



The Rose Theater's Production of Disney's *High School Musical* On Stage in Omaha for the First Time!

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From: Mindy Nickla, The Rose Theater, (402) 391-2625

Based on the blockbuster movie, *Troy*, Gabriella and the rest of East High will come to life on the main stage in The Rose Theater's production of **Disney's *High School Musical***, June 5-28, 2009. Already the biggest Box Office hit in Rose Theater history, the production will feature professional actors and Omaha's best student talents under the direction of Rob Urbinati—a guest director from New York City who writes for Disney Creative Entertainment and has a reputation for directing spectacular productions across the country.

The people of Omaha—children, teens and adults, alike—have been eagerly awaiting the premiere of **Disney's *High School Musical*** since tickets went on sale to the public in the fall, and The Rose is ready to give them a great show.

"I expect the show to be wildly successful with audiences because the delightful and fun 'idea' of it—the wonderful merging of 'brains' with 'brawn,' 'the brainiacs' and 'the basketball players'—is already shared by practically everybody," said Rose Theater Artistic Director James Larson.

Gabriella (a "brainiac") and Troy (a "jock") take East High by storm when they return from winter break and both decide break from their cliques to audition for the spring musical. The other students plot to restore the school's social order, but are no match for Troy and Gabriella who sing their way into the lead roles and bring everyone together.

"We are really excited to offer such a popular title to close out our 2008/2009 season," said Rose

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Theater Managing Director Julie Walker. "Ticket sales have been the highest in history and we have no doubt that it will be an amazing show. We already have people energized for **Disney's *High School Musical 2*** next summer!"

Rob Urbinati, a nationally acclaimed theater director hailing from New York City is directing the much-anticipated production. "The show is really coming together," said Urbinati. "We have a terrific cast—lively personalities, ethnically diverse, good comedians, talented singers and dancers all!"

Once professional actors were chosen for several of the lead roles, public auditions for the best adult and student performers in the city took place in January and March. Auditioners were asked to do a cold reading, learn a short dance and sing a prepared piece of music. Each of the 39 talented performers cast by the show director, music director and choreographer is a "triple threat" (actor, singer *and* dancer). Rehearsals began the last week in April.

"I have been very impressed with the talent of the cast so far," said choreographer Sue Gillespie Booton. "They are fast learners and I have no doubt that this will be one of the best shows ever at The Rose. If they look so great this early on, I can only imagine how great they'll be by June 5!"

The dynamic dance numbers in the production are all Booton's original choreography, but stay true to the movie's original flavor. Booton began developing the dances just a few days before rehearsals began and is being flexible to mold them to the needs and skills of the advanced cast.

Music Director Kevin Smith has been equally impressed with the cast's talents and those on stage will not be the only ones moving to the music during the show. **Disney's *High School Musical*** would not be complete without all of High School Musical movie fans' favorite original tunes including "Start of Something New," "Bop to the Top," "Breaking Free," "We're All in this Together" and "Status Quo." Some new songs have also been written for the stage adaptation of the movie. Although the accompaniment will be recorded, all singing will be performed live.

Disney's *High School Musical* will be presented June 5-28 on The Rose main stage,

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Disney's *High School Musical*
On Stage in Omaha for the First Time!
Page 3 of 3

2001 Farnam Street, with performances at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The production is recommended for ages 6 to adult and will run 120 minutes with intermission.

Tickets for **Disney's *High School Musical*** are \$25 (main floor seating) or \$20 (balcony seating) each and may be purchased at The Rose Box Office, 2001 Farnam Street, by calling (402) 345-4849 or online at www.rosetheater.org. Rose 08/09 family members receive a \$5 per ticket discount. Group rates for parties of 10 or more are available by calling (402) 502-4625.

The Rose's 2008/2009 season is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center. **Disney's *High School Musical*** is sponsored by Mutual of Omaha, WOWT Channel 6, KGOR and the Nebraska Arts Council.

The Rose Theater credits the following artists for their contributions to the production of **Disney's *High School Musical***: Book by David Simpatico. Songs by Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Nevil; Ray Cham, Greg Cham and Andrew Seeley; Randy Peterson and Kevin Quinn; Bryan Louiselle; David N. Lawrence and Faye Greenberg; Jamie Houston. Music adapted, arranged and produced by Bryan Louiselle. Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie written by Peter Barsocchini. Disney's High School Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI: 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019, Ph: 212-541-4684, Fax: 212-397-4684, www.MTIShows.com.

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