



For Immediate Release

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Special Performance of *Charlotte's Web* Saturday, May 9th Sponsored by Autism Action Partnership

The Rose Theater is presenting a special performance of *Charlotte's Web* for families with a member diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. Because feedback from parents has suggested that it can be a challenge to take children with Autism to entertainment venues, Autism Action Partnership has made it possible for The Rose to offer one performance each season exclusively for families touched by the developmental disability.

Although all families are obviously welcome to attend any production at The Rose, these performances are truly special for families affected by Autism. "We are able to create a relaxing atmosphere where families can come and enjoy a show without worrying about how they will be perceived," said Michael Harrelson of The Rose Theater.

"So often, parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders don't have access to arts venues that are conducive to their needs," said Gail Durkin, Executive Director of the Autism Action Partnership. "The Rose puts them at ease in a comfortable place among their peers, and *Charlotte's Web* is a wonderful title that they will remember fondly."

Horrible Harry, presented in the 2007/2008 season, was the first production for which a special performance was offered. It was very well received. *Charlotte's Web* will be presented on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. on the main stage for families with members who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum.

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“This is a great opportunity from The Rose and Autism Action Partnership to see great plays in a safe, inclusive environment,” said Harrelson. “We hope families will come and realize that theater can be, should be and is for all.”

The Rose also offers special classes for high-functioning children with Autism in grades K-10 throughout the year.

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