A Children's Theatre Company Original World Premiere Production



Written by Cheryl L. West

Based on the book Something Happened in Our Town by Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP; Marietta Collins, Ph.D.; Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP Directed by Timothy Douglas



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Generation Now



Thanks to the generosity of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CTC will partner with Penumbra (Saint Paul, MN), Ma-Yi Theater Company (New York City, NY), Latino Theater Company (Los Angeles, CA), and Native Voices at the Autry (Los Angeles, CA) to develop 16 new plays for multigenerational audiences by writers who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian American Pacific Islander.

This partnership is expected to bring a richer cultural context to the canon of work for multigenerational theatre and to collectively amplify each communities' voices. Generation Now is guided by a deep respect and advocacy for the intelligence and agency of younger audiences.

About the Partners



DeLanna Studi, Native Voices at the Autry Artistic Director: "From its inception, Native Voices has been dedicated to supporting Indigenous playwrights and theatre artists and sharing Native stories with audiences of all ages. We are excited to collaborate with these incredible cohort theatres on Generation Now to reach

across generations and geography, bringing multigenerational, diverse audiences together to appreciate the universal human experience and collectively shape an inclusive, shared future."



Sarah Bellamy, Penumbra President: "Not

only is Penumbra excited to work with such esteemed partners, but really hopeful about the collaborative model that we are developing together. For the field to change, the canon must be diversified and young people in particular need to see themselves lovingly and authentically represented onstage. When we imagine the impact of this project, the possibilities are myriad and so vitalizing."



Peter C. Brosius, CTC Artistic Director:

"Children's Theatre Company is grounded in the deep respect we have for our audiences, our partner theatres, and the desire to create powerful new work. We look forward to continuing to learn from each other with Generation Now. We know that our distinctive work and practices will

profoundly inform and inspire us as we move these plays from conception, through commission and development, and into production for our audiences."



Ralph B. Peña, Ma-Yi Theater Company Artistic **Director:** "This is an amazing gift from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. An opportunity to work with Children's Theatre Company to develop new works for multigenerational audiences is a long-held dream for Ma-Yi Theater, made even sweeter by a cohort of

culturally specific theaters we have long admired."



José Luis Valenzuela, Latino Theater Company Artistic Director: "This collaboration gives the Latino Theater Company the opportunity to advance our mission and to engage in a national dialogue with culturally specific theater companies in the development and creation of new works for the American theater canon for young and culturally specific audiences."



A Message from Leadership

Peter C. Brosius Artistic Director Kimberly Motes Managing Director

Welcome to the world premiere of *Something Happened in Our Town*. As this program was going to print, our community was stunned by another killing of a Black man by a police officer. This time, his name was Amir Locke. Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to his parents and family as they grieve their loss.

Over the past two years, our community has confronted our challenges and shortcomings with real, substantive dialogue about how to be more just, inclusive, and equitable. We are a community that collaborates, works and talks together, and values the ability to face problems and find common ground.

Minneapolis has been the center of a national reckoning on race that has been needed for centuries. We were rocked by the killing of George Floyd in May 2020 and the uprising that followed. It shined an even brighter light on the inequities in our state, such as the terrible disparity in educational outcomes between White students and Black and Brown students that place us at the very bottom of rankings in the U.S.A. We have also seen systemic disparities and racism in employment, home ownership, business opportunities, and more.

Over the last few years, we and other parents have struggled with how to talk to our kids about race, racism, and systems of oppression. The book *Something Happened in Our Town* was written by a biracial team of child psychologists, Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard to help parents and caregivers talk about racism and violence in our communities. When this book was brought to our attention, we knew instantly that we needed to bring this story to our stage. We were thrilled that the authors were willing to let us adapt it into a play.

This project called for an amazing playwright to deepen and expand the story to make a play that would help us understand each other, foster healing, and create space for real conversations. Cheryl L. West has brought her deep insights into human behavior, her generosity of spirit, and her rich sense of humor to show how we truly need to see inside each other's lives and hearts.

Our journey to create this work has been enhanced by the generosity of the book authors in sharing their experience working with communities, leading conversations, and encouraging dialogue. It has also been strengthened by our partnership with WCCO, who has worked with us to help families discuss these issues and create space for learning and growth.

Now we are excited for you to witness these two families on our stage as they make sense of the world and find ways to come together. Thank you for being here. Enjoy the show.

Board of Directors

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Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Children's Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities.

Vision

We unleash the power of curiosity, empathy, and imagination.

Values

IMAGINATION EXCELLENCE RESPECT INCLUSION

ACT One Statement

Since 2013, ACT One has been a promise to ourselves and to our community.

ACT One is CTC's cohesive platform for access, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programming, staff, and board. Three interdependent words of action guide our commitment to a future when our theatre is a home for all people and all families, reflective of our community: Access, Connect, Transform.



CTC believes that the theatre can be a powerful force to illuminate connections, create common bonds, and transform lives by building bridges to empathy, understanding, inclusion, and opportunity.

Historically, many have been excluded from participating in the theatre due to implications of racism, discrimination, bias, and classism. The cost of tickets, accessibility for those with disabilities, and a lack of welcome and invitation to communities of color have created further barriers, both real and perceived.

As the national leader in the field of theatre for young audiences and their communities, CTC recognizes the urgent need to address these past injustices and inequities on an institutional level. ACT One is our plan to accomplish this internal and external transformation.

CTC will measure success when our audiences, classes and camps, staff, artists, and board include more people from a wider range of:

Economic status Peoples of Color People with varying abilities Sexual orientation and Gender Identity

For more information, visit childrenstheatre.org/jedi

Classes *and* camps? Join us at CTC!

Sign up for Spring Classes and Summer Camps today!

Activate your body, voice, and imagination with Theatre Arts Training at CTC! Try something new or hone your skills in a variety of classes and camps for ages 4-18. Popular classes and camps fill up quickly: check your calendar and register soon!

theatre Arts 7

children's

theatre

company

Register for Classes and Camps Today!

COLLABORATION

CREATIVITY

CONFIDENCE

childrenstheatre.org/TAT | 612.874.0400

Have any questions? The Education Team would love to help! Give us a call at 612.874.0400

Countering Racism and Racial Injustice with Children

From the authors of Something Happened in Our Town, Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP; Marietta Collins, Ph.D.; Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP

It is understandable that adults want to protect children from life's harsher realities to help them feel safe. Therefore, many parents or teachers may not have discussed racial bias or police shootings with young children.

Research has shown that children even as young as three years of age notice and comment on differences in skin color. Humans of all ages tend to ascribe positive gualities to the group that they belong to and negative gualities to other groups. Despite some parents' attempts to protect their children from frightening media content, children often become aware of incidents of community violence, including police shootings. Parents who don't proactively talk about racial issues with their children are inadvertently teaching their children that race is a taboo topic. Parents who want to raise children to accept individuals from diverse cultures need to counter negative attitudes that their children develop from exposure to the negative racial stereotypes that persist in our society.

It is important to address racial bias with children. Take the time to address your child's guestions or comments. Do not ignore or sidestep them with blanket reassurances (e.g., "We are all the same inside"). If your child makes a negative racial comment, ask them in a nonjudgmental tone, "what makes you say that?" Your child's answer may provide an opportunity to counter generalizations or to increase empathy. Encourage multidimensional views of others. Preschoolers tend to view people as all good or all bad. You can help your child to recognize human complexity and learn to consider both similarities and differences between people in appearance, feelings, preferences, and behaviors. Balance your acknowledgement of the reality of racism with messages about hope for change and the availability of help. Be prepared to talk about what your child sees and hears. He or she may need help in understanding community events or news stories. It may be difficult to limit your child's exposure to graphic images or overly detailed information about community violence, but try to do so to avoid inducing undue anxiety.

Parents can also demonstrate behaviors that promote children's positive attitudes towards racial and cultural diversity. Make a proactive effort to regularly engage in activities with individuals from many cultures. Ensure diversity in the media, toys, books, and art that are part of your child's life at home and school. Make a rule that it's not acceptable to tease or reject someone based on identity. If teasing occurs, try to find out what underlies the behavior. If the conflict is really about another issue, help your child recognize and resolve that issue. If the underlying reason is discomfort with differences, plan activities to try to overcome that discomfort. Demonstrate and encourage acts of kindness toward others and activities to challenge injustice (e.g. protest marches or vigils).

Parents of Black children often face unique challenges in addressing racial bias with their children. Unfortunately, children of color are likely to experience racist encounters. Parents should strive to promote a positive racial identity in your child by having ongoing conversations and reading books about contributions of Black Americans to science and culture, and by participating in community and family activities that contribute to a positive sense of self embedded within a Black American community; prepare your child for racist encounters, beginning in preschool. If children feel safe, they can express their disagreement in an assertive but non-aggressive manner with peers who have made racist comments; and encourage your child to inform you or trusted adults (e.g. teachers) about racist behaviors from others. Your child's disclosures will give you an opportunity to discuss how to maintain positive self esteem and respond appropriately to these challenging situations.

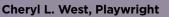
Discover More: *Something Happened in Our Town*

Timothy Douglas, Director

"Dare to speak the unspeakable' was an early and deeply impactful bit of instruction to me for navigating this artist's journey. Kudos to Children's Theatre Company for choosing to reveal daring, thoughtful, empathetic, and uncomfortable truths with its programming of *Something Happened in Our Town*. The book, from which Cheryl L. West's extraordinary adaptation is sourced, gives voice to one of this nation's most pressing cultural, social, and racial reckonings, and as revealed through the

perspectives of young Emma and Josh, this contemporary tale is also a creative and humanistic invitation for each of our communities to unite not only to *speak the unspeakable*, but more importantly to experience a collective breath, atone together in this moment, and forge a path toward a mutually tolerant and progressive future." Something Happened in Our Town co-authors Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP; Marietta Collins, Ph.D.; and Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP

"We are thrilled to have our work go from page to stage. This book has helped so many families and communities discuss racial justice. The play delivers the same important message, but in a wholly creative new way."



"In a time of reckoning in our country, this work is a call to action, to facilitate the much-needed discussion about inclusion, compassion, and what it really means to be peace makers in our homes, schools, and communities. Hopefully, this story will move us one step closer to healing our racial divide."









Expression Signs

One of the ways people express beliefs is through signs that can be displayed in yards, windows, or at protests. Create a sign to showcase a cause you believe in.

What would you do?

Write a letter giving Emma or Josh advice on how to handle the recent events they experienced. Would you have handled it differently?

Be a Leader of Change

The Problem

Identify a problem in your community. Brainstorm possible solutions to this problem. Is there a solution that you can lead or participate in? Outline a plan to implement this solution.



My Plan

"I Am an Activist" Poem

Use the prompts to create your own" I Am an Activist" poem (other family members should, too!). Read your poem aloud to your family and listen to each other's poems. What is similar or different?

1 am	All Sec. in the	
I feel	Alter Alter	<u></u>
I love	A BEAR	
I need	and the first	
I want		
I fear	Martin State	
I dream		
I think	<u>n an stand</u>	
I am an Ac	tivist	

For one example, here's an "I Am an Activist" poem created by Brodrick Santeze Ryans: "I Am an Activist"

I am SEEN I feel HEARD I love KNOWLEDGE I need JOY I want PEACE I fear INJUSTICE I dream IN COLOR I think POSITIVE I am an Activist

Words to Aid in Understanding

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines these words as:

Equity: fairness or justice in the way people are treated; justice according to natural law or right, specifically free from bias or favoritism.

Equality: the quality or state of being equal; the quality or state of having the same rights, social status, etc.

Diversity: the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization.

Justice: the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals; the maintenance or administration of what is just especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments.

Inclusion: the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (because of their race, gender, sexuality, or ability).

REALITY	EQUALITY	EQUITY	JUSTICE	@ClinPsychDavid
One gets more than is needed, while the other gets less than is needed. Thus, a huge disparity is created.	The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is considered to be equal treatment.	Everyone gets the support they need, which produces equity.	All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addresed. The systemic barrier has been removed.	Everyone is included in the game. No one is left of the outside; we didn't only remove the barriers keeping people out, we made sure they were valued & involved.

A representation by @ClinPsychDavid

Learn More

We want to thank WCCO for their partnership in bringing the conversation about race, through their *Something Happened in Our Town: From Page to Stage* family special that aired multiple times on their channels, and following the developmental process of bringing this work to the stage.



Visit their website at **wcco.com/inourtown** for resources, expert videos, conversations, and more content to further deepen the conversation with your family at home.

We also want to thank the authors of *Something Happened in Our Town*, Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP, Marietta Collins, Ph.D., and Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP, illustrator Jennifer Zivoin, and the publisher, Magination Press by the American Psychological Association, for allowing us to adapt their book into this play.

The authors have put together helpful resources and guides for caregivers and teachers: https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/441B228?tab=5

https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/pdf/441B228-additional-resources.pdf

Teaching for Change: Teaching Young Children about Race: https://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-about-race

Social Justice Booklist: https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/



Something Happened in Our Town is a story designed to spark important discussions about racial injustice. We've partnered with The Wildling—a nonprofit organization that empowers youth to share their truths through live storytelling—



to build a customized page on their Story Booth platform for cast and audience members. "Participation is easy: just scan the QR code, follow the prompts, and record your story. Coaches at The Wildling will help you along the way. For more information about The Story Booth, go to **thewildling.org/story-booth/CTC**.

Questions for the Ride Home

What did you notice about how police are viewed in each home?

What conversations with your family have you had about race and police interaction? What kind of conversations and questions will you have now that you've seen the play?

What ideas do you have for moving forward?

How do you stick up for a peer being treated unfairly? How can you create better patterns in your school and community going forward?

What are some of the ways we can keep each other safe in our community?



What is the most important thing people need to feel safe?

Why do you think Malcolm felt the need to participate in the protests? Why do you think protests start?

What does justice mean to you? Who defines justice at home? Who defines justice at school?

Learn more about *Something Happened in Our Town* at childrenstheatre.org/offbook

AUDIENCE SUPPORT STATION

Visit our Audience Support Station where you can find fidgets, ear plugs, ear muffs, assisted listening devices, basic necessities, and resources to help make the performance the most enjoyable experience possible!

ACCESS SERVICES

Audio-described and ASLinterpreted services are available for select performances.

Sensory Friendly performance schedule, guidance, resources, and tools are available online at childrenstheatre.org/sensory.

Sensory Friendly performances made possible by **Usbank**.

Wheelchair seating is available in both theatres. Balcony seating in the UnitedHealth Group Stage is not accessible by elevator.

Accessible/All-Gender restrooms are located in the Target Lobby next to the elevator and in the Cargill Lobby.

Please call the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400 with any questions or requests related to access services.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Taking any photos or making any audio or video recording inside the theatre is strictly prohibited in accordance with union contracts and copyright laws. However, you are encouraged to take photos and selfies in the lobby!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all electronic devices (phones, tablets, smartwatches, etc.) before the show starts, as the light from your device can be distracting during a performance. Please do not turn on any device while the show is in progress.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

In adherence to Minnesota Dept. of Health guidelines, concessions will not be available for sale in the lobby. While we encourage you to eat before you arrive at the theatre, should you need to eat during the production, we will have a designated area where food and beverage can be consumed in a socially distant setting. Please speak with an usher to be directed to the designated eating area.

CAREFUL, IT'S DARK

If you need to leave your seat during the performance, please allow an usher with a flashlight to assist you. When exiting or entering the theatre during a show, let the first set of doors close completely before opening the second set.

IF YOU'RE LATE, PLEASE WAIT

For personal safety and as a courtesy to those already seated, latecomers will be seated after a designated "hold period."

NEED A QUIET SPACE?

Should your child need a change of environment, we invite you to enjoy the performance from our Quiet Room, located at the rear left side of the main floor of the UnitedHealth Group Stage.

PRAYER/PRIVATE NURSING SPACE

Please ask a member of our staff to use our private space for nursing a child, prayer, or other needs.

Have questions about COVID-19 safety at CTC? Feel free to talk to one of our ushers or front of house staff.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

in Zomman Thank you for joining us! thony Jackson

Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius



Managing Director Kimberly Motes

A Children's Theatre Company Original World Premiere Production Written by Cheryl L. West Based on the book *Something Happened in Our Town* by Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP; Marietta Collins, Ph.D.; Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP Directed by Timothy Douglas •

Creative Team and Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Junghyun Georgia Lee + Costume Designer | Trevor Bowen + Lighting Designer | Alan C. Edwards + Composer and Sound Designer | Victor Zupanc Fight and Soccer Coach | Dean Holt Intimacy Coach | James Grace Trauma Specialist | Jamil Stamschror-Lott, Creative Kuponya Stage Manager | Jenny R. Friend = Assistant Stage Manager/Howard University Stage Management Fellow | Cortney Gilliam Assistant Director | Domino D'Lorion Assistant Lighting Designer | Mark Dulac Production Assistant | Elie Simon

Cast

Emma Hartley | Lola Ronning Sue Hartley | Autumn Ness Uncle Manny | Dean Holt Josh Perkins | De'Anthony Jackson Malcolm Perkins | Calvin Zimmerman Calvin Perkins | Kevin D. West Bella Perkins | Rajané Katurah Ms. Garcia | Julia Isabel Diaz Daniel | Zachary Bagnoli Sophia | McKinley Fant Ling | Ines Rose Mojica Omar | Geoffrey Morrison

Understudies

Emma Hartley | Hildie Edwards ∘ Sue Hartley | Laura Leffler Uncle Manny | Reed Sigmund □■ Josh Perkins | Levi McIntosh ∘ Malcolm Perkins | Junie Edwards Calvin Perkins | Payton Woodson Bella Perkins, Ms. Garcia | Rue Norman ↓ Daniel | Mateo Huber ∘ Sophia | Ayla Porter ∘ Ling | Chloe Hu ∘ Omar | Arameni Villaseñor

Recorded Music Victor Zupanc

Special thanks to Wehmann Agency, Domino D'Lorion, and Ellen Fenster for casting support. Special thanks to Mike Tadych. Special thanks to WCCO: Jim Ankeny, Patrick Armijo Aaron Beckman, Maddie Bennett, Heather Brown, Anne Chase, John Daenzer, Jason DeRusha, Seth Gow, Sam Gullickson, Erica Jansen, Casey Kespohl, Gary Kroger, Kate Link, Jodi Oelfke, Ann Ouellette, Kari Patey, Kelly Pederson, Shayla Reaves, Scott Riley, Kris Volkman, Scott Wooldridge

This production was created by Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, MN.

Cameras and video recorders may not be operated during the performance.

Something Happened in Our Town runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission. Denotes a member of bOC, the stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union
Denotes a member of the United Scenic Artists, Local 829
Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United

□ Denotes a member of the CTC Acting Company ◆ Denotes a Performing Apprentice . Denotes a member of the Twin Cities Musician Union, Local 30-73, AFM • Denotes a student in Theatre Arts Training

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Artistic Director

Peter C. Brosius (he/him) has served as Artistic Director of CTC since 1997, directing the world premieres of *Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches The Musical; The Last Firefly; Seedfolks; Animal Dance;* and many others, all of which were commissioned and workshopped by CTC. Previously, he was the Artistic Director of the Honolulu Theatre for Youth and the Improvisational Theatre Project at the Mark Taper Forum.

Managing Director

Kimberly Motes (she/her) has served as Managing Director at CTC since 2016. Previously, she served as the Managing Director at Theater Latté Da, Executive Director at the Cowles Center, Development Director at Arena Stage, and Program Manager at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She is on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable, Meet Minneapolis, and a member of the Women Presidents Organization.

Meet the Creative Team

Playwright

Cheryl L. West's plays include FANNIE: The Music and Life of Fannie Lou Hamer, Last Stop on Market Street; Shout Sister Shout; Akeelah and the Bee: Pullman Porter Blues: and Jar the Floor (optioned for Broadway). Her plays have been produced in England, Off-Broadway, on Broadway (Play On!), and regionally including Arena Stage, Old Globe, The Goodman, Williamstown Theatre Festival, CTC, Chicago Children's Theatre, Seattle Rep, Indiana Rep, Merrimack, Arkansas Rep, St. Louis Black Rep, Bay Street Theatre Festival, Syracuse Stage, Cleveland Play House. South Coast Rep. Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Off-Broadway's Second Stage. She has written TV and film projects at Disney, Paramount, MTV Films, Showtime, TNT, HBO, CBS, BET and is the Webbynominated writer for the original web series Diary of a Single Mom. chervllwest.com

Director

Timothy Douglas is making his CTC debut and has staged upwards of 100 productions, including shows at the Guthrie, OffBroadway, nationally, and internationally (The Great Theatre of China). Timothy currently serves as Distinguished Artist in Residence at Emerson College, and this spring he will stage Terence Blanchard's *Champion* for Boston Lyric Opera. timothydouglas.org

Scenic Designer

Junghyun Georgia Lee is a Koreanborn, NYC-based designer. She was the costume designer for *Bina's Six Apples*, and has designed for New York Theatre Workshop, Ma-Yi, Public, Soho Rep, The Play Co., Alley Theatre, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Huntington Theatre Company, Indiana Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Alliance, and Syracuse Stage. She is a member of New Neighborhood, a multimedia and theatre group. M.F.A., Yale School of Drama. junghyungeorgialeedesign.com

Costume Designer

Trevor Bowen (he/him) is pleased to have collaborated on CTC productions *Corduroy; Last Stop on Market Street; I Come From Arizona; Bob Marley's Three Little Birds;* and *Spamtown, U.S.A.* His design credits include Theater Latté Da, Minnesota Opera, The Kennedy Center, and Glimmerglass Opera Festival. He is a 2021-2022 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow. trevorbowendesign.com

Lighting Designer

Alan C. Edwards' work Off-Broadway includes the world premiere of *Harry Clarke* at The Vineyard (Lucille Lortel Award), the world premiere of *Kill Move Paradise* at the National Black Theatre (Drama Desk nomination) and Anna Deavere Smith's *Fires in the Mirror* at the Signature Theatre (Lucille Lortel nomination). He is a graduate of Yale School of Drama, where he is also an assistant professor of lighting. alancedwards.com

Composer and Sound Designer

Victor Zupanc (he/him) is credited with over 300 productions as Composer, Musical Director, and Sound Designer throughout the country and around the world, winning many awards and honors. Victor often composes for orchestras, choirs, films, and for NPR. This is Victor's 32nd season as Music Director/Composer at CTC. He recently released a new album of original music titled "Welcome to MY World" which can be found at victorzupanc.com.

Stage Manager

Jenny R. Friend (she/her) For 17 years, CTC has given her the gift of seeing the world with wonder through a child's eyes. If her work in live theatre in 2022 could bring us all a deepening sense of curiosity about each other and the ability to be brave enough to start a conversation, she will look to the future with hope! Come along on the ride...

Assistant Director

Domino D'Lorion (they/them) has worked as an actor, educator, playwright, and drag queen in the Twin Cities. They have performed with Minnesota Centennial Show Boat, Transatlantic Love Affair, Mixed Precipitation, and this will be their first production at CTC. They hold their B.F.A. from the UMN/Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program.

Assistant Stage Manager/Howard University Stage Management Fellow

Cortney Gilliam (she/her) has been the Production Assistant for Children's Theatre Company's Annie and Bina's Six Apples and is grateful for the exploration and experiences brought by new art at CTC. She has also worked with Sundance Institute and AT&T Performing Arts Center. Cortney holds a B.F.A. from Howard University.

Production Assistant

Elie Simon (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of this process. Elie recently moved to the Twin Cities area from Kansas City. She is a recent graduate from Millikin University where she received a BFA in Stage Management. In the summer of 2020, Elie was a virtual Stage Management Intern for CTC and is honored to be back and working in person!

Meet the Cast

Josh Perkins

De'Anthony Jackson (he/him) is appearing in his first professional production. He has been recognized by his peers for his singing and dancing talents while performing at Stonebridge World School. His latest endeavor includes ballroom, tango, polka, swing, jive, and salsa with the Heart of Dance ensemble. De'Anthony is a native Minnesotan, born and raised in South Minneapolis. He's excited to be starring in his first production and looks forward to expanding his artistry.

Malcolm Perkins

Calvin Zimmerman (he/him) is an activist, athlete, actor, and St. Louis Park High School sophomore. Calvin has enjoyed performing for Twin Cities audiences through Stages Theatre, CTC, and Park Square Theatre. Calvin is excited to combine his passions for social justice and acting to help open thoughtful and productive dialog within our communities.

Calvin Perkins

Kevin D. West (he/him) appeared in *Bud*, *Not Buddy* at Children's Theatre Company. He has performed locally and nationally with various companies including Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theater, History Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Jungle Theater, Guthrie Theater, Six Points Theater, Theater Latté Da, Alchemy Theater, Kennedy Center, August Wilson Center and Hartford Stage. B.A., Theater Arts.

Bella Perkins

Rajané Katurah (she/her) has enjoyed roles in *Cinderella; The Wiz*; and *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax* at Children's Theatre Company. She has also performed throughout the Twin Cities with Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Penumbra, The Ordway, Park Square and Artistry. Rajané holds a B.A. from Spelman College and was a CTC Performing Apprentice from 2017-2018. Infinite thanks to her parents, five younger siblings, and guardian angels!

Emma Hartley

Lola Ronning (she/her) is ecstatic to be back at CTC after appearing in this season's production of Annie. She has enjoyed roles in A Christmas Carol (Guthrie Theater), and got her start in CTC's training intensives, including COVIDtown (Stephanie); Mary Poppins (Jane Banks); and Orpheus and Eurydice (Orpheus). She is grateful to her family, voice teachers, directors, fellow actors, and the Friends School community for supporting her growth.

Sue Hartley

Autumn Ness (she/her) is celebrating her 21st season with the CTC Acting Company! A few of her favorite shows include Annie; Cinderella; Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical; The Biggest Little House in the Forest; The Jungle Book; and Romeo and Juliet. Autumn is a recipient of the 2018 Fox Fellowship, the 2020 "Next Step" award, and the 2022 MN State Arts Board Creative Support grant.

Uncle Manny

Dean Holt is a member of CTC's Acting Company (1994-present), appearing in more than 100 memorable productions in his time at CTC. He is a two-time Ivey Award winner (*Reeling* and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*) and the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award from St. John's University for outstanding work in his field.

Ms. Garcia

Julia Isabel Diaz (she/her) is a MN-born and raised singer, actress, and activist. Recent credits include *Pippin* (Emerging Professionals Ensemble); *A Relative Relationship* (Minneapolis Musical Theatre); and *Rosario* (Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival). She is working toward her B.A. in Sociology of Criminology, Law, and Deviance at the University of Minnesota.

Daniel

Zachary Bagnoli is making his CTC debut! Previous shows include Madagascar (Saint Paul JCC) and The Internet is a Distraction (Mounds Park Academy). In his free time, Zachary enjoys alpine skiing, parody writing, badminton, and hanging out with friends. Zachary lives with his mother and his dog, Root-beer, in Saint Paul.

Sophia

McKinley Fant (she/her) has participated in the Acting Conservatory at Stages Theatre Company. She has performed as a competitive dancer for Turning Pointe Dance Studio in Eagan, MN. McKinley loves to spend time with her friends, create movies, and draw.

Ling

Ines Rose Mojica (she/her) is so excited to be back at CTC and is honored to be a part of this production! This fall, she played Belinda Cratchit in Guthrie Theater's *A Christmas Carol*. Previously, she understudied the part of Carol in CTC's *Spamtown*, U.S.A. and has taken classes with Theatre Arts Training and Lundstrum Performing Arts. She thanks her parents and grandparents for supporting (and driving) her and her sisters for their constant encouragement.

Omar

Geoffrey Morrison (he/him) is a sixth-grade student at Aspen Academy. He is on the High Honor Roll. He enjoys playing the saxophone and is an avid soccer player. He is an active member of Penguin Corp and has been in multiple videos and live streams. He is a 1st Degree Black Belt in karate. *Something Happened in Our Town* is his first acting role of any kind.

UNDERSTUDIES

Emma Hartley

Hildie Edwards (they/them) is excited to participate in their first production at CTC. They regularly perform at Twin Cities Pride, are active in their school plays in Eagan, and advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth in local and national media. Hildie sends love to their family/chosen family for their support and guidance.

Sue Hartley

Laura Leffler (she/her) has performed with Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Umbrella Collective, and more. This is her first time with Children's Theatre Company. She has directed at History Theatre, Park Square Theatre, and more. She holds an M.A. from the University of Kansas and a B.A. from Baker University.

Uncle Manny

Reed Sigmund is loudly celebrating his 21st season as a member of the Acting Company, where he's appeared in shows such as *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!; The Wizard of Oz*; and *A Year with Frog and Toad.* Recently, he's also been seen onstage at Jungle Theater and Theater Latté Da.

Josh Perkins

Levi McIntosh (he/him) is excited about his theatrical debut in *Something Happened in Our Town*. Levi enjoys playing soccer and basketball in his spare time. Levi hopes that this play will inspire others to have courageous conversations about race with their friends and families.

Malcolm Perkins

Junie Edwards (they/them) is performing for the first time with a role in *Something Happened in Our Town* at Children's Theatre Company. Junie is a sophomore and enjoys playwriting.

Calvin Perkins

Payton Woodson (he/him/hey, you!) is incredibly excited to return to CTC! Payton was last seen at CTC in the production of *Bud*, *Not Buddy*. Payton has also performed with Zephyr Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Park Square, and Penumbra just to name a few. Payton has a B.A. in theatre from Prairie View A&M University.

Bella Perkins, Ms. Garcia

Rue Norman is delighted to be making her CTC debut as this season's Performing Apprentice. Rue has been featured at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, and TheatreX. She is nationally recognized by the Kennedy Center for "Outstanding Performance in a Play" as Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* at UNW Theatre. Norman holds a B.F.A. from the University of Northwestern (Saint Paul).

Daniel

Mateo Huber (he/him) is a seventhgrader at Yinghua Chinese Academy in Minneapolis. He has participated in many acting camps and is excited to be a part of *Something Happened in Our Town*. He plays piano, does karate and basketball, and is in many clubs at school. This is his first production with CTC.

Sophia

Ayla Porter (she/her) has been singing, dancing, and acting since the age of three in her church's choir, praise dance, and thespian ministries. In 2021, Ayla had the honor of showcasing a variety of talents on the stage of the Capri Theater under the direction of Dennis Spears.

Ling

Chloe Hu (she/her) is excited to make her CTC debut in *Something Happened in Our Town*. She trained in CTC's summer acting program and danced at Larkin Dance Studio for over five years. Chloe loves books, crafts, and playing with her little brother.

Omar

Arameni Villaseñor (he/him) began his acting career in the Chicago Avenue Project at Pillsbury House and Theatre where he wrote and starred in his own play supported by two artistic mentors. He is a member of the soccer team at Andersen United Middle School and sits on their Student Council.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Founded in 1913, AEA is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. actorsequity.org "Macaroni Kid is a weekly enewsletter and website featuring local events, activities and products for parents, kids and families."



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