

For Immediate Release

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***Carmela Full of Wishes* receives 2023 AATE Award**

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The American Alliance for Theatre & Education has honored a play that premiered at The Rose Theater with a Distinguished Play Award. The script, which celebrates Latinx culture, was co-commissioned by The Rose and made its world premiere in April 2022 in Omaha. This July, ***Carmela Full of Wishes*** will receive the Distinguished Play Award: Category C from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education.

Adapted by Alvaro Saar Rios, ***Carmela Full of Wishes*** brings to life the book by the Newbery Award-winning team behind *Last Stop on Market Street*: author Matt de la Peña and illustrator Christian Robinson. The inspiring story opens on Carmela's seventh birthday, where she finds her wish has already come true – she is finally old enough to join her big brother as he does the family errands. Together, they travel through their migrant community full of life and vibrancy, until they arrive at the Laundromat, where Carmela finds a lone dandelion growing in the pavement. But before she can blow its white fluff away, her brother tells her she has to make a wish. If only she can think of just the right wish to make....

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The Rose co-commissioned the script for ***Carmela Full of Wishes*** with Chicago Children's Theatre. The show ran Jan. 28 to Feb. 13, 2022 at the Rose, followed by a run in Chicago April 23 to May 22, 2022. "We are grateful for this collaboration," says Rose Artistic Director Matt Gutschick. "Working alongside other theaters allows us the opportunity to bring exciting new work to Omaha families."

The American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) works to ensure that every young person experiences quality theater arts in their lives provided by proficient, talented artists, and educators. Through its membership, AATE serves more than a million students in 48 U.S. states and 19 countries worldwide. The AATE Awards honor exceptional individuals as well as organizations from the high quality work they perform in the field of theater with and for young audiences.

"We're proud to recognize these award recipients for their contributions to theater and theater education," said Alexis Truitt, executive director of AATE. "Their accomplishments and this recognition underscores the impact of theater with and for young audiences."

The Distinguished Play Award honors scripts that demonstrate superiority in execution, delineation of characters, theatricality, and appropriateness of the style. Category C indicates that the script is an adaptation from existing children's literature primarily for Pre-K and elementary age audiences. These plays must provide them with perspectives on their own experiences while enhancing their imagination and emotional growth.

The AATE Awards Ceremony will take place July 29 at 6pm PST in Seattle, WA. The Rose Theater congratulates Alvaro Saar Rios for his award-winning adaptation, ***Carmela Full of Wishes***.

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About The Rose

For more than 70 years, The Rose Theater has been providing Omaha-area families with the best in live theater and arts education. The Omaha Theater Company was one of the first in Omaha to offer classes in the theater arts, and today The Rose stands as a leading program and training ground for young artists interested in pursuing a career in theater.

Students enrolled in classes at The Rose learn from some of the best educators in the region. Rose teachers include professional actors, accomplished dancers, award-winning playwrights, highly-decorated directors, renowned choreographers and more. Rose classes encourage creativity and imagination while enriching the understanding and enjoyment of theater. Many classes offer performance opportunities, and all classes promote ensemble work and skill development. Dance, acting and voice classes emphasize technique and professionalism, giving students the tools they need to succeed in the classroom, their schools, in the community, and on stages around the world.

Onstage, The Rose 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. 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 *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *Giraffes Can't Dance*, *Van Gogh & Me*, *The Meaning of Maggie*, *Pete the Cat: The Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular*, *Zen Ties*, *Leo Lionni's Frederick*, *A Palette of Possibility*, *Thumbelina*, *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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