

Why the Arts Matter

When your family visits The Rose for a night of live theater, you expect to be transported to another world: a world of imagination, laughter, fun and quality time with loved ones. But a experiencing theater together with your children is about more than just entertainment. It can be something that a child remembers for the rest of their life!

In today's world, theater and arts education are more important than ever. Taking your family to the theater is an exciting experience that not only entertains, but also helps educate kids and teaches them important skills. Here is a list of reasons why children's theater and the arts are so important:

1. **Creativity.** The arts teach kids to express themselves in creative ways. A recent Washington Post article explained: "In an arts program, your child will be asked to recite a monologue in six different ways, create a painting that represents a memory, or compose a new rhythm to enhance a piece of music. If children have practice thinking creatively, it will come naturally to them now and in their future career."
2. **Improved Academic Performance.** The creativity discussed above also spills over into academic achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts found that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.
3. **Confidence.** Participating in the arts can boost a student's confidence. Performing on a stage in front of a thousand – or even just a dozen -- gives kids a chance to step outside their comfort zone. As they improve and see their own progress, their self-confidence will continue to grow.
4. **Decision Making.** Problem-solving and critical thinking are important life skills – and they are precisely the skills artists use every day in the theater. From decisions about expressing themselves through dance, deciding how to play a character, deciding a design for a costume or set, and more, theater students learn to look at problems in creative ways, develop multiple solutions, and evaluate which one is the best option. Learning how to make choices and decisions will certainly carry over into their education and other parts of life—as this is certainly a valuable skill in adulthood.
5. **Focus.** As you persevere through painting or singing or learning a part in a play, focus is imperative. And certainly focus is vital for studying and learning in class as well as doing a job later in life.
6. **Collaboration.** Theater requires people to work together. They must share responsibility and compromise to achieve their common goal. Kids in the performing arts learn that

their contribution to the group is integral to its success—even if they don't have the solo or lead role.

Whether your student is taking their first steps on the stage or commanding the spotlight in a starring role, The Rose has a variety of classes and programs that will help them find their inner performer. Classes are available for students ages 3 to 18 in acting, dance, voice, musical theater and creative drama. Test the waters with an 8-week drama class or dive right in with a year-long class that culminates with an on-stage performance complete with lights, sound, sets and costumes.

Rose classes are instructed by professional teaching artists with college and graduate degrees in the theater arts and education. They are the same actors who perform on stage in The Rose's mainstage productions, and in theater productions throughout Omaha and beyond.

Rose students can be found everywhere theater is being produced in our area. From community theaters to school stages, dance productions and even Broadway, "Rose Kids" are making their mark on the world through the performing arts.

For more information, visit www.rosetheater.org or call (402) 345-4849.