

Children's Theatre Company

BEHIND THE CURTAIN BEYOND THE STAGE

FALL | 2022



Photo by David Rubene Photography

Meet Silvia Perez

CTC's new Board Chair talks family, social justice, *Pippi Longstocking*, and her vision for CTC's future

At the beginning of our 2022 – 2023 Season, we sat down with Silvia Perez, President of 3M's Commercial Solutions Division and newly-elected Chair of CTC's Board of Directors. Read on for a snapshot of our conversation and to learn more about her leadership vision for CTC.

Can you start by telling us a little about your background?

I was raised in a family with a deep commitment to community and to the calling of service. Our philosophy was that, as global citizens, we had the responsibility to leave the world better than we found it. I was born in Uruguay but spent most of my formative years in Brazil, during a time when military dictatorship was prevalent; driven by these core values that my family instilled in me, I was heavily involved in the Brazilian pro-democracy movement—attending organizing meetings, going to protests—constantly in pursuit of something better. My family was also always very culturally curious, and I spent a lot of my young years listening to Brazilian music, seeing Brazilian movies and theatre, all of which gave me an early appreciation for how the arts can shape our humanity and identity.

I met my husband, Marcelo, while on a summer vacation in Uruguay, and moved there shortly thereafter. It was there that we had two of our three children and where I joined 3M—I am a pharmacist by training and spent 25 of my 27 years with the company in their healthcare division. It was 3M that originally brought us to the states. We had young children at the time and, I admit, I was a little reluctant to pick up and move to another country for a second time. But we decided to do it, so we came for one year—25 years ago.

How long have you been coming to CTC? What inspired you to first become involved with the theatre?

When we first moved to the United States, we had all these guardian angels who helped us adjust. One of my coworkers at 3M told me about CTC and I took my kids to see a production: *Pippi Longstocking*. To this day, it lives with me as an incredible experience—I felt like another child in the theatre. I was so impressed by the quality of the production, and we started bringing the kids regularly, and hosting guests when we had people visiting from abroad. It's not common to have this level of excellence in children's theatres and we loved having this resource right in our own backyard.



What attracts you most to CTC's mission of educating, challenging, and inspiring young people and their communities?

I think it's those three words—educate, challenge, inspire. We have such an accountability to the next generation, to help them through the arts to develop compassion, to think critically, to be aware of their own potential and the place they have in the world.

What are you looking forward to most as CTC's newly elected Board Chair?

CTC is in a moment with so much potential. I truly believe that we can be so much more, not in a sense of being better or greater than we were before, but in expanding and deepening our ability to reach more people, to develop more work with more diverse voices, to be more stable and secure, and to honor and appreciate the impact that we can have. My goal as chair is to support the board, staff, and artists at CTC to go further than our expectations say we can, to achieve beyond what we think is possible, "re-emerging," and continuing our drive towards rejuvenation, post-pandemic.

Is there anything else you would like to share with our CTC community?

The impact CTC can have on audiences of all ages in a time of so much divide and polarization, in helping us all to gain understanding for each other's perspectives is incredibly powerful. The world needs CTC, and CTC can do a lot more—provided we have the support to do it. We owe a huge thank you to our community for helping to get us to this point; if we all continue to dedicate our focus to growing the theatre, to growing our impact, this new era could shape a new generation of global citizens.

By The Numbers

CTC's 2021 - 2022 Season

When CTC reopened our doors in fall 2021, we knew that we were stepping into a year that would be unlike any other. That proved to be true—it was a challenging and thrilling season, filled with surprises (some good, some difficult), and we could not be more grateful for the encouragement you gave us as we navigated this unprecedented year. Thank you for your generous support!

Before we close the book on our 2021 - 2022 Season, we want to take a moment to celebrate some of the milestones we shared with you last year. We produced two world premieres, *Something Happened in Our Town* and *Bina's Six Apples*, and revisited two family favorites with *Annie* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*. We welcomed over 800 kids to our summer camps, and our partnership with Bethune Arts Elementary in North Minneapolis turned one. Over the course of this first reopened year, over 123,000 people participated in programming—by attending shows, taking classes, and making donations, proving again and again that our community is strong.

While these numbers fill our hearts with pride, we know they are only part of the story. Not reflected here are the countless hours of hard work by our casts, crews, and staff; innumerable face masks and COVID tests; immeasurable swells of emotion and empathy; and infinite tiny moments of joy.

We can't put a number on the feeling of celebrating live theatre again with you. Thank you for being a part of our CTC family, and we hope to see you at the theatre again for our current 2022 - 2023 Season!



Albert Park and Olivia Lampert in *Bina's Six Apples*. Photo by Glen Stubbe Photography.

CTC BY THE NUMBERS

2 WORLD PREMIERES

- *Something Happened in Our Town*
- *Bina's Six Apples*



123,000+ PEOPLE

served across our programs.



73,452 PEOPLE

attended public performances.



4,568

low-income individuals who received \$5 tickets through the ACT Pass.



ZERO COVID-19 CASES

throughout all of Summer Camp/ Theatre Arts Training Classes.



785 STUDENTS

served in our partnership with Bethune



1,717 PEOPLE

attended Sensory Friendly performances.



832 STUDENTS

enrolled in summer 2021 Theatre Arts Training (TAT); 110 students were awarded scholarships.



4,898 STUDENTS

came to student matinee performances.



TWO GOOD DOGS

Bailey and Sunny, from Bill Berloni's Theatrical Animals, played the role of Sandy in *Annie*.



The Young Creatives Behind *Be More Chill*

How CTC's Summer Intensive offered early career theatre professionals a chance to shine

This summer brought the return of an anchor event in CTC's Theatre Arts Training program: the Triple Threat Summer Intensive. A cornerstone of CTC's theatre education curriculum, this audition-based program offers high school students the opportunity to work with professional directors, choreographers, designers, and technicians in a pre-professional setting. Over the course of five weeks, students come together to craft a fully staged production, offering them an education in the creative process and artistic expression in a professional setting.

This year's Triple Threat production, a musical titled *Be More Chill*, shone a spotlight on 19 young actors, but they weren't the only young people in the room. *Be More Chill*'s creative team included six early-career theatre professionals: Mady Davis (Stage Manager), Elena Fackler (Costume Designer), Micah Kopecky (Sound Designer), Anya Naylor (Props Coordinator), Ellie Simonett (Lighting Designer), and Ajiah Williams (Assistant Stage Manager) are all either current students or recent graduates, and they stepped into the summer intensive as paid members of a professional creative team.

For some, it was their first true professional experience, while others have been working on shows around the Twin Cities for a couple of years. When asked what it's been like to work at



Be More Chill. Photo by Kaitlin Randolph.

"In my long career working on theatre productions, the most gratifying part has been mentoring the talented, enthusiastic, creative youth that are learning the craft of working together as a team to produce a meaningful theatre experience for themselves and the audience. It is magical to see how all of the pieces make the whole experience that changes their lives."

- Sue Brockman, CTC Props Director

CTC, one of the first things the group highlights is the night-and-day experience of having access to professional resources and expertise.

"I used to make props in my parents living room," Anya Naylor explains. "Now I have a place to go, regular hours, materials, and professional experts who are ready to help me. It's amazing to be able to just focus on creating."

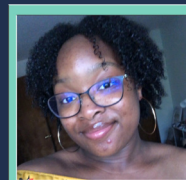
Ellie Simonett, who designed the lighting for *Be More Chill* and who also assisted on *Bina's Six Apples* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* in CTC's 2021 - 2022 Season, agrees. "It means I don't have to discount the vision," she explains. "The resources this company has are incredible, and it's particularly exciting to have the access this early in my career."

Across the group, this team agrees that one of the most formative things they will take away from the experience is a sense of professionalism—a clear understanding of what it means to work with a group, how to collaborate and communicate, and what expectations are at a professional level. They also say they have gained the vocabulary to talk about their work and a sense of belonging on a creative team.

"I'll also be taking forward a good deal of confidence," Micah Kopecky adds. "When I get to my next production, I won't have to play guessing games—I know what a [sound] design looks like from end to end at a company that knows what they're doing."



Micah Kopecky



Ajiah Williams

While this team went separate ways after the final performance, they are all confident in the connections they made and the network they built through this experience. "It's been one of the best parts of what I'm doing right now as an early career professional," Ajiah Williams exclaims. "I really want to come back here."

The Triple Threat Intensive will return in Summer 2023. To learn more about CTC's Theatre Arts Training programming, visit childrenstheatre.org/education.

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