

Children's Theatre Company

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN BEYOND THE STAGE

FALL | 2019







**4** world premieres



**3,276**

students took a Theatre Arts Training class or camp.

**43%**

of our audience attended through free or reduced price tickets.

**255,000+**

people experienced CTC's artistic, education, and access programs last year.

CTC welcomed theatre enthusiasts from **79** Minnesota counties.



Our script-licensing business, Plays for Young Audiences, licensed plays in **42** states and **9** countries.



## The 2018 – 2019 Season by the Numbers!

Your support ensures that CTC is able to share the power of theatre with people of all ages.

Driven by our vision to unleash the power of curiosity, empathy, and imagination, Children's Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities.

The 2018 – 2019 Season highlighted the value of relevant, high-quality theatre for young people, and the impact these arts experiences can have on their young lives. **Did you know that 70% of adult theatre audiences attended shows as children?** A recent study by IMPACTS suggests that this life-long engagement stems from the positive, welcoming family experiences theatre attendees experienced as children.<sup>1</sup>

We know that the appreciation for the arts starts early, and as the nation's leading theatre for multigenerational audiences, CTC feels a responsibility to present only the highest-quality art for children and families. We are proud to have shared world-class theatre with more than **255,000** people last season, including the **67,153 students and educators** who attended a Student Matinee performance. Building the canon of theatre for these audiences remains a priority, and we continued to commission leading playwrights and theatre artists from around the world to develop new work. During the 2018 – 2019 Season, we brought **four world premieres** to our stage.

Our selection of arts education programs is a key pillar of our mission, and we continued to delight and educate students ages 2 – 18 in Theatre Arts Training (TAT) classes. Last season also marked the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Neighborhood Bridges**, our in-school education program focused on critical literacy. As we celebrated this important milestone, we continued to expand the curriculum, **adding content that reflects the diversity of students we serve.**

We also continued to invest in and strengthen ACT One, CTC's access program, which works to mitigate real and perceived barriers to participation in theatre. Last season, the **2,200+ households enrolled in our ACT Pass program**, which provides financial assistance to those who otherwise couldn't afford a CTC experience, accessed **15,690 \$5 tickets** and **376 TAT tuition scholarships.**

Donors like you play a critical role in CTC's success, and we are proud to report what we've accomplished together. Thank you for being a part of CTC's work last season!

<sup>1</sup> Dilenschneider, Colleen. "School Groups vs. Family Visitors: Which Kids Come Back As Adults? (DATA)" IMPACTS, September 4, 2019.



## The Next Generation

You help students nurture their passion for storytelling.



Summers at Children's Theatre Company are bursting with the energy and enthusiasm of youth. This year was no different, thanks to the 1,768 students who attended Theatre Arts Training (TAT) summer camps from June to August.

One of those students was Izzy Spiess, who participated in the Senior Intensive program, an audition-based, five-week program where accepted students learn and rehearse a specific show. Izzy was one of eighteen high school students who worked together to produce a captivating production of *Carrie the Musical* adapted from Stephen King's novel.

The cast of *Carrie* had opportunities to work with theatre professionals of all disciplines, including CTC's sound and light crews, choreographers, stage managers, and CTC Acting Company member Autumn Ness, who directed the show.

"Working with professionals is a real treat," says Izzy. "It's very assuring to know that there are people above us that care about us, want us to succeed, and keep this art alive."

This wasn't Izzy's first CTC experience. From participating in Neighborhood Bridges to attending Student Matinee performances, and enrolling in the 2021 class of CTC's Institute, a four-year comprehensive theatre training program, Izzy has immersed herself in everything CTC has to offer.

Her love for theatre has only grown over the years, and she now wants to act professionally. "The stories you tell through theatre are going to change people's lives. You empathize and sympathize with the characters," says Izzy. "I think theatre brings so much more to a story than any other medium can."

Last year, 12% of Theatre Arts Training students, including Izzy, received scholarships through CTC's ACT Pass program, which provides need-based financial aid. Donors like you support students' passions for theatre and storytelling. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to work toward a future where everyone can experience the value of theatre and the joys of acting!



Photo of Theatre Arts Training's *Carrie the Musical* by Dan Norman



# Ribbons, Feathers, and Over the Top!

The Stepmother's unconventional wig is a work of art that helps tell the story of the visually stunning *Cinderella*.

Children's Theatre Company's holiday productions are always a treat, and this year is no different as we bring back *Cinderella*! Also returning to the madcap, sidesplitting musical comedy is Acting Company Member, Autumn Ness, as Cinderella's stepmother.

You probably recognize her in character by the distinct, colorful wig, created by CTC's Wig Master, Robert Dunn. Did you know that this wig doesn't actually use a single strand of hair? After *Cinderella* scenic and costume designer, Eduardo Sicangco expressed a desire for the Stepmother's purple hair to appear smooth, sleek, and shiny, "like ribbons," Robert replied, "What if [the wig] is just ribbons?" The end result is an over-the-top, flamboyant wig that matches the Stepmother's personality.

The distinctive ribbon curls keep their shape because they are stitched to synthetic horsehair braid, a stiff polyester crafting material often used to create shape in costume wear. To finish the curls, Robert accented the front with the same synthetic horsehair braid, and Eduardo himself studded the curls with small sequins. To create the feather tuft that tops the piece, Robert bunched and sewed the brightly colored feathers together, then stitched them to a wired base inside the wig. An elastic strap that goes under Autumn's chin secures the wig during all of the Stepmother's vibrant antics, and also allows for easy removal and adjustment between scenes.

Robert is responsible for all the wigs in CTC's one-of-a-kind production of *Cinderella*. With his colleagues in the costumes and crafts shops, he works to bring the designer's ideas from paper to life. "Wigs help an actor find their character," says Robert. "When they put on a wig and look in the mirror and say, 'Oh! I'm not me anymore,' it's my favorite part of my job."

Your support helps CTC continue creating high-quality productions that showcase the brilliance of theatre professionals like Robert. Thank you for your support in educating, challenging, and inspiring through world-class art.

Want to see the wig in action? Visit [childrenstheatre.org/Cinderella](http://childrenstheatre.org/Cinderella) to purchase tickets!



Photo of Autumn Ness in *Cinderella* by Den Norman





# Join Us!

## *Cinderella* Show-N-Tell

For donors \$250+

Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 4:30 - 6pm

Go behind-the-scenes of CTC's *Cinderella*! Learn from CTC production staff and visit stations around the theatre for an up-close look at how we bring this high-spectacle holiday show to life.

Visit [childrenstheatre.org/Events](https://childrenstheatre.org/Events) to learn more about our upcoming donor events!



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