

## For Immediate Release

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### ***Frolic* brings spring playtime to The Rose Theater**

#### **Unique production invites neuro-diverse audiences to discover the power of play**

(OMAHA, Nebr.) Spring has sprung at The Rose Theater's latest production, ***Frolic***, an immersive production designed specifically for neurodivergent young audiences. The show runs March 27 to April 7 in The Rose's Hitchcock Auditorium.

***Frolic*** is meant to spark fun in a sensory-friendly space created for and with neurodivergent audiences ages 5 and up and their families," says Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick.

In ***Frolic***, Phoebe the Gardener and her pal Lionel the Glow Worm travel from their backyard oasis to a magical garden. Together, audiences play their way through the four seasons as they glide with Rafael the Butterfly, hop with Eugene the Frog, march with Ash the Ant, and sing with Dot the Ladybug. The immersive experience includes music, dance, puppetry and pure play. Led with a mixture of song and non-verbal cues, the audience is transported to a place where there is no wrong way to play.

***Frolic*** was created by the Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, which has a deep history of working in sensory theater. Creators include Claire Sabatine, Shayna Strype, Andrew Duff, and the Sidekick ensemble. The show is directed by Shayna Strype from an original show concept by Claire Sabatine. It was devised collectively with contributions from the ensemble, dramaturgy from Julliette Holliday, as well as students from schools in the New York area.

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***Frolic*** stars guest artists Claire Sabatine as Phoebe the Gardener, Fernando Moya Delgado as Rafael the Butterfly, Julliette Holliday as Dot the Ladybug, Joanna Stone as Ash the Ant, and Jason Vance as Eugene the Frog

***Frolic*** features puppets and props created by J Hann, original compositions written and performed by Jason Vance with assistant composer Julliette Holliday, costumes by Natalie Loveland, choreography by Fernando Moya Delgado, environmental design by Nic Benacerraf with associate environmental design by Xinan Helen Ran, and lighting design by Alexandra Dhemming, with written contributions from Nicole Zimmerer. ***Frolic*** logo designed by Sara Moncure. ***Frolic*** is stage managed by Taryn Uhe, with Production Management from Jaimie Van Dyke and Kyle Parker Daniels.

***Frolic*** premiered at New York's Chelsea Factory in March 2023.

Participation in ***Frolic*** flight is extremely limited for this highly interactive, personalized performance. Audiences are encouraged to reserve their seat early and complete an informational questionnaire that will allow performers to tailor their interactions to the attendees.

***Frolic*** runs March 27 - April 7 at The Rose, with a variety of performance dates and times. A complete list of performances is available at [www.rosetheater.org/shows/frolic](http://www.rosetheater.org/shows/frolic).

Families wishing to attend ***Frolic*** should call The Rose Box Office for tickets at (402) 345-4849. Parties may be comprised of a maximum of three people, including at least one child who is neurodivergent and at least one accompanying adult. Children receive free tickets to ***Frolic***; adult family members may purchase tickets for \$5 each. Contact The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849 for additional information.

For additional information, including tickets, show photos, cast bios and more, please visit [www.rosetheater.org](http://www.rosetheater.org) or call The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849.

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**Frolic** is a co-production by Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, Jumping Jack Theater and TheRose Theater.

**Frolic** is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

**Frolic** is also supported in part by NY State Council on the Arts; The Arts for Autism Arts Access Grant; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Pestana CR7 Time Square; and our generous donors.

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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.

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 *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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**About Trusty Sidekick Theater Company**

Based in New York City, Trusty Sidekick Theater Company creates bold, original productions for young people and their families. Hailed by The New York Times for "blur[ring] the boundaries between the imagined and the real," Trusty Sidekick crafts new and exciting ways for audiences of all ages to interact with live performance. By developing new work in collaboration with young audiences as dramaturgs, the theatre-going experience is redefined.

Having created works in both unique settings like a Revolutionary War-era battleground and traditional theater spaces, every adventure is rooted firmly in the belief that kids deserve theater that ignites their imaginations and makes them think about the world in a new way.

Commissions by Lincoln Center of multi-sensory work designed specifically for audiences on the autism spectrum (Up and Away, Campfire) have garnered international attention for Trusty Sidekick's hallmark of keeping the audience in mind when creating every element of a show.

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