

# CAST INFORMATION

## For Immediate Release

DATE: February 2020

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### *The Diary of Anne Frank* Cast Information



Sophie Williams  
*Anne Frank*



Belle Rangel  
*Margot Frank*



Dani Cleveland  
*Edith Frank*



Wai Yim  
*Otto Frank*



Kim Clark-Kaczmarek  
*Mrs. van Daan*



Kevin Ehrhart  
*Mr. van Daan*



Otto Fox  
*Peter van Daan*



Raydell Cordell III  
*Mr. Dussel*



Brian Guehring  
*Mr. Kraler/Officer*



Myeisha Essex  
*Miep Gies/Officer*



Rachel Grossman  
*Director*

#### **Sophie Williams** (*Anne Frank*)

Sophie is incredibly excited to play Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Sophie is currently a senior at Mercy High School. This is her fifth mainstage show at The Rose. The other shows she's been in include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (2015), *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* (2017), *Newsies* (2018), and *Goosebumps Phantom of the Auditorium* as Tina Powell (2018). Sophie has also been a member of the award winning Rose Brigade since 2014. She is currently a high school intern at The Rose Theater.

#### **Belle Rangel** (*Margot Frank*)

Belle Rangel is delighted to return to the Rose Theatre where she has previously performed in the world premiere of *Prancer* (Nita) and in *Shrek The Musical* (Pig, Duloc Performer). Additional favorite credits include *Annie* (Boylan Sister, Adult Ensemble), *Shrek The Musical* (Fairy Godmother, Duloc Performer, Rat), *Beauty & The Beast*, (Dancing Napkin, Wolf, Adult Ensemble) with Omaha Community Playhouse, *Westside Story* (Teresita) with SNAP! Productions, and *Medea* (Jason and Medea's son) with UNL Johnny Carson School Of Film. Belle is a Sophomore at Gretna High School where she competes with Evolution Showchoir, One Act and Speech Team. She is a member of Thespian Troupe 125, Spanish Club and Gay Straight Alliance Club.

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### **Dani Cleveland** (*Edith Frank*)

Dani Cleveland is a singer/songwriter who loves to be onstage. She has done various stage plays at various theaters & churches across the Metro Area. Some of which include *The Wiz*, *For Colored Girls*, *Caroline Or Change* and *Bourbon At The Border*. She has also written scripts for the Resurrection productions at her home church of Salem Baptist where she serves on the Music & Fine Arts Council. She has sung with numerous bands over the years including The Last Few, & The Chad Stoner Band. Music & Art speak to her in a special way. She loves creative expression. Dani is thankful for this remarkable opportunity to be a part of this show at The Rose Theater.

### **Wai Yim** (*Otto Frank*)

Rose credits: *James and the Giant Peach*, *Narnia*, and *Frederick*. A proud member of Actors' Equity. Chicago credits: *Postnation*, *King of the Yees*, *The King of Hell's Palace* (Goodman Theatre), *Chimerica* (TimeLine Theatre). He has also worked with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, and Silk Road Rising. Regional credits: *The White Snake* directed by Mary Zimmerman (Goodman Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, McCarter Theatre, WuZhen Theatre Festival in China), *Nomad Motel* (Horizon Theatre), *The Oldest Boy* (Unicorn Theatre), *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Nebraska Shakespeare Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (Nebraska Theatre Caravan). TV credits: *Chicago PD* (NBC), *neXt* (Fox), *Patriot* (Amazon) and *The Chi* (Showtime). Social Media: @whyym. YouTube: On The Cusp Tarot.

### **Otto Fox** (*Peter van Daan*)

This is Otto's first time performing in a Rose Theater mainstage show, and what an impression it has made! In addition to Peter Van Daan, Otto has also played in the Ensemble of Omaha Community Playhouse's *Annie*, Bellevue Little Theatre's *Cheaper by the Dozen* as Frank and the ensemble of *She Loves Me*, and Chanticleer's *Bye Bye Birdie* as Mr. MacAfee. Otto would also like to thank the director for the opportunity to participate in such an important and moving show, and to thank his father for driving him everywhere.

### **Kim Clark-Kaczmarek** (*Mrs. van Daan*)

Kim is excited to be back on The Rose stage to play Mrs. Van Daan. Previous shows at The Rose include *Winnie the Pooh*, *Curious George*, *The Meaning of Maggie*, *Babe: The Sheep Pig*, *Prancer*, *Jackie and Me* and two National Tours. Kim possesses a B.S. in Theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Master of Arts in Theatre from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She has been very active in the metro area working as an actor, director and teaching artist for the past 20 + years. Kim is the Director of Programming for Arts in Motion, an acting instructor for SNJ studios and a Teaching Artist for the Nebraska Arts Council's Artists in Schools program. She is most proud to share her love of the arts with her family, Anthony and Stella, who have also made appearances on the Rose stage!

### **Kevin Ehrhart** (*Mr. van Daan*)

Kevin Ehrhart has been a member of the Omaha Theater Company staff since 1989 as a Director/Actor/Instructor and Chief Technology Officer. While at the Theater, he has directed mainstage, studio theater and national touring productions. His directing credits include *Charlotte's Web*, *Treasure Island*, *Old Yeller*, *The Giver*, *A Year in The Life of Frog and Toad* and *Pinkalicious*. Recently, Kevin directed – *Sherlock Holmes and First Baker Street Irregular* and *The Cat in the Hat*. Kevin's acting credits include George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Cat in the Hat in *Seussical* and George in *George and Martha*. As an instructor, Kevin teaches Acting Technique classes for BROADWAY at the Rose and DRAMA at the Rose classes on Saturday mornings.

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### **Raydell Cordell III** (*Mr. Dusse*)

No stranger to The Rose, Raydell was last seen on The Rose stage as the Dragon in *The Reluctant Dragon*. Born and raised in Omaha, Raydell is PROUD to be called a Rose Kid since he grew up here in this theater. Raydell took summer classes, was part of the Teens 'N' Theater program, a High School Intern and worked in the box office. Raydell graduated from Omaha North and earned his BA in Theatre from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Raydell has been in numerous productions throughout the community and some of his favorite and recent shows would include: *Red Summer* and *A Die Hard Christmas* at the Blue Barn Theater, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Nebraska Shakespeare Fall Education Tour, *Stupid F'in Bird* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (both productions he received an OEA Award for Best Supporting Actor) at the Omaha Community Playhouse. In addition, Raydell had the privilege to travel to London and participated in workshops with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Raydell currently works for Westside Community Schools at Loveland Elementary here in Omaha. He would like to thank everyone who has supported him: family, friends and the theatre community here in Omaha!

### **Brian Guehring** (*Mr. Kraler/Officer*)

Brian has been a member of the acting company at The Rose for 22 years. He has recently has been seen on our stage as Rabbit/Owl in *Winnie the Pooh*, Skipper the Penguin in *Madagascar*, and Lord Farquaad in *Shrek*. Brian is also the Playwright in Residence and Education Director of the Omaha Theater Company. Brian's recent scripts for the Rose have included the award-winning *Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular*, *The Mysterious Case Files of Silver Cash Money Detective* (school tour), *The Grocer's Goblin* and *The Little Mermaid*, and the upcoming *Popularity Coach*. He earned his MFA in theater for young audiences from University of Texas at Austin and his BA in theater from Duke University. Brian has previously served on the national board of directors of Theater for Young Audiences/USA. Brian teaches drama classes on Saturdays, after school and all summer.

### **Myeisha Essex** (*Miep Gies/Officer*)

Myeisha Essex is delighted to be making her Rose Theater debut! Her credits include, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, with the Lincoln Community Playhouse and *Anatomy of Gray* with the Haymarket Theater. Myeisha also recently contributed to independent films; *Free* and *Eternal Night of the Dead*. She has taken classes at the Theater Lab in D.C. and is currently training at the 402 Arts Collective. Her day job is Eureka! Coordinator for Girls Inc. of Lincoln encouraging girls to "take up space and be valiant."

### **Rachel Grossman** (*Director*)

Rachel Grossman (she/her) is honored to collaborate with this talented team for her first production at The Rose. Rachel's a director, devised theatre artist, collaborative playwright, and performer. In the last twenty years she's co-created and directed plays with children, teens, and senior citizens, as well as artists who are Deaf and DeafBlind. Rachel is a co-founder of dog & pony dc, a hearing and Deaf theatre ensemble, with whom she devised ~20 new plays and interactive experiences. Included in this are locally-resonant productions of *Beertown*, which she adapted and directed with theatres in Omaha, Cincinnati, Raleigh, and San Diego. Rachel's currently co-writing a trilogy of TYA plays about how two friends navigate racism in kindergarten, 4th, and 7th grades. Up next: directing *She Kills Monsters* with University of Maryland College Park in April 2020. Rachel lives in Washington, DC where she also teaches yoga asana.  
[www.abigeyedfish.com](http://www.abigeyedfish.com)

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