

## For Immediate Release

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### The Rose Theater dives ‘under the sea’ for Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The Rose Theater invites audiences to dive ‘Under the Sea’ for a swimmingly good time as one of Disney’s all-time favorites splashes to life in the Broadway musical adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*. The show opens June 3 and will run through June 26.

Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* is based on the popular Disney movie and Broadway musical. It follows the adventures of Ariel, a bold young mermaid princess fascinated with the human world, in spite of the warnings of her father, King Triton, and her finny friends Flounder the fish and Sebastian the crab. When she makes a dangerous deal with the sea witch, Ursula, she begins a race against a setting sun to find her true love -- Prince Eric.

Led by Rose artistic director Matthew Gutschick, *Little Mermaid* promises to thrill audiences with all the favorite songs from the Disney film, including *Under the Sea*, *Kiss the Girl*, and *Part of Your World*. The stage will be filled with a flurry of talented dancers, most notably in a seven-minute production number for *Under the Sea*.

The set (designed by Tim McMath) transports audiences under the sea with a theatrical space filled with swirls and innovative lighting. The imaginative use of projections (designed by Brittany Merenda) helps transition between the lands above and below the ocean’s surface, and brings life to underwater characters. Costume designer Sherri Geerdes has reimagined the world of the Disney princess, dressing the mermaid and her friends in bright, beautiful colors that reflect the vibrant world found fathoms below.

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the  
**Rose**  
Performing Arts  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

## ***Little Mermaid* dives ‘under the sea’ at**

### **The Rose Theater**

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While audiences will be familiar with much of the plot of the story, originally written by Hans Christian Andersen and later reimagined for Disney by Howard Ashman, John Musker and Ron Clements, the stage play expands the storyline, delving into the backstory of the sea witch Ursula and Ariel’s father, King Triton. On stage, audiences also learn much more about Ariel and her relationship with her “mersisters.” Both Ariel and Prince Eric explore themes of wanting something more than what is expected of them and yearning to branch out beyond the expectation of families and friends.

Torisa Walker will make her Rose debut as the headstrong mermaid princess Ariel. Marcel A. Daly will play the love of Ariel’s life, Prince Eric. Heather Wilhelm will bring her talents to the role of Ursula, the sea witch. Bill Grennan -- who recently delighted audiences as Black Stache in The Rose’s production of *Peter & the Starcatcher* -- will play Scuttle, the well-intentioned (but misinformed) seagull. Ariel’s best friend Flounder will be played by student actor Grace Titus, and Cammy Watkins will portray the conscientious crab, Sebastian.

**Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*** is recommended for families of children ages five and up. The show runs June 3-26, 2016, with performances on Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The show is 2 hours long with an intermission. Interpretation for audience members who are deaf or hard of hearing will be offered at the 2 p.m. show on Saturday, June 11.

Tickets for **Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*** are \$30 for main floor seats and \$25 for balcony. Discount ticket vouchers are available at all area Hy-Vee stores. Members of The Rose receive discounted tickets to the production.

**Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*** is sponsored by Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Mutual of Omaha, WOWT NBC Omaha, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Special opening night activities are sponsored by Kiewit Companies.

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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*, *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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