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Nationwide collaboration of seven children's theaters to co-commission Judy Moody play

(OMAHA, Nebr.) Judy Moody is ready for her close-up.

Since 2000, the Judy Moody books have delighted hundreds of thousands of children worldwide and will now be adapted for the stage thanks to the collaboration among seven children's theatres across the nation.

Michael Bobbitt, artistic director of Adventure Theatre MTC in Glen Echo, Maryland, gathered a group of seven likeminded children's theatres nationwide to gauge interest in co-commissioning a play based on two of the Judy Moody books. Along with his theatre, six others – Bay Area Children's Theatre in Oakland, California; Children's Theatre of Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina; First Stage in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Oregon Children's Theatre in Portland, Oregon; Orlando Repertory Theatre in Orlando, Florida; and The Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska; – agreed to collaborate.

"This is a remarkable nationwide collaboration between some of the country's best children's theatres," Bobbitt said. "It's a level of partnership, quite frankly, I've never seen."

Each theatre will independently produce its own production of the new play in a separate shared world premiere, starting in the fall of 2017 and ending in the spring of 2019. The Rose will stage their production as the 2018-19 season opener, Sept. 7-23, 2018.

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Theaters collaborate on Judy Moody Play

Rose Theater

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After an exhaustive search for a playwright the group commissioned Allison Gregory. Gregory is an accomplished and award-winning playwright who has received commissions, grants and development from many of the nation's most prominent theatres.

“After an extensive national search and in speaking with many talented playwrights, we ultimately decided there could be no one better to join us on this journey than Allison,” Adam Burke, Children’s Theatre of Charlotte’s artistic director, said. “Allison has a deep history of writing exemplary plays for young audiences, and we’re all looking forward to Judy Moody’s stage debut.”

Gregory’s script is based on two of Megan McDonald’s Judy Moody books: *Judy Moody was in a Mood* and *The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*.

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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