

## For Immediate Release

DATE: October 2016

CONTACT: Kori Radloff, korir@rosetheater.org, 402-502-4641

### ***Mouse on the Move* aims for the moon at The Rose**

*Charming adventure tale is designed for the preschool set*

(OMAHA, Nebr.) Two little mice set off on an adventure to the moon in search of cheese in The Rose Theater's latest Theater for the Very Young production, ***Mouse on the Move***. The 45-minute interactive production designed for preschool audiences opens at The Rose Theater on its Hitchcock Stage on Oct. 15 and continues through Nov. 6.

***Mouse on the Move*** tells the story of Nellie and Amelia, two mice sisters who are eager to explore the world outside their mouse hole. While Amelia is very adventurous, Nellie is a bit more shy. Together, they decide to go to the moon, since it is cat-free and made entirely of delicious, mouth-watering cheese. En route to the moon, the little mice discover a beautiful garden, navigate uncharted waters, explore the galaxy and more.

The language in ***Mouse on the Move*** is simple and silly at times, making it ideal for young children and for children on the autism spectrum. The show has been designed specifically for first-time theater-goers with simple scenes and an abundance of physical action. "***Mouse on the Move*** is not overly verbal. It does use language, but the piece is terrifically physical. All these things combine to make it a very enjoyable and exciting piece for very young audiences and children on the autism spectrum," says Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick.

"With ***Mouse on the Move***, we are entering into a world where the scale of the world really changes. The audience will enter through a giant mouse hole into a mouse's universe," says show director Michael Miller.

**= MORE =**

The Rose Theater  
2001 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

t (402) 345-4849  
f (402) 344-7255  
www.rosetheater.org



## **Mouse on the Move aims for the moon at**

### **The Rose Theater**

**Page 2 of 3**

**Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641**

Miller explains that the show uses colorful props and set pieces to serve multiple purposes -- giant clothespins and buttons give audiences a sense of being as small as a mouse while also giving them the opportunity to imagine all the different things these household objects might become. The mice transform objects into useful tools and manipulate the things in their environment. A giant clothespin, a spool of thread and a button combine to be a car; similar props transform into a boat and a flying machine.

On their adventures, Ellie and Amelia help other creatures, including a mother ladybug, momma starfish, and even a shy kitten. "They encounter these characters along the way who need their help," says Miller. "They have to be resourceful for themselves, as well as for others. The mice learn along the way how capable they are and maybe that they didn't need to go on such a long journey away to find what they were looking for."

The semi in-the-round format allows audiences to be right in the middle of the action and to interact with the performers, if they choose. While traditional seating will be available for those who prefer it, families may also select a seat on the stage in one of three areas: a ladybug garden, an area filled with green leaves or a starfish-filled beach. This allows them to be front and center to interact with the performers on stage.

"The kids have a role to play along the way. This is not only theater that is written for the very young, but it also gives audiences many ways to interact with the story," says Miller. He explains that children get to become a part of the action. After being seated, children will be given a small knapsack of items. Throughout the show, the actors will ask the audience to help them look for things in their bag to help tell the story. For example, the audience is asked to ring a small bell every time they see the moon in the play. Children might also be asked to hold giant flowers, become grass swaying in the wind or to answer questions from the characters.

***Mouse on the Move*** is recommended for families of children ages three and up. The show is approximately 45 minutes long without an intermission. It is presented on The Rose's Hitchcock Stage, the black box-style theater on the theater's fourth floor.

The show runs Oct. 15 through Nov. 6 2016, with performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 am; and select Tuesdays at 10 am. Contact The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849 for more information.

**= MORE =**

## **Mouse on the Move aims for the moon at**

### **The Rose Theater**

**Page 3 of 3**

**Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641**

Tickets for ***Mouse on the Move*** are \$12. Members of The Rose receive discounted tickets to the production.

***Mouse on the Move*** is sponsored by The Vetter Foundation.

#### **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.

#### **About Kathryn Chase Bryer (Playwright)**

Kathryn Chase Bryer is the Associate Artistic Director of Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland. She has helped develop new scripts such as *Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business* and *Petite Rouge* by Joan Cushing, *Looking for Roberto Clemente* (voted "Favorite Family Production 2008" by DC Theatre Scene) by Karen Zacarias, music by Deborah Wicks La Puma and *The Dancing Princesses* (voted co-winner for "Favorite Family Production 2010" by DC Theatre Scene) by Allison Currin and Chris Youstra. She has directed over 30 shows in the last 18 years, including *Ferdinand the Bull*, *Lyle the Crocodile*, *Miss Nelson is Missing* (2009 production with new script), *Jungle Book*, *Junebug and the Reverend*; *Huck Finn's Story*, *Seussical*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlotte's Web*.

#### **About Janet Stanford (Playwright)**

Janet Stanford has been the Artistic Director of Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland for over two decades. Under her direction, Janet helped transition Imagination Stage from a community-based arts organization to a nationally significant regional youth theatre and arts education program. Janet has established a record for ongoing funding for the organization from the NEA, the Theatre Communications Group, and The Shubert Foundation, among others. She has commissioned U.S. and international playwrights including Kevin Kling, Karen Zacarias, Joan Cushing, and Charles Way, whose plays and musicals have gone on to be produced at other youth theatres in the U.S. and as far away as China. Janet has traveled widely on grants seeking new and exciting artists to work with Imagination Stage, including Imagination in Edinburg, Scotland, a festival of children's plays from all over Europe. In 2012 Imagination Stage received 10 Helen Hayes nominations and won two for its ambitious collaboration with The Washington Ballet on *The Lion*, *The Witch & The Wardrobe*, which Janet directed.

###