

For Immediate Release

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About the cast and creators of *Dragons Love Tacos*

Al Kroeten, Man in Suit

Alphonse Kroeten made his acting debut in 2002 as “Ren” in *Footloose The Musical*. Since then, he has performed on over one hundred stages across the United States and Europe, including Disney’s Animal Kingdom, New York City’s David Geffen Hall, and Norte Dame de Paris. After attending Midland Lutheran College and attaining his B.A. in Music, under direct tutelage of nationally recognized composers/directors Dr. Eric Richards and Jim Elsberry, Alphonse began touring nationally, with Omaha Theater Company, in *The Little Engine That Could* (2010), *Three Merser Meyer Classics* (2011), and *Diary Of A Worm, A Spider, And A Fly* (2014). Alphonse is thrilled to be returning to The Rose Theater main stage after appearing as Emile in *Goosebumps The Musical: The Phantom Of The Auditorium*, Tall Boy in *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*, Phinneas in *Curious George And The Golden Meatball*, King Julien in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*, as well as *Peter Pan* and *Harold And The Purple Crayon*.

Dana Pittman, Boy

Dana Pittman is originality from Flint, MI and is a graduate of The University of Michigan. She is currently a Teaching Artist Fellow at The Rose Theater. Her acting credits at The Rose include playing Sammy/Ensemble in the touring production of *The Adventures of Silver Cash: Money Detective*, and Grandpa Mole/ Toadette/ Ensemble in *Thumbelina*.

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Krysta Stock, LeRoy the Dog

Krysta Stock is 33 years old, married to the brilliant, supportive, and good-looking Michael David, has a brand new son named Kaden, and is thrilled to be performing as Leroy the Dog. Krysta earned a BFA in Musical Theater from the University of Central Florida in 2007, and has performed for children all over the world. She toured the U.S. for two years as part of a Christian Drama Company, she was a performer at Disney World, was part of the *Madagascar* crew performing in shows for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Krysta especially loved being a motivational speaker for the NED Show, that took her all over the United States, and England and Australia. Then she dropped it all, went back to school, got another degree in Ministerial Leadership from Southeastern University and partners with her husband as a children's pastor at Dream City Church Omaha.

Alisha Davis, Dragon

Alisha Davis is from Omaha, NE; a graduate of Central High School, and UNO. She made her debut in 2018 as Granddaughter in *Centering The Margins - Branch & Bone*, directed by Denise Chapman at the Union for Contemporary Art. Alisha is an accomplished Photography Artist, Yoga Instructor, and wellness advocate through her businesses Davie Grams, LLC and Davie's Dojo.

Nadia Ra'Shaun Williams, Dragon

Nadia is thrilled to be making her Rose Mainstage debut, a full circle moment (she took her first acting class here!) An Omaha-based Equity Membership Candidate, she spent the past year studying musical theatre and dance at Millikin University. For the past three summers she has been on tour as a performance intern with Broadway Dreams; studying under Quentin Earl Darrington, Christopher J. Hanke, and Diana DeGarmo, as well as choreographers Maxx Reed, Otis Sallid, and Victor Jackson. Dionne, *Hair* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre); Vivica Stanton, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (The Union); Owl, *The Owl & The Bull*, and Simone, *Misreadings* (Millikin)

Karl Houser, Dragon

A veteran of nameless characters, (Dad - *Judy Moody*, Old Woman- *Madagascar*) Karl Houser (Dragon) is thrilled to be back again at The Rose. A trained alumni of the Backline Theatre for Improv, and currently studying with Big Canvas, Karl can be seen anywhere the Omaha art scene will allow him. You can find his recent work with Vanity Project on facebook @VanityProjectImprov. Online you can find Karl on Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and Tiktok @VeryGreatKarl. In person you can see Karl performing most weekends at The Backline with house teams Bounce House, Interrogated and with Vanity Project.

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Matthew Kischer, Dragon

Matthew Kischer is an actor, writer, technician, and director. His last production he acted in was at The Bellevue Little Theatre in *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Major acting credits include *Always...Patsy Cline* at the Performing Arts Repertory Theatre, *Spring Awakening* at the University of Nebraska Omaha and *Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular* at The Rose. He has directed multiple personal projects including a full production of *1010 Club*, a one-act play he wrote, as well as *The Water That Flows and Drowns*, a two-act play he wrote. He was a Young Dramatist for the GPTC of 2016, and had a ten-minute play of his produced at The Rose Theater as a part of the *Young Playwright's Festival*. Also at The Rose, he was a Rose High School Intern his senior year of high school which further expanded his love for theatre. He has done multiple technical positions for productions around Omaha, and he is an extra for the Local 42, a company that does load-ins, and load-outs for touring shows that come into Omaha. He has studied one year at the University of Nebraska where he was pursuing a degree in Theatre with a concentration in Acting and Directing, but he is leaving Omaha in the fall to pursue musical theatre at the performing arts two-year conservatory program at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Denise Chapman, Director

Denise Chapman is a performer who enjoys finding and sharing the universal truths that connect us all human beings and sharing the stories that are often overlooked or hidden in plain sight. As a theatre educator, she creates safe spaces for students of all ages to explore self-expression, creativity and step outside of themselves into the unknown. She is an active member of the North Omaha community working with organizations such as the North Omaha summer arts (NOSA) and the FLIYE arts party. She is a strong believer that art changes our lives for the better, it gives a voice to those who feel like they are not being heard, and expresses a vision of hope to all those who are touched by it.

Denise graduated from Creighton University in 2001 with a BA in theatre. She went on to receive her MFA in Theatre from the Theatre Conservatory at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. After graduation, she performed with Qwest Educational Programs (now B.O.O.M) touring elementary and middle schools in the greater Chicago land area and worked as a Solo performing artist. She returned to Omaha in 2006 and worked with Blue Barn's Witching hour for three years as a director/ensemble member.

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