

## For Immediate Release

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### Multi-media adventure awaits amid a “dark and stormy night” in *A Wrinkle in Time* at The Rose

(OMAHA, Nebr.) It will be a “dark and stormy night” as audiences embark on an thrilling journey through time and space in *A Wrinkle in Time*, playing Nov. 1-16, 2014, at The Rose Theater. The other-worldly science fiction adventure promises fast-paced action with spine-tingling special effects that will have theatergoers on the edge of their seats.

Adapted from the award-winning novel by Madeline L'Engle by John Glore, *A Wrinkle in Time* tells the story of Meg, a quintessential square peg who must find her inner courage and strength to save her father from a mysterious intergalactic villain determined to eradicate the world of individuality. With the help of some rather unique characters, Meg teams up with her younger sibling, Charlie Wallace, and her friend Calvin to travel through the universe to try to put her family back together again.

The Rose has called upon director Kit McKay (who most recently directed The Rose's production of *Tarzan*) to lead the complex production that weaves together the talents of adult and youth actors, creative costume and prop design, and innovative special effects and multi-media wizardry.

“This show is almost like acting with CGI,” says McKay. “We have this incredible set design that starts off very pedestrian and very familiar and is almost like reader's theater. But once the tesseract is introduced and we go out into the universe, the stage expands into this amazing Escher-esque design with fantastic projections and abstract depictions that show the essence of the strange and otherworldly locations.”

McKay explains that the story shows how the small things we do are connected to a larger universe and the choices we make sometimes have epic consequences in the grand scheme of things. “There is the underlying idea in the show that evil lurks in mysterious packages, that we all have the potential to be bad people. Each one of us has a battle within ourselves between good and evil, and the results of that battle can change everything,” she says.

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That battle starts with the story's heroine, Meg Murray, played by youth actor Imani Vaughn-Jones, struggling to make sense of her father's (Brian Guehring) disappearance. "Meg is a smart but somewhat stubborn and defensive girl who has been having a hard time at school ever since their father disappeared a year ago," says assistant director Michael Miller. "To her surprise, her life changes one dark and stormy night, thanks to a visit from three very strange beings."

On a evening famously described by L'Engle as "a dark and stormy night," Meg, Charlie Wallace (Chloe Irwin) and Calvin (Justice Jamal Jones) discover that the strange (but fascinating) Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which (Rochelle Picket, Noah Durham Fried). The three mysterious women all know about Meg and Charlie's missing father and something called a tesseract. They are sent on a journey through time and space, to the dark planet of Camazotz, to find Mr. Murray.

In an interview with Roundhouse Theatre, playwright John Glore described the show as "a great, epic story with compelling characters who have big problems to solve. It's a melodrama, in the sense that it's truly a battle between good and evil, but it's a thoughtful melodrama whose main characters – the three kids – are far from perfect and have to wrestle with their own sense of what good means."

McKay says the show is fast-moving with many scary (but not too scary) moments that are sure to have audience members jumping. "This is definitely a show that is darker and skewed to older children," she says.

After the children arrive on Camazotz, they discover a powerful and dominating being simply known as "IT" is in control of the planet and won't make finding Mr. Murray a simple task. With assistance from their strange new friends, Meg, Charlie and Calvin attempt to stop IT and rescue their father, before the darkness in this unfamiliar part of the universe overcomes them.

"IT is not a typical science fiction monster. IT is this ephemeral and evasive presence that seems to lurk everywhere. It is like a black cloud that could be anywhere at any time. It is this ominous spirit that makes IT so very spooky," says McKay.

McKay has called upon the work of projectionist Brittany Merenda (who served as a member of the creative team on last season's *The Grocer's Goblin & The Little Mermaid*) to bring the supernatural world of L'Engle's book to life upon The Rose stage. Projections will not only give the audience a sense of time and place, but will also be used to create some of the characters.

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"The projections will give a sense of the evil we are battling," says McKay. "They will show the audience what it feels like to be in the dark, scary place, so they, too, want to fight the evil creature."

Merenda works hard to incorporate projections seamlessly into the production. "I like to think of projections as part of the ensemble. The directors, actors, set, lights, sound, costumes - we all work together to tell the same story," she says.

In the end, the various aspects of the show come together in spectacular fashion to create a show that is fast-paced, engaging and thought-provoking. In the end, this classic tale reminds us that sometimes - even in the vastness of the cosmos - the right answer comes from within.

In his Roundhouse Theatre interview, Glore said, "I hope audiences leave the play thinking about the things that L'Engle wanted them to think about: how do I allow love to be a force for good in my own life? What is the source of my courage, and would it be strong enough to enable me to do what Meg and the others are asked to do?"

As an added bonus to ***A Wrinkle in Time***, audience members will be treated to an educational video presentation from the University of Nebraska State Museum's Mueller Planetarium about the vastness of space that will run approximately 10 minutes prior to curtain.

With an intricate plot involving sophisticated scientific concepts about time and space, as well as a fair share of spooky moments and dark imagery peppering the 60 minute show, ***A Wrinkle in Time*** is recommended for ages seven and up.

***A Wrinkle in Time*** runs Nov. 1 - 16, 2014, with performances Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. An additional performance will be held Sunday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 per person. Discount ticket vouchers are available at all area Hy-Vee stores for \$14 each. Members of The Rose receive four free tickets to the production.

***A Wrinkle in Time*** is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Security National Bank, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Special opening night activities are sponsored by Kids Love Stickers, Powered by MediBadge.

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#### **About The Rose**

The Rose Theater 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 and arts education. 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.

#### **About Director Kit McKay**

Kit McKay is a theatre director and producer who has dedicated her life to bringing talented theatre artists to the northern Michigan region for her non-profit theatre organization, Parallel 45, where she directed *Our Town*, *Metamorphoses*, *A Christmas Carol in Prose* and *Shakespeare's R&J*. She began her adventure in theatre at Interlochen Arts Academy and continued her study at Sarah Lawrence College. After several years directing and working in New York City, McKay received her M.F.A in directing at Northwestern University, thus having the opportunity to work with and learn from Anna D. Shapiro, Jessica Thebus and Mary Zimmerman at Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre among other institutions. As part of her subsequent studies at the Yale School of Drama in Theatre Management, she was given the opportunity to work with Ben Moore and Jerry Manning at Seattle Repertory Theatre. McKay is the Associate Director of the Performance Series at American Dance Institute in Rockville, Maryland, where she assists in the curatorial process presenting performance artists and dance icons such as Doug Elkins' and Friends, Dana Reitz, Dan Hurlin, Sarah Rudner, David Neumann, Joe Goode, Jodi Melnick, Brian Brooks and David Dorfmann among others. For ten years, she directed the Intermediate Musical Theatre and/or Repertory productions at Interlochen Arts Camp.

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