



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre Presents
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre presents its next Family Season show, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* from April 12 – May 5 in the Jessie Bogese Theatre at Virginia Rep Center for Arts and Education, 4204 Hermitage Road. The Jessie Bogese Theatre is located in the Bellevue area, in the former Scottish Rite Temple which Virginia Rep bought in the fall of 2022.

“Kids and their families should be ready to ROCK, especially those ages 5-10. The play begins with a roar, a scream, and a howl, as the live band of naked mole rats takes the stage,” said Todd D. Norris, Artistic Director of Education. “The rats are introduced in a child-friendly way during the opening song and dialogue, and the audience learns that they live underground, like to dig, and are naked (without fur). There is even a fun fashion show!”

This rock 'n roll parable based on the hit children's book by Mo Willems presents Wilbur, and all his fellow naked mole rats in the Tunnel, who've ALWAYS been naked. Wondering what other possibilities are out there, Wilbur discovers a love for clothing and style. When word of his new passion turns the Tunnel upside down, he proves to everyone that there's no need to be just like everyone else.

The Cast includes:

Wilbur J. Mole Rat, Jr	Ian Page
Grande Mole Rat	Shinji Elspeth Oh
Venti Mole Rat	Field Oldham
Tall Mole Rat	Erin Chaves
Stark Naked/Grand-Pah Mole Rat	Gordon Graham
Weather Mole/Secret Service	James Johnson III
Swings	Joey Gravins, Caroline Lynch

BAND:

Conductor/Keyboard	Elle Meerovich
Drums	Ben Eisenberg
Bass	Claire Bronchick
Guitar	Patrick Rooney

Direction & Design

DIRECTOR	TODD D. NORRIS
MUSIC DIRECTOR	ELLE MEEROVICH
CHOREOGRAPHY	NICOLE MORRIS-ANASTASI
SCENIC DESIGN	MERCEDES SCHAUM
COSTUME DESIGN	SARAH GRADY
LIGHTING DESIGN	MATTHEW LANDWEHR
SOUND DESIGN	JONATHAN PRATT
STAGE MANAGEMENT	HANNAH HOFFERT

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620 or www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$21, Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

Run Time: 60 minutes

Press

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible high resolution photos available to the media.

username = press

password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four primary seasons – the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, the Barksdale Season at Hanover Tavern, the Family Season at Virginia Rep Center for Arts and Education and a series of partner productions in the Theatre Gym. Virginia Rep also tours children’s shows, both virtual and live, and provides educational programming to schools throughout Virginia and to major performing arts centers throughout 32 states.

Season Supporters

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

The Virginia Commission for the Arts

National Endowment for the Arts

The Shubert Foundation

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