

For Immediate Release

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New faces mean enhanced experiences for Rose students

Rose Theater welcomes new performing arts instructors to its education department

(OMAHA, NE) The Rose Theater welcomes new instructors for its slate of performing arts classes for the 2019-20 season.

Omaha stage veteran **Dan Chevalier** will join The Rose's team of artist educators. Chevalier will be a part of the theater's DRAMA at The Rose staff, leading acting and creative drama classes, as well as in-school workshops in classrooms throughout the Omaha area and field trip experiences held at The Rose. Chevalier is an award-winning actor who has performed in regional and touring productions in more than 30 states across the United States, and he will continue to perform at The Rose as a full-time company member. (Most notably, he will reprise his role as Buddy in The Rose's holiday production, *Elf the Musical*.) Chevalier has been highly involved in the Omaha-area theater community over the past 15 years, including appearing on stage nine times at The Rose Theater. He has worked as a teacher at Blair High School and Fairbury Junior-Senior High, where he directed high school and middle school plays and musicals. Chevalier is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he received a B.A. in Anthropology and Latin American Studies, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he received his Teaching Certificate and M.A. in Language Teaching.

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Michael James joins The Rose as the associate director of the BROADWAY at The Rose program, as well as a teaching artist for DRAMA at The Rose. He comes to Omaha after serving as a director and choreographer for several children's theater programs, including The Coterie Theatre, The Culture House, Theatre in the Park, Kansas City Actors Theatre, Jewish Community Center, and Olathe Civic Theatre Association in Kansas City. As a teaching artist, James' work has centered on his experience as a performer and his technical theater training to successfully collaborate with other artists. James trained in ballet, jazz, and hip hop and then transitioned into acting. Past roles include Peter in *Peter Pan* and Nicely-Nicely in *Guys & Dolls*. After graduating high school, James shifted his focus to production design and stage management, receiving his Bachelor's in Fine Arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design. James will work extensively with Rose students, including those enrolled in dance and musical theater. The Rose's new "Dance for Boys" class will be led by James.

Chevalier and James join The Rose's full-time DRAMA at The Rose teaching staff. The DRAMA at The Rose program offers children ages 3 to 18 a comprehensive theater education focused on the creative process. The professional staff lead classes in acting and directing, playwriting, improv, stagecraft, puppetry and more. They also perform onstage in the 11 shows presented during The Rose's season on the mainstage and Hitchcock First Stage, and they assist with the Teens 'N' Theater program.

The Rose's full-time DRAMA staff includes:

- **Brian Guehring** (education director and playwright-in-residence)
- **Tyrone Beasley** (artistic associate director of outbound programming)
- **Stephanie Jacobson** (teaching artist and director of youth productions)
- **Michael Miller** (teaching artist and literary manager)
- **Kevin Ehrhart** (teaching artist)
- **Carina DuMarce** (teaching artist)
- **Hayley Greenstreet** (teaching artist)
- **Caulene Hudson** (teaching artist)

Following a long-standing tradition centered on cultivating and inspiring new generations of artist educators, The Rose also welcomes a new class of teaching artist fellows to its staff:

LaDareon Copeland, Maddie Grissom, Jay Hayden and Alease Timbers.

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- **LaDareon Copeland** is a graduate from Young Harris College in Georgia. Copeland has performed in many productions such as Tom Collins in *Rent*, Jim Bono in August Wilson's *Fences*, and Black Fox/Henry Clay in *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. He has worked in children's theater for many years with companies including Missoula Children's Theatre, CLIMB Theatre and Bay Area Children's Theatre.
- **Maddie Grissom** is a recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a B.A. in Theatre for Youth. Grissom has worked in youth theater programs in Des Moines, Iowa, as well as teaching and acting in Theater for Youth Audiences in college.
- **Jay Hayden** comes to Omaha from Hebron, Connecticut. He is a recent graduate of the University of Vermont, where he earned his B.S. in Secondary Education. Most recently, he has worked as an Education Associate with the Lake Dillon Theatre Company, and as a Box Office Manager with Vermont Stage.
- **Alease Timbers** grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and graduated from Fayetteville State University with a B.A. in Theatre and a minor in Dance, and received her lateral entry licensure from UNC Asheville. Timbers spent the last five years teaching and directing in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Her most recent works are *Footloose* at South View High School, Disney's *Frozen Jr* and *School House Rock Live* at Temple Theatre, and *Anansi and Friends* at Fayetteville State University.

Fellows in The Rose's program spend a year learning about opportunities in educational theater, while increasing their professional experience. The artist educators work full-time at The Rose co-teaching alongside the theater's master teachers and performing in onstage productions. They offer new and innovative insight to The Rose's educational programming while providing students with exposure to new techniques, ideologies and viewpoints to enhance their theatrical training.

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The Rose's BROADWAY at The Rose program also welcomes new and returning instructors to its roster. 2019-20 BROADWAY at The Rose instructors include:

- **Sue Gillespie Booton** (BROADWAY at The Rose director)
- **Michael James** (BROADWAY at The Rose Associate director)
- **Katrinka Stayton** (The Dance Lab at The Rose competition team director)
- **Fran Adrianto** (Dance instructor)
- **Katie Agualiar** (Dance instructor)
- **Ben Beck** (Musical theater instructor)
- **Buddy Benak** (Tumbling instructor)
- **Jerry Brabec** (Rose Brigade music director)
- **Shannon Duke** (Musical theater instructor)
- **Wendy Eaton** (Voice instructor)
- **Kevin Ehrhart** (Acting instructor)
- **Angie Frey** (Rose Brigade music director)
- **Sarah Gibson** (Musical theater and voice instructor)
- **Hayley Greenstreet** (Acting instructor)
- **Caitie Hays** (Mini Brigade music director)
- **Stephanie Jacobson** (Musical theater instructor)
- **Mimi Lawry** (Dance instructor and The Dance Lab at The Rose choreographer)
- **Nikki McMullen** (Dance instructor)
- **Biannah Peji-Palm** (Dance instructor)
- **Laurelin Sterns** (Voice instructor)
- **Stephanie Tepox** (Dance instructor)
- **Megan Torbert** (Dance instructor)
- **Trudy Yeatts** (Voice instructor)

The BROADWAY at The Rose program offers students ages 2 to 18 a complete musical theater, voice and dance training experience focused on top-quality technique training. The pre-professional arts program utilizes high-caliber instruction from working artists to assist them in achieving their goals of making a career in the performing arts.

Full biographies of all teaching artists are available on The Rose website at <https://www.rosetheater.org/education/instructors/> .

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The 2019-20 Rose teaching artists will play a key role as the theater opens The Rose Studios for Youth Artists in early 2020. The Rose's educational programs have grown steadily over the past few years, and the new studio is being created in response to these demands. The Rose's new facility will expand its educational space from 5000 square feet to more than 27,000 square feet, dedicated exclusively to the education of student performers.

To enroll in a Rose class, or for additional information, visit www.rosetheater.org.

About The Rose

For 70 years, The Rose Theater has been providing Omaha-area families with the best in live theater and arts education. The Omaha Theater Company was one of the first in Omaha to offer classes in the theater arts, and today The Rose stands as a leading program and training ground for young artists interested in pursuing a career in theater.

Students enrolled in classes at The Rose learn from some of the best educators in the region. Rose teachers include professional actors, accomplished dancers, award-winning playwrights, highly-decorated directors, renowned choreographers and more. Rose classes encourage creativity and imagination while enriching the understanding and enjoyment of theater. Many classes offer performance opportunities, and all classes promote ensemble work and skill development. Dance, acting and voice classes emphasize technique and professionalism, giving students the tools they need to succeed in the classroom, their schools, in the community, and on stages around the world.

Onstage, The Rose 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. 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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