

For Immediate Release

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MAP Grant Helps Fund *Return to Niobrara*

(OMAHA, Nebr.)— In January 2019, The Rose Theater will host the world premiere of Mary Kathryn Nagle’s *Return to Niobrara*, a play that provides audiences with an authentic account of the Ponca tribe history along with what it means to remain true to your heritage. The impact of this powerful and relevant message has been made possible thanks to a grant from The MAP Fund.

The MAP Fund, which stands for MAPping the arts, supports original live performances that encompass a spirit of deep inquiry. The MAP Fund supports artists that further question and challenge inherited cultural norms and deters from racial or culturally biased programs. Each year, The MAP Fund awards over \$1 million to up to 40 projects that embody the ideals of their organization.

This year, The Rose Theater has been awarded \$25,650 to support *Return to Niobrara*, and \$5,341 for the general operating support of the theater.

“Mary Kathryn Nagle’s artistic work as a playwright and her legal work have a common thread—to ensure that Native voices are heard and honored,” says Rose artistic director, Matt Gutschick. “The Rose is so proud to share Nagle’s world premiere play *Return to Niobrara* as part of its 2018-2019 season. Our hope is that the young people and families of the Omaha area connect our shared history with our shared present, acknowledging the responsibility we all have to be respectful of one another. This is a deeply local play, but it is one that touches on universal themes of identity, justice, and love.”

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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 groundbreaking 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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