

For Immediate Release

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Mallory Vallier
Babe



Miriam Gutierrez
Fly



Robby Stone
Farmer Hogget



Robyn Helwig
Mrs. Hogget



Matthew Gutschick
Director

The Rose Theater announces the cast of *Babe The Sheep Pig*

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The Rose Theater is pleased to announce the cast of its upcoming production, ***Babe the Sheep Pig***, playing September 8-24, 2017. The show is being directed by Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick.

Based on the novel that inspired the Oscar-winning movie, ***Babe The Sheep Pig*** tells a thrilling tale about sharing one's gifts with the world. When a tiny piglet arrives at the Hogget Farm, he is mentored by a wise dog named Fly who shares the secrets of shepherding with the young pig. Babe soon learns that, to his and to Farmer Hogget's amazement, he has a unique gift for gently herding sheep. When Babe has the opportunity to compete at the Grand Challenge Sheep Dog Trials, he has to muster the courage to be the pig he is destined to be -- despite what others may say.

The title role of Babe will be played by Mallory Vallier, who was last seen at The Rose in the 2016 production of *Shrek The Musical*. Vallier's other stage credits include Sherrie in *Rock of Ages* at the Omaha Community Playhouse (Bill Bailey Debut Award), Heather McNamara in *Heathers* at the Bluebarn Theater (TAG Award - Best Ensemble), Lola Morton in *The Secret of the Old Queen: A Hardy Boys Musical Adventure* and various roles in *RENT*, both at SNAP!. Outside of performing, Mallory is a substitute teacher for various school districts in the Omaha area.

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Miriam Gutierrez (who played the title role in The Rose's 2016 production of *Charlotte's Web* and Mrs. Who in the 2014 production of *A Wrinkle in Time*) will play the wise sheepdog, Fly, who mentors Babe and helps her learn the secrets of shepherding. Other Rose credits include Ama/Enrique in *Tomas and the Library Lady*, and the Cat in *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*. Gutierrez has thrice been a part of three casts, including Naomi Iizuka's *Polaroid Stories* (director Jon Jory), Michael Bigelow Dixon and Val Smith's *The League of Semi-Superheroes*, and in the title role of Gary Kirkham's *Queen Milli of Galt*. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from University of Cincinnati and has worked in theater in the U.S. and Canada. Her movie credits include working on *The Perfect Score* as Scarlett Johansson's stand-in, *Scooby Doo 2* as Velma's photo double, and as a gauze-eyed patient in *Freddy Vs. Jason*. Currently, Gutierrez is working on her third series of podcasts for discerninghearts.com and preparing to direct *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for the newly founded Nebraska Opera Project.

Robby Stone and Robyn Helwig play Farmer Hogget and Mrs. Hogget, respectively. Robby is a well-known talent on The Rose stage. Stone's resume at The Rose includes *Shrek The Musical* as Shrek, *Big Nate* as Nate Wright, *Jackie and Me* as Joey Stoshack, *Cat in the Hat* as The Boy, *Peter and the Starcatcher* as Mack, and more. Robyn Helwig is a teaching artist at The Rose. Born and raised on the west coast, Helwig received her BA in Theater Arts from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. While in Nebraska she has designed for *Revelation and Neighbors*, *Lovers* and *All the Others* at Shelterbelt, *Bent* at Snap! and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Bellevue Little Theatre. Most recently she has been seen onstage in *Thumbelina* at The Rose, *1776* at the Omaha Community Playhouse and with her improv team at the Backline Comedy Club.

Rounding out the cast are JJ Davis, Jessic Burrell-Loge, Kim Clark Kaczmarek, Chloe Langford and Hayley Greenstreet, who play a variety of characters and creatures who inhabit the barnyard world of ***Babe the Sheep Pig***.

While not a musical, Adam Sherrerd provides a soundtrack of original and folk music to accompany the play. Sherrerd composes and performs music throughout the Omaha area. He has composed and performed original music for several productions at The Rose, including last season's production of *Thumbelina*.

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The complete cast of The Rose's production of ***Babe the Sheep Pig*** consists of:

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| Babe..... | Mallory Vallier |
| Farmer Hogget..... | Robby Stone |
| Mrs. Hogget | Robyn Helwig |
| Bryn/Weight Guesser #1/Cockerel/Cat/ New Owner #1/Ma/Official | JJ Davis |
| Fly Miriam Gutierrez | |
| Sheep/Stallholder/Puppy/Duck..... | Jessica Burrill-Logue |
| Sheep/Vicar/Puppy/Rustler/Duck/Worrier Dog | Kim Clark Kaczmarek |
| Sheep/Stallholder/Puppy/Duck..... | Chloe Langford |
| TV Commentator/Weight Guesser #2/ Turkey/New Owner #2/Rustler/Worrier Dog | Hayley Greenstreet |
| Musician..... | Adam Sherrerd |

Babe is being directed by Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick. Gutschick has directed a number of shows at The Rose, including the world premiere of *Prancer*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, Disney's *Mary Poppins*, Greg Banks's *Robin Hood*, *Ramona Quimby*, and *Christmas Story: The Musical*. Under Gutschick's direction, The Rose has developed classes and productions for Pre-K audiences. He has also been instrumental in the commission, production and presentation of ground-breaking new works including *Palette of Possibility*, The Rose's first show developed specifically for youth with autism. The Rose's residency with Daniel Beaty has radically altered the company's approach to outreach, with programs focused on gang violence, teen pregnancy, and youth incarceration. Gutschick is a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf, member of Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and holds a BA from Wake Forest University. He earned an MFA in Theater Management from the Yale School of Drama. He is a current TYA/USA Board Member.

Babe the Sheep Pig runs September 8-24, 2017, with performances on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm and 5 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. The 2 pm show on Saturday, September 16 will be interpreted for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; this show will also include audio description services for audience members who are blind. The 5 pm show on Saturday, September 16 is designated as sensory-friendly, with special accommodations made for families attending with a child on the autism spectrum. Contact The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849 for more information.

Tickets for ***Babe the Sheep Pig*** are \$20. Discount ticket vouchers are available at all area Hy-Vee stores for \$16. Members of The Rose receive four free tickets to the production.

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Babe the Sheep Pig is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Wells Fargo, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Special opening night activities are sponsored by Kiewit Companies.

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 the stage adaptation of *Prancer*, *Pete the Cat: The Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular*, *Zen Ties*, *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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