

For Immediate Release

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***A Child's Garden of Verses* plants the seeds of poetry for preschoolers at The Rose Theater**

(OMAHA, Nebr.) A multi-sensory, highly interactive play for very young audiences, ***A Child's Garden of Verses*** promises to plant seeds and words, that with careful tending, grow into flowers and poems to bring home. The show, perfect for preschoolers, will be presented Jan. 9 - 30, 2016, on The Rose Theater's Hitchcock Stage.

Inspired by the classic book of poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, ***A Child's Garden of Verses*** uses puppetry and play to help audiences grow a garden and their imaginations as they frolic in the leaves, feed a bird, sing in the rain, dance with the wind, build a boat and discover treasures. Audience members are encouraged to interact with the actors, to get up on stage and actually become a part of the performance.

"Families who come to see the show will escape from the cold winter into a spring English garden," says director Stephanie Jacobson. "The audience will be included every step of the way, from learning sign language to some of the words we use in the show, to helping pick up leaves, to building a ship, to planting seeds, to popping bubbles and more."

Playwright Barry Kornhauser says in the forward of the script, "***A Child's Garden of Verses*** is designed to be a cultural garden of sorts in which we help grow our audiences' imaginations. In the process, the children themselves will be given opportunities to become gardeners - nurturers - not only of flowers, but of actors and even a puppet character or two."

Audiences can expect to be welcomed into the performance space by the actors, giving young children an interactive experience where theater comes alive. These interactive moments are Jacobson's favorite moments in the show. She says, "I love when the kids feed the bird, dance with the eggs and help answer the actors' questions. But who am I kidding? I love every moment the young artists are invited onto the stage!"

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the
Rose
Performing Arts
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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A Child's Garden of Verses is truly meant to be a welcoming space where preschoolers can experience theater for the first time. The cast is completely comprised of professional theater educators. The theater is a "no-shush" zone where noise is not only tolerated, but welcomed. Children can stand, wiggle and move as necessary for them to enjoy the performance. "Parents often feel nervous that their child will 'disrupt' the show, but as educators, we know how to solve any 'problem' that comes up. As a parent myself, I want parents to be able to relax and just watch their children experience this show. There are so many expectations on theater goers, so many rules on how to behave at the theater. But for very young theater goers, those rules don't make sense to them yet. We just ask them to experience the show, however they want to respond. We will make sure it is safe, and that the whole audience can follow the story," says Jacobson.

A Child's Garden of Verses is recommended for families with children ages 3 and up, and is 45 minutes long without an intermission. "This play is specifically devised for preschool children, but can be enjoyed by children as old as those in first or second grades," says Kornhauser, making it a delightful piece of theatre for children and families.

A Child's Garden of Verses runs Jan. 9-30, 2016. Public performances will be held Saturdays at 9:30 and 11 am; Mondays at 9:30 am and Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 11 am; Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 11 am; Thursday, Jan. 14 at 9:30 am and Friday, Jan. 15 at 11 am.

Tickets are \$12 per person. Rose members receive a \$2 discount. For information, visit The Rose Theater website at www.rosetheater.org or call The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849.

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. 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. For additional information, visit www.rosetheater.org.

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