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**Spring children's theatre features premiere of *Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island***

*Summary: The environmentally friendly production follows the adventures of superhero Sophie.*

(April 15, 2011)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline's 2011 children's show is the world premiere of *Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island*. Forrest Musselman writes this innovative, environmentally friendly production, in collaboration with Siobhan Bremer, associate professor of theatre and the show's director. "The world needs more Sophies to make a healthier, greener planet," Bremer states. "I think there's a little super hero in all of us. Hopefully this play will inspire action." *Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island* will be performed in the Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Raymond J. Lammers Proscenium on Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, and as scheduled matinees for area school children.

Musselman is a playwright and an English teacher at Rushford-Peterson High School in Rushford. His work has been published through Brooklyn Publishers, Contemporary Drama Service, and Big Dog Publishing. His plays have appeared in nearly every state in the United States, and internationally in Canada, Australia, and Europe. He also serves as managing editor for StoryPeople Press. Past play publications include *Collage*, *Point Blank*, *And They All Lived*, and *The Flecks*.

Kelly Gustavsson '11, Hibbing, will complete her theatre senior project as the production's stage manager with Madie Kvale '14, Duluth, serving as her assistant stage manager. These two students, along with Bremer, lead a young and talented cast through the new script.

*Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island* centers on a young girl named Sophie, performed by Jett Leonard '14, Rapid City, South Dakota. Sophie's companion on Ice Island is the Bear, played by Andrew Turbiville '13, Spearfish, South Dakota. Three penguins, Deuce performed by Collin Ireland '13, Rockford, Cycle played by Donald Raphael '11, El Paso, Texas, and Ooze, performed by Ian Bloomquist '13, Willmar, tumble about causing trouble for Sophie. Dark Figure, brought to life by Luis Reyes '14, Hanley Falls, controls the penguins and doesn't want Sophie to succeed in saving Ice Island from melting.

Sophie also meets a variety of other animals throughout her journey. A Snow Owl, brought to life by Brittany Schilla '11, Buffalo, is hunting the lost Lemming, played by Julie Renner '14, Vermillion, South Dakota. Sophie strives to help the Lemming find her way and in turn, the Snow Owl helps Sophie to find her way home. A Tern, covered in oiled and performed by Skylar Joseph, a post secondary education opportunities student from Elbow Lake, is discovered by Sophie and Bear. Sophie gets home with help from the whale, voiced by Samantha Bottko '12, Battle Lake, and the puppet operated by Clara Costello '11, Afton, and Amalia Jungclaus '14, Lake Lillian. Rounding out the cast are two water people played by Katie Korpi '13, Minneapolis, and Kristina Roe '12, Becker.

*Sophie and the Adventure of Ice Island* will be performed for the public on Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 16, at 1 p.m. The cost of a ticket is \$2 for the young and young at heart. Convenient, free parking is available evening and weekends in all campus lots. Performances for school matinees begin on April 13 and run through April 23.

For more information, including group rates or advance ticket sales, please [email](#) the Theatre Box Office or call at 320-589-6249.

Photo: Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island program

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