

## For Immediate Release

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### **The 21st anniversary of the Young Playwrights Festival showcases Omaha teen writers at their finest, April 28 - May 1 at The Rose**

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(Omaha, Nebr.) The 21st anniversary of the Young Playwrights Festival will give audiences a glimpse into the minds of teens, April 28 - May 1, 2016 at The Rose. Performances are April 28 (7pm FREE teen night), April 30 (7pm) and May 1 (4:30pm). The 21st annual Festival showcases a large ensemble of talented teen actors, five creative young writers, and two professional director mentors, Kevin Ehrhart and Nik Whitcomb.

“It is great to help these teens bring their thoughts to the stage,” said Ehrhart, who’s helped translate their passions, observations, and quirky senses of humor into scripts with strong conflicts, unique character voices, and satisfying conclusions. “Teen writers have such unique points of view on the world, and these works help celebrate them and improve their skills as writers.”

There are five unique shows taking place at the festival, along with two staged readings, all written by local teenagers:

***Tears of Tomorrow*** by Rachel Radloff (*1st place winner of the Rose Theater's Young Playwrights for Change competition and 2nd place at the national level*)

May, a preteen girl, faces an uncertain future with her family as they navigate survival on an Earth that can no longer support humanity. Will a new world welcome the humans that caused the destruction of the last one?

**Director: Kevin Ehrhart**

**Cast:**

**MAY – Daisy Friedman**  
**ABBY – Abby Schreiber**  
**TIM – Chloe Fowler**  
**MA – Taijah Carlisle**

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**Performing Arts**  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Young Playwrights Festival #21**

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**Rethink. Recycle.** by Isabella Manhart

A troupe of witty recyclables, led by a conscientious soda can, provide insight regarding why it is important to be recycled.

Director: Kevin Ehrhart

Cast:

- SODA CAN – Taijah Carlisle
- PICKLE JAR – Ashari Allen
- TRASH MAN – Rachel Radloff
- CAPTAIN COOK – Kya Phillips
- MILK JUG – Rhiannon Pearson

**My Crazy Uncle/Father/Bricemurdle’s Daughter** by Morgan Williams

When Marika, a sheltered young woman, asks to stay with her biological relatives on her way to college, she realizes there’s more to life than meets the eye. Will she re-connect with her past or has the last ten years taken her in a completely new direction?

Director: Kevin Ehrhart

Cast:

- BRICEMURDLE – Will Minshall
- VIONA – Somer Young
- MARIKA – Reagan Pearson
- DILLARD – Jack McGill
- SHOPPER – Paige Wolfe

**Shakespeare's Men** by Austin Lempke

After the death of William Shakespeare Alexandria and George embark on a mission to become the next Shakespeare and write the next big hit for Lord Chamberlain's Troupe.

Director: Nik Whitcomb

Cast:

- ALEXANDRIA – Imani Lamar
- GEORGE – Will Minshall
- BEATRICE – Aimee Correa
- TOWNSPEOPLE – Rachel Radloff, Somer Young, Reagan Pearson, Abby Schreiber, and Chloe Fowler

**Not Spy Kids** by Mitch Fey

A mysterious figure forces Carl to take a manila folder on the street leading him and his cousin May into a wild adventure with spies, secret codes, and Domino's pizza.

Director: Nik Whitcomb

Cast:

- CARL – Riley Lampman
- MAY – Abbey Smith
- AUNT APRIL/TRENCH COAT MAN – Paige Wolfe
- RUSSIAN 1/HAROLD – Jesse Brazier
- RUSSIAN 2/CASHIER – Daisy Friedman
- COP – Jack McGill
- TEENAGER – Taijah Carlisle

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**Staged Readings:**

**It Starts With Love** by Max Monahan

Director: Nik Whitcomb

Cast:

- GIRL – Imani Lamar
- TEENAGE BOY – Jesse Brazier
- LITTLE BOY – Paige Wolfe
- Stage Directions – Abbey Smith

**Change** by Sierra Klein

Director: Morgan Williams (High School Intern)

Cast:

- ALLIE – Aimee Correa
- DAD – Riley Lampman
- DILL – Ashari Allen
- JACKSON – Rhiannon Pearson
- Stage Directions – Taijah Carlisle

**Company:**

- Daisy Friedman..... 7th Grade, Westside Middle School
- Abby Schreiber ..... 7th Grade, Westside Middle School
- Chloe Fowler ..... 9th Grade, Westside High School
- Taijah Carlisle ..... 9th Grade, Omaha Central High School
- Ashari Allen ..... 9th Grade, Omaha Central High School
- Rachel Radloff ..... 7th Grade, Wegner School
- Kya Phillips..... 9th Grade, Omaha North High School
- Rhiannon Pearson..... 9th Grade, Gretna High School
- Will Minshall ..... 9th Grade, Creighton Prep
- Somer Young ..... 9th Grade, Omaha Central High School
- Reagan Pearson ..... 9th Grade, Gretna High School
- Jack McGill ..... 9th Grade, Omaha South High School
- Imani Lamar ..... 9th Grade, Omaha North High School
- Aimee Correa ..... 8th Grade, Papillion Middle School
- Riley Lampman..... 10th Grade, Papillion LaVista High School
- Paige Wolfe..... 10th Grade, Papillion LaVista High School
- Jesse Brazier ..... 9th Grade, Omaha North High School
- Abbey Smith ..... 9th Grade, Duchesne Academy

**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. 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.

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