

## For Immediate Release

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## Disney and Pixar's Finding Nemo Cast Information



Colin Kortright

### Colin Kortright (Nemo)

Colin is excited to be playing Nemo in "Finding Nemo" on the Rose Theater Mainstage! Colin's last production at The Rose was "A Christmas Story" where he played Schwartz and ensemble. Colin just finished 8th grade at Alice Buffett Middle School. Some of his theater credits include Gate Monster in "Moana Jr", 2 of Spades in "House of Cards", Nate in "Camp Rock", Bernard in "No Body to Murder", James in "James and the Giant Peach", and Claudius in "Hamlet Hears a Who" all at his school theater. Colin has been active with The Rose Theater for the past 2 years, taking vocal lessons, Musical Theater and Broadway Techniques, BAD, and improv classes. He enjoyed his first theater intensive this last summer where he played Pig 2 in "Shrek the Musical". In addition to theater, Colin has also been a member of the OPS Mini Singers for the past 4 years. When Colin is not on stage, he enjoys spending time with his family and loves all things animal! He has spent his last 3 summers being a junior volunteer at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and is looking forward to continuing volunteering this summer.

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Jon Hickerson

**Jon Hickerson (Marlin)**

Jon Hickerson is excited to return to the Rose Theatre with this fun show, having appeared last summer as Grandpa Joe in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"! Other Omaha credits include Legionnaire in "What the Constitution Means to Me" and "Holiday Hootenanny" (Bluebarn), Opera Omaha Chorus for "Sweeney Todd", "La Traviata", "The Rake's Progress", and "El último sueño de Frida y Diego" (Orpheum), Narrator in "The Rocky Horror Show" (Rave On), Don in "Kinky Boots", Ghost of Christmas Present in "Christmas Carol", and "Respect" (Omaha Community Playhouse), Maxie in "Murder at Calumet Social Club" (Theatre-To-Go at Joslyn Castle), Grandpa George/Mr. Salt in "Willy Wonka" (Rave On), Harry in "Mamma Mia", Man 2 in "World Goes Round", and "Ring of Fire" (PART). Jon earned a BFA in Theatre Performance from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Chicagoland credits include "Promises, Promises" and "Sweeney Todd" (Porchlight), "The Fantasticks" (Metropolis), "Mikado" (Noble Fool), "Once Upon A Mattress" (Emerald City), "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" (Kokandy), and a season with Wagon Wheel Theatre in Indiana. Jon can also be seen in several regional commercials and is the proudest Papa to his fierce and fabulous 8-year old daughter.



Stephanie Jacobson

**Stephanie Jacobson (Dory)**

Stephanie (she/her) has worked at The Rose for almost 19 years, and has also served as a Teaching Artist, Actor, Playwright, Director and now Director of Early Childhood. Stephanie has her MFA in Acting from the University of Iowa and participated as a playwright at The Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Festival. She is a trained puppeteer and movement actor specializing in shadow puppetry and Bunraku. Before moving to Omaha, she lived in NYC where she worked with Liz Swados on Jabu at The Flea Theatre, Lee Bruer's production of Mabou Mines Dollhouse National and International Tour, Taylor Mac and The Jim Henson Company. She has partnered with many schools and institutions in the Omaha area advising and creating creative drama tools to aid in communication and experiences for students with exceptionalities specifically developing kinesthetic lessons and productions for students ages 14 months to 7 years.



Ren Walther

**Ren Walther (Crush / Anchor)**

While continuing to work in the production side of theater, I still love to act as much as possible. This will be my third performance with The Rose Theater, the second of which will be as a puppeteer! I am so excited to work with such talented artists once again.

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Anthony Dupree Holmes

**Anthony Dupree Holmes** (Professor Ray / Chum / Sea Chorus / US Gill)

Anthony Holmes is an actor born and raised in Omaha, Ne. He attended Benson high school where he performed his first acting role in Frankenstein playing the role of Fredrick. Since then he has performed in many stage and film roles including the Omaha Community Playhouse production of "Color Purple: The Musical" and Denise Chapman's story of the north freeway "More Than Neighbors."



Breanna Mack

**Breanna Mack** (Peach / Pearl's Mom)

Breanna Mack is excited to return to the Rose Theater Stage and jump into the Big Blue World as "Peach" and "Pearl's Parent". She works at The Rose Theater as an Advanced Teaching Artist Fellow. In this position, she travels around to schools in the Nebraska and Iowa area teaching students of all ages about theater. She recently just directed the KIDS version of Finding Nemo at The Rose Youth Artist Studios. She has recently been seen on the Rose Theater Stage as The "Other Father" in Coraline. She also was one of the puppeteers for "Bumble" in Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. She has loved theater from a young age, and loves getting to share the magic of theater with young people. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support and hopes you enjoy the show!



Erin O'Hara

**Erin O'Hara** (Gurgle / Tad's Mom / US Professor Ray/Anchor/Chum)

Erin O'Hara is a teaching artist based in Omaha, Nebraska and is elated about sharing the "Big Blue World" with the big O in Finding Nemo! Her passions have led her all across the country from Brant Lake, New York as a residential camp area head and waterski instructor to Orlando, Florida as a Children's Activities Counselor for the Walt Disney Company. After receiving her B.A. in Drama and Theatre for Youth & Communities in 2023, she began her time at The Rose Theater as a Teaching Artist Fellow and returned in 2024 for the Advanced Teaching Artist Fellowship. Erin is dedicated to providing young people with safe spaces to express themselves creatively and believes all students deserve access to the fine arts. This July, she will be joining the Honolulu Theatre for Youth ohana as a full-time teaching artist. She is thrilled about the opportunity to enrich the lives of students all across the islands through the use of puppetry and imaginative play. AND just might be hoping to catch a wave or two! Recent acting credits include Old School Shakespeare Omaha's As You Like It, The Rose Theater's Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Musical and most recently, a metro tour of Romeo & Juliet with The Rose Theater. Mahalo Nui and enjoy the show! @erinohaira

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Karl Houser

**Karl Houser** (Bruce / Sea Chorus / US Marlin)

A long time admirer of fish and fish-like creatures, Karl Houser couldn't be more pleased to join Nemo and all who search for him on stage. An alumni of both the local Backline Comedy Theater and Chicago's IO theater, Karl is a teacher and coach of the improvisational arts. Karls award winning and OEAA nominated improv team King Louie can be seen in their own regular show first Fridays at The Backline, as well as offering workshops and other local performances. Karl is also Co-founder of The Nebraska Improvised Shakespeare Enterprise, which can be seen every third Thursday. Every Wednesday Karl hosts his own Open Mic at The Tavern, and welcomes all friends to join him there for music, comedy, and improv. Karl seeks to be an instigator, rabble rouser, and leader in his community. Special thanks his family, Hope and Robert Busby.



Malik Deshon Fortner

**Malik Deshon Fortner** (Gil / Sheldon's Parent)

Hello everyone, my name is Malik Fortner. I will be playing the role of Gill and Sheldons Parent for this production of Finding Nemo. Originally from Muskegon, Mi I moved to Omaha in 2010 to go to Boys Town where I found my love of acting. It was a winter production of Gift of Magi where I got cast as the Shopkeeper. I remember a moment where I danced on the stage and the crowd lit up with cheer and it was electrifying. At that moment I knew it was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Finding Nemo was always a movie I was able to relate to growing up as an overly curious kid and having to have my Mom reel me back in from time to time. So to have a chance to bring this to life on stage is a dream come true. This will be my sixth production with The Rose Theatre previously being in Penguin Problems, Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus, The Lightning Thief, and Coraline, and Romeo and Juliet. I am so excited to explore this Big Blue World with you. I hope you enjoy it!



Roz Parr

**Roz Parr** (Coral / Bloat / US Dory)

Roz Parr is thrilled to be back at the Rose after playing Mom in Diary of a Wimpy Kid! Her favorite past credits include: Actor 3 in Baskerville (Omaha Community Playhouse); Jen in The Cake (OCP); Annabella/Margaret/Pamela in The 39 Steps (Chanticleer); Greta in Murder on the Orient Express (OCP); and Pauline in One Man, Two Guvnors (OCP).

Roz loves to ride her bike, bake cookies for her castmates, and hang out with her puppy. Roz would like to thank her family for supporting her love of acting, especially when they served as unwilling audience members for her in-home performances as a kid. Thanks, too, to Giovanni for always remembering the 21st night of September.

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Rylan Pearson

**Rylan Pearson** (Nigel / Sea Chorus)

Hi! My name is Rylan. I am a sophomore and I participate in Track, Cross Country, Swim, Drama, Journalism, Academic Decathlon, and Mock Trial. I also love spending time with my family and friends, life guarding, my dog lucky, geography, and economics!



Max Kolker

**Max Kolker** (Sheldon / Sea Chorus / US Bruce)

Max is thrilled to return to The Rose Mainstage in Finding Nemo! He made his community theatre debut as Bryce Anderson/Ensemble in "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and looks forward to continuing on stage in future productions. Max is 14 years old and will begin his freshman year at Creighton Prep this fall. He is active in choir, Boy Scouts, student council, and enjoys giving back through community service. When he's not at school or in rehearsals, Max loves cooking, golfing, playing video games, and making people laugh—especially his friends and family.



IsaBelle Mwanika

**IsaBelle Mwanika** (Pearl / Sea Chorus US Peach/Bloat)

I'm a receptionist during the day, theater nerd at night and party princess performer on the weekends. Shoutout to all my little siblings who are so excited for this show!

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Davyn Bogard

**Davyn Bogard (Tad / Sea Chorus)**

Davyn Bogard is a talented 12-year-old middle school student who is currently excelling both academically and artistically. A proud honor roll student, Davyn is deeply involved in his school and community. He sings in both the school and church choirs, showcasing his passion for music and performance.

Davyn recently landed his first professional theater role in Finding Nemo at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center, marking a major milestone in his performing arts journey. Outside of school and the stage, Davyn enjoys expressing his creativity through drawing and playing competitive AAU basketball with The Village of Omaha Basketball Team. Whether he's on the court, on stage, or in the classroom, Davyn brings focus, energy, and a love for learning and performing to everything he does.



Addie Olsen

**Addie Olsen (Squirt / Sea Chorus / US Sheldon)**

Addie is delighted to be performing in Finding Nemo as Squirt, the sea turtle. This musical is her third at the Rose, following roles in A Christmas Story and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Addie is a 6th grader at Sunset Hills and enjoys reading, writing, and sharing in creativity with others. She gives thanks to her friends and her kind teachers and sends out a big thanks to her family who have encouraged her to pursue her passions and have helped her succeed. Addie is very excited, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Jack Reilly

**Jack Reilly (Baby Turtle / Sea Chorus / US Nemo)**

Jack Reilly just completed 8th grade at LaVista Middle School. Last fall at The Rose Theater he played Greg Heffley in Dairy of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical and at Christmas he played Peter Cratchit at The Omaha Community Playhouse. Outside of musical theater, Jack loves playing his French Horn, and being in show choir and jazz band. He is so thankful to the cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience. He hopes you go with the flow and enjoy the show!

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Tatianna Moore-Williams

**Tatianna Moore-Williams** (Baby Turtle / Sea Chorus / US Tad)

I'm 14 years old and in 8th grade. I'm pretty quiet at first, but once you get to know me, I'm loud, funny, and super friendly. I love making people laugh and bringing good vibes wherever I go. I enjoy hanging out with friends, being myself, and just having fun. It might take a little time for me to open up, but when I do, you'll see the real me.



Trixie Bittner

**Trixie Bittner** (Baby Turtle / Sea Chorus / US Pearl)

Trixie is so excited for her first show on The Rose's Mainstage for Finding Nemo. She will be a 7th grader at Westside Middle School in the fall. Trixie has been a member of the Rose Brigade for the past 4 years, and a part-time member of the Rose Dance Project this past year. Some of her favorite roles include Melman in Madagascar, Atina (a Mersister) in the Little Mermaid, and Mal in Descendants. When Trixie's not on stage she loves reading, playing volleyball and goofing off with her friends. Trixie would like to thank Zoella Sneed for all of her love and support.

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