

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: November 28, 2023****Media Contact:**

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces Cast and Creative Team for*****The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories*
By Reiko Ho and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ensemble
Directed by Reiko Ho****January 16-February 18, 2024**

Minneapolis— November 28, 2023 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is pleased to announce the cast and creative team for *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* by Reiko Ho and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ensemble. Directed by Ms. Ho, *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* will run from January 16-February 18, 2024 at CTC's Cargill Stage (2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Opening Night is Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

See a heroic carp climb up a waterfall (and so much more) in *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories*, an energetic and interactive retelling of traditional fables from Japan and Okinawa. Through artful puppetry and three imaginative actors, you'll also meet a grateful crane, a wonderfully generous mouse, and an industrious rabbit who teaches everyone to do the *mochi* dance! During this invigorating show from Hawai'i, live music played on the *koto*, *shakuhachi*, and *taiko* drum will accompany young audiences as they dance, clap, and sing along.

"We are thrilled to welcome *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* to our stage," says CTC Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius. "This production created by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth bring to vibrant life dynamic, comic and tender stories from Japan and Okinawa. You will be transported by the music, puppetry and wonderful audience interaction. You will learn words and phrases in Japanese and sing along with the talented cast. Get ready to go on magical journeys, laugh along with the characters and amazing animals and thrill to the warmth and creativity of the cast. I can't wait to share these tales with you all."

"This show was a joy to create, and we are thrilled to be sharing it with audiences at CTC," says Playwright/Director Reiko Ho. "Celebrating our cultural stories is one of the most important things I do as a theatre maker. I'm delighted to adapt a few of my own favorite childhood stories for the stage and introduce some of the beautiful performance traditions and aesthetics of Japanese and Okinawan culture to a new generation of young people and families."

The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories will play from January 16-February 18, 2024 at CTC's Cargill Stage (2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Opening Night is Saturday,

January 20, 2024 at 7:00pm. Tickets may be purchased online at childrenstheatre.org/carp or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$15 for kids and \$25 for adults.

The performers for *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* includes Serina Dunham, Mattea Mazzella, and Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr.

In addition to Reiko Ho and The HTY Ensemble, the creative team for *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* includes Mattea Mazzella (Original Music), Iris Kim (Set and Costume Design), Chesley Cannon (Lighting Design), Eric West (Puppet and Prop Design/Technical Director), and Sarah Danvers and Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr. (Additional Props).

Ticket Information

Tickets to *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* may be purchased online at childrenstheatre.org/carp or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$15 for kids and \$25 for adults.

School groups interested in attending *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories has a run time of 50 minutes (no intermission).

This production is the perfect first theatre experience for your younger theatre goers. Due to the capacity of the Cargill Stage, a limited number of lap passes for those 18 months and younger will be available for this production.

The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories

By Reiko Ho and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ensemble

Directed by Reiko Ho

January 16-February 18, 2024

Cargill Stage

The perfect first theatre experience for your youngest theatre-goers!

Creative Team

Written by | Reiko Ho and The HTY Ensemble

Directed by | Reiko Ho

Original Music by | Mattea Mazzella

Set and Costume Design by | Iris Kim

Lighting Design by | Chesley Cannon

Puppet and Prop Design by | Eric West

Additional Props by | Sarah Danvers and Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.

Technical Director | Eric West

Performed By

Serina Dunham
Mattea Mazzella
Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr.

PERFORMERS

Serina Dunham

Serina Dunham was born and raised as a hapa girl in Nara, Japan, before moving to study theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Serina has a passion for TYA, clowning, and *rakugo*, a Japanese sit-down comedic storytelling form, which she performed nationally. This is Serina's fifth season as a member of HTY's resident ensemble.

Mattea Mazzella

Mattea Mazzella is a creator from Kaneohe, Hawai'i, who loves making art and sharing stories. Matt's first instrument was the Kawai piano at his grandma's house on the windward side of the island of 'Oahu. With a camcorder and a laptop, Matt's been making music and films since he was a kid. This is Matt's ninth season as a member of HTY's resident ensemble.

Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr.

Affectionately called Junior, this surfer from Tonggs is in his twenty-eighth season with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. Junior is a veteran performer who has delighted audiences with his quick wit, comedic timing, and physical prowess for decades in dozens of roles. When not performing, Junior loves salsa dancing.

CREATIVE TEAM

Reiko Ho (Playwright/Director)

Reiko Ho is an accomplished director and theatre maker from Honolulu, Hawai'i, who loves telling stories that reflect the diverse voices of her island home. Reiko holds an MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences and is currently Artistic Associate for Honolulu Theatre for Youth. She is a member of The Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (CAATA) and on the Board of Directors for TYA/USA.

Mattea Mazzella (Original Music)

Mattea Mazzella is a creator from Kaneohe, Hawai'i, who loves making art and sharing stories. Matt's first instrument was the Kawai piano at his grandma's house on the windward side of the island of 'Oahu. With a camcorder and a laptop, Matt's been making music and films since he was a kid. This is Matt's ninth season as a member of HTY's resident ensemble.

Iris Kim (Set and Costume Design)

Iris Kim is HTY's Resident Costume Designer. She is a prolific designer and her work can be seen on stages across the island of O'ahu. Iris loves combining her early childhood teaching experience and sewing skills to design costumes. She has fond memories of attending HTY shows with her own children and as a child herself.

Chesley Cannon (Lighting Design)

Chesley Cannon has a MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He's currently a resident designer and filmmaker at Honolulu Theatre for Youth. He has also taught animation and theatre production at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He has studied stop-motion animation with Aardman Academy and traditional Czech puppet construction with Puppets in Prague.

Eric West (Puppet and Prop Design)

Eric West is HTY's Technical Director and one of the company's Resident Designers. He studied creative writing, art medium, graphic design and photography while attending various schools for the arts before moving to New York from Florida. While in NYC, Eric co-created a non-profit community arts organization additionally lending his skills to theatre, film and television productions.

Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr. (Additional Props)

Affectionately called Junior, this surfer from Tonggs is in his twenty-eighth season with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. Junior is a veteran performer who has delighted audiences with his quick wit, comedic timing, and physical prowess for decades in dozens of roles. When not performing, Junior loves salsa dancing.

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serves a multigenerational audience. It creates theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire for more than 250,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the coveted Tony Award® for regional theatre and is the only theatre in Minnesota to receive three Tony® nominations (for its production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*). CTC is committed to creating world-class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

CTC's engagement and learning programs annually serve more than 93,000 young people and their communities through Theatre Arts Training, student matinees, Neighborhood Bridges, and early childhood arts education programs. ACT One is CTC's comprehensive platform for access, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programs, staff, and board that strives to ensure the theatre is a home for all people, all families, reflective of our community. childrenstheatre.org

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: *The Carp Who Would Not Quit and Other Animal Stories*

By Reiko Ho and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ensemble

Directed by Reiko Ho

January 16-February 18, 2024

Cargill Stage

The perfect first theatre experience for your youngest theatre-goers!

WHEN: January 16-February 18, 2024 (Opening Night is Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 7:00pm)

WHERE: CTC's Cargill Stage (2400 Third Avenue South Minneapolis MN 55404)

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is best enjoyed by everyone preschool aged and up. Due to the capacity of the Cargill Stage, a limited number of lap passes for those 18

months and younger will be available for this production.

RUNNING TIME: 50 minutes (no intermission).

TICKETS: Starting at \$15 and available at childrenstheatre.org/carp or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400.

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