

For Immediate Release

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Teens tackle important topics through theater, thanks to gift from Kum & Go Charitable Fund

*Rose Theater receives grant from Kum & Go
for award-winning Teens 'N' Theater program*

(OMAHA, NE) The Rose Theater is honored to have received a \$5000 grant in support of its Teens 'N' Theater program from Kum & Go Charitable Fund.

Through this generous grant, The Rose' will continue its innovative Teens 'N' Theater (TNT) program that provides teenagers who have not yet graduated from high school a unique opportunity to grow, develop and explore within the theatrical world. Mentored by professional teaching artists from The Rose Theater, the troupes under the TNT umbrella produce a season of four productions that are fully staged by the teen participants. Teens act, direct, playwright, design costumes and lighting, and much more. All TNT productions are presented in The Rose's Hitchcock Theater.

The TNT program addresses two Kum & Go giving priorities: youth education & programming and arts & culture. TNT provides structured, free, out of school programming for metro-area teens. The learning experiences offered include acting, voice, dancing and improvisation for those students who like to appear on stage. Behind-the-scenes opportunities include playwriting, stage and lighting design, marketing and directing. Part and parcel of the TNT experience teens learn how to speak with confidence in front of a group, how to receive and provide constructive criticism, how to work as a team and to express themselves creatively.

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**Kum & Go supports teen projects at
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In addition, TNT provides teens from diverse backgrounds with the opportunity to express themselves. They are able to create content for original shows in the case of *Pride Players* and *Young, Gifted, & Black*. They can also hone their acting chops in plays such as *PlayScape* and see their work come to life on stage during the *Young Playwrights Festival*.

Through the support of companies like Kum & Go, The Rose Teens 'N' Theater program has received a number of accolades. *Pride Players*, in particular, has received widespread recognition. The performance troupe was invited to present at the 2020 Young Audiences National Conference at the Kennedy Center as the Key Note Performance. In addition, this pioneering group has been honored by The National Education Association, Heartland Pride and American Alliance for Theater and Education.

Kum & Go strives to be good neighbors by providing charitable gifts to non-profit organizations that make our communities better places in which to live. The company supports programs that make lasting impacts in arts & culture, youth education, and community betterment. Kum & Go is proud to give back 10% to communities through grants, sponsorships, and in-kind support.

About The Rose

For more than 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.