

## For Immediate Release

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### World premiere performance *Plastic Drastic* shines a spotlight on issues of pollution and consumption at The Rose Theater

(OMAHA, Nebr.) When a giant storm dumps a large heap of trash and used plastic on their home, a boy and his sister embark on a journey of a lifetime in the world premiere production of *Plastic Drastic*, playing at The Rose Theater Feb. 26 - Mar. 13. The show shines a spotlight on the issues of pollution, consumption and the growing problem of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch through spectacular puppetry and innovative Indie-style music.

Loosely based on Homer's *The Odyssey*, *Plastic Drastic* opens to find a brother and sister (played by Robby Stone and Molly McGuire) tossed about in a devastating storm. As the storm subsides, they find that their house has been bombarded by a large heap of trash and used plastic. Not knowing where their mother and father are after the disaster, they set across the ocean in a small raft in search of their parents.

Out on the open sea, the duo encounters many more obstacles and problems, including a monstrous talking doll, a mariner (complete with an albatross around his neck) on a seemingly hopeless mission, a bloom of dangerous jellyfish, a treacherous island of floating debris and more. The larger-than-life characters are animated by puppeteers Joshua Lloyd Parker, Kimberlee Stone and Shannon Wade using creations designed by Jessica Scott and created by Props Master Christopher Dills.

*Plastic Drastic* is an original play written by guest artist Elena Araoz of New York City, who worked closely with Rose staff for more than a year to develop the final piece. Araoz visited Omaha on several occasions, including a week-long stay during the summer of 2015 where Rose staff members conducted table reads of the script-in-progress and eventually started testing potential staging concepts for the show on the theater's mainstage.

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

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Throughout the play, a band playing haunting Indie-style music represents the weary ocean crying out for help. Musicians Aaron Markley, Annamarie McClellan and Graham Ulicny have given a unique sound to Araoz's lyrics, creating a chilling soundtrack to the production.

As the story progresses, the boy and girl continue their perilous journey over the scorching, watery terrain only to find that the many things they once loved and cherished - but later threw away - are now poisoning our ocean. The play introduces children and families to a very real and growing problem: the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean that consists primarily of plastic litter. While no one knows exactly how much debris makes up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, some estimate that it weighs around 7 million tons and may be twice the size of Texas.

Due to the intensity of the situations presented in the play, ***Plastic Drastic*** is recommended for ages 7 and up, who will enjoy the adventure into the unknown, the complex storyline and monstrous characters. Younger children or children with sensory processing issues may find the dark-but-exciting adventure and grand scale puppetry too intense or scary.

***Plastic Drastic*** runs Feb. 26 - Mar. 13, with performances on Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Interpretation for audience members who are deaf or hard of hearing will be offered at the 2 p.m. show on Saturday, Mar. 5. The show is 60 minutes long without an intermission.

Tickets for ***Plastic Drastic*** are \$18 per person. Discount ticket vouchers are available at all area Hy-Vee stores for \$14 each. Members of The Rose receive four free tickets to the production.

***Plastic Drastic*** is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, 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. 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](http://www.rosetheater.org).

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