energy, rock-and-roll extravaganza with a message about finding strength through adversity and finding your own voice," says Gutschick. "I know Justin will bring a wondrous energy to this show that reflects his unique way of seeing the world and his immense dance and musical talent."

**Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure** will be presented Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 10 am and 2 pm. There will not be a show on Easter, Sunday, April 1. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, March 31. A sensory-friendly performance will be presented on Saturday, March 31 at 5 pm. Children ages five and up will delight at **Wonderland's** whimsical characters in the 60 minute show.

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## Curious George and the Golden Meatball

April 20 - May 6, 2018

Based on the books by Margret and H.A. Rey  
and the play owned by Universal Stage Productions.  
Music by John Kavanaugh. Book & lyrics by Jeremy Desmon.



Everyone's favorite little monkey and his trusty human companion, The Man with the Yellow Hat, bring their fun-filled friendship to The Rose stage in **Curious George and the Golden Meatball**.

**Curious George and the Golden Meatball** finds George looking forward to Meatball Day. The inquisitive monkey helps his friend Chef Pisghetti cook some delicious homemade meatballs, but is disappointed to find the throngs of meatball lovers eager to try out the product of inventor Phinneas T. Lightspeed's Meatballs O'Matic machine instead. Hoping to cheer up his culinary buddy, George goes on a mission around the world to enter Chef's meatballs in the world-famous Golden Meatball Contest in Rome. In the process, George takes the audience through a fun-filled adventure where he learns about Rome -- and meatballs -- and the "secret ingredient" to cooking.

Rose artist educator Stephanie Jacobson -- highly regarded for the playfulness and childlike innocence she has brought to productions such as *Thumbelina*, *The Grocer's Goblin & the Little Mermaid* and *A Child's Garden of Verses* -- will direct the cast of **Curious George and the Golden Meatball**. Jacobson says audiences can expect a fun, acrobatic and highly-physical show that will include dancing, music and aspects of clowning.

**Curious George and the Golden Meatball** runs 60 minutes without an intermission. It will be presented Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, April 28. A sensory-friendly show will be presented on Saturday, April 28 at 5 pm.

The cross-cultural culinary adventure features lessons on helping and supporting friends best suited for children ages four and up.

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2017-18 PREMIUM SHOWS

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

*December 1-23, 2017*

By Jahnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner.  
Adapted from the play by Barbara Robinson.  
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.



There doesn't appear to be peace on Earth this holiday season, with the hilarious musical spectacle, ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***, comes to The Rose as the first of its annual premium event offerings.

***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** follows the story of a church's annual Christmas play. The sleepy town expects the same production as always -- but when the Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world -- crash Sunday school and demand parts in the Christmas pageant, the whole town panics. After all -- there's no biting in Bethlehem!

***"In The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***, the Herdman kids have never even heard the Christmas story," says Gutschick. "But that doesn't stop them from putting their own spin on the church's production. This is a show that reminds us that everyone has a story to tell, and they need to tell it in their own way."

Director Anthony Clark-Kaczmarek has accepted the challenge to calm the Christmas chaos that is ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***, drawing on his skills leading *Twelfth Night* at the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival and *Annie* at the Sumtur Amphitheater.

***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** explores themes of giving others a chance to prove themselves and challenging assumptions. The show will delight families with children ages five and up. The premium event show runs two hours with an intermission.

***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** will be presented Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Additional Saturday night performances will be offered on December 2, 9 and 16 at 7 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services for the blind will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, December 16. Tickets are \$27 main floor, \$22 balcony. Members received discounted tickets.

## Disney's Newsies

June 1-17, 2018

Music by Alan Menken.

Lyrics by Jack Feldman.

Book by Harvey Fierstein.

Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White.

Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions.

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).



The Rose's second premium event show is the stage adaptation of the Disney film, **Newsies**. Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, **Newsies** tells the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack and his fellow newsies take action. With help from intrepid reporter Katherine Plumber, all of New York City soon recognizes the power of young people.

**Newsies** features hit songs, "King of New York," "Seize the Day" and "Santa Fe," written by Alan Menken (Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*) and four time Tony® Award winner Harvey Fierstein (*La Cage aux Folles*, *Kinky Boots*).

"We are certain this is going to be a high-energy finale to our 2017-18 season," says Gutschick. "This show is going to feature dancing like you have never seen before on The Rose stage. We are already gearing up this summer with our Broadway at The Rose classes, teaching them some of the dances and working out the choreography so everything will be perfect for audiences when **Newsies** opens in June 2018."

Dynamic dancing and astounding acrobatics set to a stirring musical score make **Newsies** ideal for families with children ages 6 and up.

The two-hour show will include an intermission. **Newsies** will be presented Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Interpretation for the hearing impaired and audio description services will be offered at the 2 pm show on Saturday, June 9. Tickets are \$27 main floor, \$22 balcony. Members receive discounted tickets.

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### **2017-18 FIRST STAGE SERIES SHOWS** **Presented on The Rose's Hitchcock Stage**

In addition to its mainstage offerings, The Rose will also present two shows on its Hitchcock Stage as a part of its newly renamed FIRST STAGE series. These shows are intended specifically for very young audiences and audiences with special needs. Tickets for the FIRST STAGE shows are \$12, and Rose members receive a discount of \$2 off tickets.

Recognizing that theater has benefits for children of all ages, The Rose's FIRST STAGE series gives young theatergoers and audiences with special needs an opportunity to experience the theater arts. FIRST STAGE productions are recommended for preschoolers, children with sensory needs, children on the autism spectrum or other special needs, or others who desire a gentler theater experience.

FIRST STAGE productions are presented on The Rose's Hitchcock Stage, a smaller, black-box style performance space located on the theater's fourth floor. This theater space allows for unique seating arrangements, often with flexible seating options that change with each show, such as beanbags, floor cushions or benches arranged in the round. This allows for more one-on-one interaction with the actors; young audience members are often invited into the performance space or asked to hold props to help tell the story. FIRST STAGE productions also encourage audience members to move along with the performers and respond vocally to what is happening on stage. Periods of darkness and loud sounds are kept to a minimum -- and often not used at all -- to accommodate audience members with sensory needs.

"We make this an inviting and engaging experience that will inspire early learners to want to see even more of what theater has to offer. FIRST STAGE is more than just a child's first time in the theater; it helps them take their first steps into a lifelong appreciation of the arts," says Gutschick.

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## Point A to Point B

October 21 - November 21, 2017

Written by David Kilpatrick. Originally directed by Megan Alrutz.



The Rose will present ***Point A to Point B*** on October 21 - November 12, 2017 in the Hitchcock Theater. The 45-minute participatory production is largely nonverbal filled with visual delights (but without any loud sounds or full blackouts) that is especially suited for children over age two. The show doesn't rely on loud or busy action to hold the audience's attention, but will instead engage their curiosity and imaginations.

***Point A to Point B*** finds a pair of whimsical characters in a wondrous laboratory of fun found-objects. The odd couple has been given a puzzling task -- get a ball that keeps appearing in a spot labeled "Point A" to the spot labeled "Point B." While the task seems simple enough, the catch is that the ball can never travel the same way twice.

The careful co-workers -- one a careful scientist who likes order and precision, and the other an athletic risk-taker who prefers spontaneity, mess and chaos -- explore different modes of transportation as they solve the challenge together.

"I'm excited about how ***Point A to Point B*** introduces the scientific method in a very theatrical and entertaining way. For young children, artistic exploration and scientific discovery are very closely related--lots of playing with materials to see what they can do. The show has two dynamic and very different characters representing both creativity and disciplined experimentation. It'll be exciting to watch our 'young scientific explorers' help those characters find their common ground!" says show director and Rose artist educator Michael Miller.

***Point A to Point B*** was inspired by the America on the Move exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. This exhibit explores the role of transportation in American history.

The show will be performed select Mondays at 10 am, Saturdays at 9:30 and 11:00 am, and Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 am. Tickets are \$12. Children under age one are admitted free.

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WORLD PREMIERE!

**Wynken, Blynken & Nod**

*February 10 - March 4, 2018*

Adapted by Rose artist educator Ashley Laverty.  
Based on the poem by Eugene Field.



Rose artist educator and show director Ashley Laverty invites audiences to sail off to Dreamland in **Wynken, Blynken & Nod**, a special interactive theatrical experience is designed to introduce first-time theatergoers to the magic of live performance. Laverty adapted the script from the poem by Eugene Field that features three sailors who set off in a wooden shoe, casting their fishing nets in the starry sky.

The on-stage adaptation of **Wynken, Blynken & Nod** is a spectacular story about fishing and sailing through the stars. The show will feature highly-visual theatrical moments and gentle interactions between actors and audience members. Laverty says the story will unfold completely through nonverbal movement and only the words of the original poem. Live music will be incorporated into the piece, repeating moments of the poem in song.

Poet Eugene Field is often called “the poet of childhood.” His nostalgic poems about childhood are highly regarded pieces of literature. **Wynken, Blynken & Nod** is a lullaby that both stimulates the imagination and soothes with its rhythmic patterns. As in the poem, audience members can expect to “sail on a river of crystal light into a sea of dew,” all from the safety of The Rose.

**Wynken, Blynken & Nod** is 45 minutes long and is ideal for children over age two. The show will make its world premiere on The Rose’s Hitchcock stage on February 10 and run through March 4, 2018. Public performances are offered select Mondays at 10 am, Saturdays at 9:30 and 11:00 am, and Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 am. Tickets are \$12. Children under age one are admitted free.

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### ***About The Rose***

The Rose Theater is one of the largest and most accomplished children's theaters in the nation, with a reputation for enriching the lives of children and families through top-quality professional productions and arts education.

In 2016, *American Theatre* magazine named The Rose one of the 20 top children's theaters in the United States.

The Rose is committed to making the arts accessible to all children, providing opportunities for thousands of children throughout the community to attend shows and participate in classes each year. Over the course of a year, approximately 70,000 people attend the public performances held at the theater, and nearly 30,000 students attend field trip shows annually.

The theater strives to introduce young people to a mix of both traditional favorites and ground-breaking original productions. A number of plays and musicals have made their world premiere on The Rose stage, including *Pete the Cat: The Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular*, *Zen Ties*, Leo Lionni's *Frederick*, *A Palette of Possibility*, *Thumbelina*, *Buffalo Bill's Cowboy Band*, and *The Grocer's Goblin & The Little Mermaid*.

We take pride knowing that The Rose is the place where children of all ages experience theater for the first time, and we are dedicated to helping them appreciate theater for a lifetime.

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