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Howie D: Back in the Day

Backstreet Boy to debut new musical at The Rose Theater

(OMAHA, NE) The story of his middle school life, before he was a world famous Backstreet Boy, is the story Howie Dorough shares in ***Howie D: Back in the Day***, making its world premiere at The Rose Theater, January 31 through February 16.

Band member Howie Dorough (aka Howie D) will debut a script he has co-written with Tor Hyams and Lisa St. Lou that gives a semi-biographical account of his middle school years, his first introductions to music and finding his voice. Dorough will star in The Rose's world-premiere production, which will feature new music written specifically for ***Howie D: Back in the Day***. Select songs from the production are featured on Dorough's new children's album, *Which One Am I?*, which has received high praise from People magazine, the Los Angeles Times, BuzzFeed and Entertainment Tonight.

Howie D: Back in the Day follows the life of a middle-school Howie, long before he was a member of the Backstreet Boys. In those days, Dorough was navigating Lakeview Prep, managing bullies, his big sister and his enthusiastic parents. It soon becomes clear in the play that Howie must separate what others want for him from his own hopes and dreams. Audiences will join Howie on a journey through musical forms and middle school norms in this brand-new show full of vibrant characters and hummable never-before-heard-music performed live on stage by Howie D. himself. The end result is a powerful and thought-provoking story that will inspire young people – and their parents – with a soundtrack that will leave families singing and dancing in the aisles.

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Backstreet Boy Howie D at

The Rose Theater

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“I went through a lot of common issues that a lot of kids go through nowadays, including worrying and being shy, feeling small, being in somebody’s shadow, monsters in your head, bad dreams,” says Dorough. “I was definitely always trying to find my place and where I am and how I fit in with people. Eventually I did find my place, and I’m very proud that I stuck to my grounds of knowing that I was a true entertainer,” he explains.

Several songs from ***Howie D: Back in the Day*** have been released on Dorough’s latest album. “The Me I’m Meant to Be” takes listeners on a journey to discover their true self and is making waves with critics. Broadway World described the song as “a catchy power anthem celebrating individuality,” and Dorough’s vocals on the track prompted Digital Journal to name Howie “one of the most underrated male vocalists of our time.”

“When I started writing these songs, it became clear that together, they revealed my story,” says Dorough. “These songs are about a kid who conquers a myriad of his own fears and learns to accept himself for the unique person he really is.”

The creators of ***Howie D: Back in the Day*** explain that the show inspires children to think creatively, to stretch their horizons, to face the world bravely or do a little self-reflection. Rose Artistic Director Matthew Gutschick hopes ***Howie D: Back in the Day*** will encourage families to see the world through new eyes, to delve further into educational topics and to enjoy the magic of the arts. And if a show inspires a new love for a certain boy band? “That’s just one more way for parents and their children to share a connection,” he says.

“There should be cooler stuff for kids,” says Dorough. “I was looking around our audience and going, ‘Man, we have a lot of fans bringing their kids to our shows now’ and it hit me -- ‘Why don’t I make something that kids can enjoy, but parents can too?’”

That special bond through theater might be one of the best reasons for parents to bring their kids to ***Howie D: Back in the Day*** at The Rose.

Howie D: Back in the Day is recommended for families with children of all ages. The original musical play is 65 minutes long without an intermission.

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