

## For Immediate Release

DATE: December 2020

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### *It's a Wonderful Life* Cast Information



Wayne Hudson II

#### **Wayne Hudson II** (*Actor 1 - Clarence*)

Wayne Hudson II is beyond excited to be back at The Rose and performing in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Wayne is a proud Rose kid and grew up performing and learning on The Rose's stages and in its classes from fifth grade through his freshman year at Millard North High School. Wayne has been a very involved student performer since his time at The Rose. He's participated in Millard North Show Choir, competing across the country and winning performance titles, been a devout student of the Millard North Choir Program, and performed in shows with the Millard North Drama Department. In 2019, he won an "Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role" Award from the Nebraska High School Theater Awards for his role as Terk in *Tarzan*, and in 2020 won an "Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role" award with the NHSTAs for his role as The Wolf in *Into the Woods*. That same season he was a finalist with the NHSTAs in their competition to send two people to perform at the Jimmy Awards. Now as a senior in high school, Wayne Hudson II is back home at The Rose as a High School intern and working in classrooms with Rose educators and students. He is looking at schools for his studies past high school, hoping to study Acting/ Performance Technique or Theater Education.



Stella  
Clark-Kaczmarek

#### **Stella Clark-Kaczmarek** (*Actor 2 - Joseph*)

Stella Clark-Kaczmarek is a freshman at Burke High School. Her previous roles on The Rose stage include: Alice, in *Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Musical* and the ensemble in *Elf*. Stella has been involved in several productions at the Omaha Community Playhouse including, *Annie*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek* and *Elephant's Graveyard*. She has worked with Opera Omaha, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Papillion Community Theatre, Nebraska Shakespeare and has been involved in her school's theatre programs. Stella recently won the Outstanding Youth Actor award for her role as *Annie* at the Omaha Community Playhouse. In her spare time, she loves to travel, play the cello and guitar, and listen to music.

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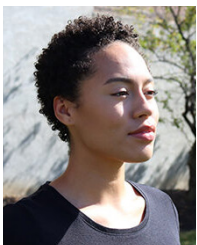
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Marcel Daly

### **Marcel Daly** (*Actor 3 - George Bailey*)

Marcel Daly is thrilled and blessed to be back at The Rose Theater this season. While attending University of Nebraska Omaha, he has performed around the area while completing his studies, and graduated with a degree in Vocal Performance in 2019. Some of Marcel's credits include: Benny in *In the Heights* (SNAP! Productions), Davy in *Newsies* (The Rose Theater), Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid* (The Rose Theater), Reuben in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (the New Theatre Dinner and Restaurant), and Prince Char in *Ella Enchanted* (Rose Theatre). In the future, Marcel plans to pursue a career as a performer, composer, writer and lyricist. Instagram: @mdaly\_27



Delaney Jackson

### **Delaney Jackson** (*Actor 4 - Peter/Mary*)

Delaney Jackson is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska Omaha; obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre with a concentration in directing and performance this past May. She is now an actor and director based in her native Omaha with her most recent credits including the QWIT Playwright Festival as director of *Faith Under the Skin* and assistant director of *Cassandra*, as well as acting in UNO's productions of *Dogfight* as Marcy, *Little Wars* as The Harvester and *The Wolves* as #25.



Zhomontee  
Watson

### **Zhomontee Watson** (*Actor 5 - Billy/Harry*)

Zhomontee Watson is an established actress, singer, and full-time graduate student and a graduate assistant at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is currently finishing her masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and will graduate in May 2021. You may recognize Zhomontee from her roles as Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act* (Omaha Community Playhouse), *Washing Machine* in *Caroline, or Change* (Omaha Community Playhouse), Miss Medda Larkin in *Newsies* (The Rose Theater), and Asaka in *Once on This Island* (SNAP! Productions and South High School). Zhomontee has received multiple awards and one being the OEAA for Best Actress in a Musical in 2017 for her role as Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act*.



Matthew Olsen

### **Matthew Olsen** (*Actor 6 - Potter/Burt/Others*)

Matthew R. Olsen (he/him) is thrilled to be back on The Rose stage, after last spring's *Howie D: Back in the Day!* You may have seen him around Omaha with Bluebarn Theatre (*The Woodsman*, *Venus in Fur*), *Brigit St. Brigit* (Bernhardt/Hamlet), *Shakespeare On the Green* (*Much Ado*, *King John*, *Merry Wives*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*), *Nebraska Shakespeare On Tour* (*Hamlet*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Midsummer*, *As You Like It*). Other select Regional credits include: *The Matchmaker*, *Both Your Houses* (dir. Frank Galati), *True West*, *School For Lies*, *How I Learned To Drive & Oleanna*. Matthew is an actor/director/facilitator. He holds a BFA from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and an MFA from Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Currently—Adjunct Faculty in Acting at University of Nebraska-Omaha.

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Natalie Hanson

### **Natalie Hanson** (*Actor 7 - Pete/Sam/Others*)

Natalie is a Chicago-based performer from Seattle. A Creighton alum, she is ecstatic to be back in Omaha for *It's a Wonderful Life*. She was last seen at The Rose as Pollyanna D. in the world premier of *Howie D: Back in the Day*. Other noted Omaha credits include *Peter Pan* (Tigerlily) and *Newsies!* (Tommyboy) with The Rose Theater, and *Heathers the Musical* (ensemble) with the BlueBarn Theatre. She was last seen in *Hope: Part 2 of a Mexican Trilogy* (Betty U/S) with Teatro Vista Theatre in Chicago. During quarantine, Natalie self-produced and released a debut alternative genre album called *Likewise* on Spotify and Apple Music under the artist name *Facade Queen*. She recently choreographed and filmed a dance piece to an original song for TBD Dance Collective's *Making Space 2020*. To keep up with Natalie's artistic endeavors, her instagram is @facadequeen.



Carina Dumarce

### **Carina Dumarce** (*Actor 8 - Violet/Erin/Others*)

Carina is an Indigenous performer and Teaching Artist originally from South Dakota. While studying Theater Arts at Minnesota State University Moorhead, in Moorhead MN, Carina worked as a freelance theater artist directing, choreographing, prop designing, stage managing, teaching, and acting. In Fall of 2018, Carina made their way to The Rose Theater to start as a Teaching Artist Fellow. Some of their favorite theatrical endeavors include *Winnie the Pooh* (as Winnie the Pooh), *Darkness Like A Dream* (as Hermia), *The Jungle Book* (as Baloo), *Eurydice* (Director), *Cinderella: If the Shoe Fits* (Director/Choreographer), *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Stage Manager) and Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Stage Manager/ Prop Designer). To everyone in the cast and creative team, thank you. What a special show to be a part of during this wild time. To every young human in the audience, do not be afraid to use your voice to stand up for what is right, for what you believe is good in this world. #MMIW #BLM



Maddie Smith

### **Maddie Smith** (*Actor 9 -Janie/Others*)

Maddie is excited to return to The Rose Theater after playing Shawanda in *Elf the Musical* in December 2019, and Matilda in *Matilda The Musical* in June 2019. She is a freshman at Marian High School where she is a member of the Mock Trial Team and the Speech Team. Maddie made her Rose Theater debut in *The Doll Maker's Gift* in 2019 as Nora. Her previous theater credits include productions at the Omaha Community Playhouse: *Little Fiona* in *Shrek The Musical* (2018) , *James Trotter* in *James and the Giant Peach* (2018) , *Chip* in *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) and *A Christmas Carol* (2015 – 2018) playing the roles of *Girl with Sled*, *Belinda Cratchit* and *Fan*. In her spare time, Maddie loves to read, play her guitar and ukulele, listen to her favorite music on Spotify (especially holiday classics), and spend time with her beloved dog, Mori. Christmas is Maddie's favorite time of year and she is excited to celebrate with this wonderful cast to present this classic and beautiful story to The Rose Theater audiences!

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Anina Frey

### **Anina Frey** (*Actor 10 - Zuzu/Others*)

Anina is in 3rd grade and attends Elkhorn Public Schools. She has appeared in several productions at Omaha Community Playhouse, including ONCE, ANNIE, and MAMMA MIA (Young Sophie). She also played Lulu in Omaha's production of the national Broadway tour of WAITRESS. She has been a member of The Rose's Mini Brigade for 3 years, appearing this year as "Anna" in FROZEN JR. Anina takes ballet and tap at The Rose, as well as piano lessons. She loves to bake and make crafts.



Kevin Ehrhart

### **Kevin Ehrhart** (*Actor 11 - Understudy 3 & 6*)

Kevin Ehrhart has been a member of the Omaha Theater Company staff since 1989 as a Director/Actor/Instructor and Chief Technology Officer. While at the theater, he has directed mainstage, studio theater and national touring productions. His directing credits include Charlotte's Web, Treasure Island, Old Yeller, The Giver, A Year in The Life of Frog and Toad and Pinkalicious. Recently, Kevin directed Sherlock Holmes and First Baker Street Irregular and The Cat in the Hat. Kevin's acting credits include George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Cat in the Hat in *Seussical* and George in *George and Martha*. As an instructor, Kevin teaches Acting Technique classes for BROADWAY at the Rose and DRAMA at the Rose classes on Saturday mornings.



Caulene  
Hudson-Pace

### **Caulene Hudson-Pace** (*Actor 12 - Understudy 4, 5, 7, 8*)

Caulene is an Omaha-based theatre artist. She has worked with The Rose for the past six years in many positions, including teaching artist, director, and actor. She holds a Masters in Theater from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Some past favorite theatre moments include: performing as Wiggins (*The Rose's Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular*), co-directing 2 years of the immersive experience *Walk the Night* (presented by the Blue Barn), and performing as a Puppeteer and Ensemble Member in the Strangemen's Theatre Company's remount of *The Woodsman* (presented by the Blue Barn).



Grace Garrigan

### **Grace Garrigan** (*Actor 13 - Understudy 1, 2, 9, 10*)

Grace is a senior at Saint Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She is a High School Intern at The Rose this year and has been volunteering at The Rose for four years now. Grace has written for the Rose's Young Playwrights Festival for two years and has acted in the festival for three years. She has participated in all of her school musicals/plays and has been very active at the Chanticleer Community Theater. Grace has also led her speech team to State and All-State in both group and individual events during her high school career. Next year, Grace will study Theater and Speech Education at Northwest Missouri State University as she found her love for teaching right here at The Rose!

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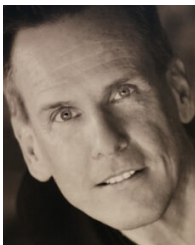
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Sarah Brown

### **Sarah Brown** (*Director*)

Sarah has worked in Omaha as a director, actor, and educator for the past 20 years. In 2016, she founded an all-female production program, Juno's Swans, which produced adaptations of *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard 3*, *Julius Caesar*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. Through her work with Juno's Swans, Sarah has explored gender performance using creative character/movement development techniques, unlocking a personal understanding of gender performance and how our current culture has shaped and defined gender roles in society. She is passionate about challenging previous assumptions of Shakespeare and Gender Performance, expanding perception and reception of performance on and off stage. As an educator and director, Sarah has worked for Nebraska Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare, NTC productions, Folger Library Theatre, The Blue Barn, Omaha Performing Arts, Omaha Symphony, Opera Omaha, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Creighton University, and The Rose Theatre. Sarah has also taught and directed in numerous Omaha Metro High Schools and Middle Schools. She has a Masters of Arts in Theatre Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a BA from University of Nebraska at Omaha in Theatre Performance.



Jerry Brabec

### **Jerry Brabec** (*Music Director*)

Jerry Brabec, tenor, is an Ordained Deacon on the clergy staff at Omaha St. Paul United Methodist Church where he serves as Minister of Worship. His responsibilities include the overseeing of liturgical preparation for the congregation of 400. He also serves as choral director for Temple Israel's Kol Rina. Awarded the Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska, he studied choral conducting with Dr. Cina Crisara and Dr. Z. Randall Stroope. As a chorister of the acclaimed Robert Shaw Festival Chorus at Carnegie Hall, he sang for five years under the baton of the late Robert Shaw, was twice selected one of six participants in the Alice Parker Melodius Accord Fellowship Program and frequently continues his conducting studies with Ms. Parker during January in New York. At The Rose for the past twelve seasons, "It's a Wonderful Life" marks his 44th show as a visiting music director/vocal coach. He also serves as music director for the nationally acclaimed Rose Brigade, one of the award winning offerings of the "Broadway at The Rose" program. Formerly, Jerry taught at the high school level for Council Bluffs Community Schools, served as associate artistic director of the Omaha Clarion Chorale, and as artistic director for the Kanessville Chorus and Renaissance Faire of the Midlands.



Sue  
Gillespie Booton

### **Sue Gillespie Booton** (*Choreographer*)

Sue Gillespie Booton's national tour credits include "Annie Get Your Gun", "Beehive", and "Grease". Most recent credits include "Elf" (Sam/Mrs. Santa), "The Dollmaker's Gift", (Pola/Rebecca), "Rocky Horror" (Columbia), "Ring of Fire" (Ensemble) and "Always, Patsy Cline" (Louise). Choreographic credits include "Elf The Musical", "Matilda", Disney's "Newsies", "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", "Madagascar", "Mary Poppins", "A Christmas Story", "Tarzan", "Narnia", "Peter Pan", "HONK!" and "Annie - The Musical". She won the 2019 Omaha Entertainment Award for "Outstanding Choreography" for "Newsies" and is the 2020 nominee for both "Elf" and "Matilda". She was inducted into the Nebraska Music Hall of Fame summer 2019 and is the 2014 recipient of the National Freddy G Award given to outstanding musical theater educators as well as the 2014 Theater Arts Guild Education Award winner. Sue is The Rose Theater's Resident Choreographer and Director of BROADWAY at The Rose, which includes The Rose Brigade and Dance Lab at The Rose.

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