Children’s Theatre Company Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team for
Alice in Wonderland
CTC’s Wildly Creative Version of Lewis Carroll’s Timeless Classic
Returns for the First Time in Over a Decade

February 13-March 31, 2024

Minneapolis—January 4, 2024—Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the complete cast and creative team for the long-awaited return engagement of Alice in Wonderland, which will run from February 13-March 31, 2024 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Opening night is Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Adapted for the stage by Sharon Holland with music by Victor Zupanc, the production features scenic and costume designs by GW Mercier and will be directed by CTC’s Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius.

“Our Alice in Wonderland features an extraordinary scenic and costume design by the remarkable Skip Mercier,” said director Peter C. Brosius. “Skip created a world of illusion, surprise, mystery, and hilarity. We are thrilled to bring this wonderfully quirky and joyfully theatrical production to our stage. It is a magical tale of discovery, of standing your ground and following your curiosity. Alice is a feast for the senses, a wild journey down the rabbit hole and into incredible new worlds.”

Take a tumble down the rabbit hole with Alice in Alice in Wonderland and you’ll land in a wonderfully wacky world of rhymes and ridiculousness, checkerboards and cheeky cats, Mad Hatters and mayhem. In this wildly creative version of Lewis Carroll’s timeless classic, Alice chases the White Rabbit through the audience, attends the most absurd tea party in history, and faces off with the ragingly red Queen of Hearts. Humpty Dumpty on a ladder—who could possibly go wrong? Curiouser and curiouser...

Alice in Wonderland runs February 13 – March 31, 2024, in the UnitedHealth Group Stage. This show is best for everyone aged 6 and up. Tickets can be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/alice or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at $15.

The Adult Cast of Alice in Wonderland features Taj Ruler as Cheshire Cat/Ensemble, Neal Beckman as King of Hearts/ Mad Hatter and Humpty Dumpty Understudy/Ensemble, Nathan Keepers* as Caterpillar/White Knight/March Hare/Ensemble, China A. Brickey* as Queen of Hearts/Ensemble, Dean Holt* as Mad Hatter/Humpty Dumpty/Ensemble, Antonisia Collins as Tweedle Dee/Queen of Hearts Understudy/Edith Understudy/Duchess Understudy/Ensemble, Keegan Robinson as Tweedle Dum/Cheshire Cat Understudy/King of Hearts Understudy, and Janely Rodriguez* as Edith/Duchess/Ensemble.

The Student Cast of Alice in Wonderland features Anja Arora and Audrey Mojica alternating as Alice, and River Clementson as White Rabbit.

The Adult Understudies include Georgia Doolittle as Cover/Edith/Duchess/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble and Riley McNutt as Cover/Caterpillar/March Hare/White Knight/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble.

The Student Understudies include Luciana Erika Mayer and Lola Ronning as Alice Double Understudy.

In addition to Sharon Holland, Victor Zupanc (who also serves as Sound Designer), GW Mercier, and Peter C. Brosius, the Creative Team and Production Staff for Alice in Wonderland includes Paul Whitaker (Lighting Designer), Eric Van Wyk (Associate Scenic Designer/Puppet Designer), Sarah Bahr (Associate Costume Designer), Darrius Strong (Movement Director), Aaron Pruesse (Fight Director), Keely Wolter (Dialect Coach), Hannah Steblay (Assistant Director), Andrew Vance (Assistant Lighting Designer), Jenny Friend* (Stage Manager), Z Makila* (Assistant Stage Manager), and Janae Lorick (Stage Management Fellow/PA).

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Ticket Information

Tickets may be purchase online at childrenstheatre.org/alice or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at $15.

School groups interested in attending Alice in Wonderland can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

Alice in Wonderland has a run time of 2 hours with one 20-minute intermission.

This production is best enjoyed by everyone aged 6 and up. Lap passes are available for children 3 and younger.

Alice in Wonderland
Story by Lewis Carroll
Adapted for the stage by Sharon Holland
Music by Victor Zupanc
Directed by Peter C. Brosius
A Children’s Theatre Company Original Production
February 13-March 31, 2024
UnitedHealth Group Stage
Best enjoyed by everyone aged 6 and up!

Creative Team and Production Staff
Victor Zupanc | Composer/Sound Designer
GW Mercier | Scenic and Costume Designer
Paul Whitaker | Lighting Designer
Eric Van Wyk | Associate Scenic Designer/Puppet Designer
Sarah Bahr | Associate Costume Designer
Darrius Strong | Movement Director
Aaron Pruesse | Fight Director
Keely Wolter | Dialect Coach
**Adult Cast**
Cheshire Cat/Ensemble | Taj Ruler
King of Hearts/ Mad Hatter and Humpty Dumpty Understudy/Ensemble | Neal Beckman
Caterpillar/White Knight/March Hare/Ensemble | Nathan Keepers*
Queen of Hearts/Ensemble | China A. Brickey*
Mad Hatter/Humpty Dumpty/Ensemble | Dean Holt*
Tweedle Dee/Queen of Hearts Understudy/Edith Understudy/Duchess Understudy/Ensemble | Antonisia Collins
Tweedle Dum/Cheshire Cat Understudy/King of Hearts Understudy/ Ensemble | Keegan Robinson
Edith/Duchess/Ensemble | Janely Rodriguez*

**Student Cast**
Alice | Anja Arora
Alice | Audrey Mojica
White Rabbit | River Clementson

**Student Ensemble**
Ensemble | Mollie Allen
Ensemble | Liam Beck-O’Sullivan
Ensemble | Amir Byrd
Ensemble | Ronan Guevara
Ensemble/Alice Double | Olivia Lampert
Ensemble | Ayla Porter
Ensemble/White Rabbit Understudy/White Rabbit Double | Harriet Spencer
Ensemble/White Rabbit Double Understudy | Nicola Wahl

**Adult Understudies**
Cover/Edith/Duchess/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble | Georgia Doolittle
Cover/Caterpillar/March Hare/White Knight/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble | Riley McNutt

**Student Understudies**
Luciana Erika Mayer
Alice Double Understudy | Lola Ronning

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

**ADULT CAST**

**Taj Ruler**
Taj Ruler (she/they) is excited to be back at Children’s Theatre Company after being an understudy last year for Corduroy and The Nighttime Security Guard in Corduroy! Taj has also performed in other theatres in the Twin Cities including The Brave New Workshop, Girl Friday Productions, HUGE Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Park Square Theatre, and Pillsbury House Theatre.
King of Hearts/ Mad Hatter and Humpty Dumpty Understudy/Ensemble

Neal Beckman
Neal Beckman (he/him) is thrilled to make his Children's Theatre Company debut with Alice in Wonderland. He has recently worked at many local theaters including Guthrie Theater, History Theatre, Old Log Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Artistry Theater, and Theatre Mu. He has a B.A. in Performance from Fordham University.

Caterpillar/White Knight/March Hare/Ensemble

Nathan Keepers*
Nathan Keepers (he/him) has appeared in Mississippi Panorama and Alice in Wonderland at Children’s Theatre Company. He is Producing Artistic Director of The Moving Company. He has worked locally and nationally with Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The Jungle Theater, Guthrie Theater, HoneyWorks, Yellow Tree Theater, Actor’s Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, and Shakespeare Theatre, DC. He has studied with Pierre Byland, Philippe Gaulier, and Arianne Mnouckine.

Queen of Hearts/Ensemble

China A. Brickey*
China Brickey (she/her) has appeared in Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical, The Wiz, Cinderella, and others at Children’s Theatre Company, and was a Performance Apprentice in 2015! Locally she's worked with Guthrie Theater, Theater Latté Da, Jungle Theater, Theater Mu, the Ordway, and others. She holds a B.F.A in Acting from Millikin University. UP NEXT: Little Shop of Horrors at Guthrie Theater.

Mad Hatter/Humpty Dumpty/Ensemble

Dean Holt*
Dean is thrilled to be jumping back into Wonderland for another unexpected adventure! He is a member of CTC’s Acting Company (1994-present), appearing in more than 120 memorable productions in his time at CTC, as well as a two-time Ivey Award winner and recipient of the St. John's University Alumni Achievement Award for outstanding work in his field.

Tweedle Dee/Queen of Hearts Understudy/Edith Understudy/Duchess Understudy/Ensemble

Antonisia Collins
Antonisia Collins is from Montgomery, Alabama. She has performed in Into the Woods (Auburn University Department of Theatre and Dance/Gouge Performing Arts Center), Detroit’ 67 (AUTD), and Four Little Girls (Alabama Shakespeare Festival). She holds a B.F.A. from Auburn University.

Tweedle Dum/Cheshire Cat Understudy/King of Hearts Understudy

Keegan Robinson
Keegan Robinson (he/they) is thrilled to take a leap down the rabbit hole alongside this beamish team. He has enjoyed roles in Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Corduroy, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and Dr. Seuss’s The Sneetches The Musical at CTC. He has performed at History Theatre, Full Circle Theater, Guthrie BFA Program, and Theatre Pro Rata. He holds a B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

Edith/Duchess/Ensemble

Janely Rodriguez*
Janely Rodriguez (she/they/he) hails from Miami, FL and holds a B. F. A in Musical Theatre from Brenau University. She has enjoyed roles in Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!; Annie; and Cinderella at Children’s Theatre Company. They’ve also had the pleasure of working with other organizations throughout the Twin Cities including Theater Latté Da (Hello, Dolly!), Ten Thousand Things (Iphigenia at Aulis), and Artistry Theater (Shrek the Musical, Songs for a New World).
STUDENT CAST

Alice

Anja Arora

Anja Arora (she/her) is thrilled to be adventuring in Wonderland this season! Previous CTC credits include *An American Tail the Musical*, *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*, and *Annie*. Anja has also performed with Minnetonka Theatre, Artistry Theater, Bluewater Theatre Company, and Stages Theatre Company. She would like to thank her family for their love and support over the years.

Alice

Audrey Mojica


White Rabbit

River Clementson

River Clementson (she/her) has enjoyed performing in *Head Over Heels* (CTC TAT Triple Threat Summer Intensive), *Little Women* (Youth Performance Company), and in shows at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis. She is a part of the Theatre Arts Training Institute program at Children’s Theatre Company.

STUDENT ENSEMBLE

Ensemble

Mollie Allen

Mollie Allen (she/her) is so joyful to be here in her third CTC production. She has enjoyed roles in *Locomotion* (Lili) and *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Annie Who). She has also been in the Guthrie Theater’s production of *A Christmas Carol* (Belinda Cratchit).

Ensemble

Liam Beck-O’Sullivan

Liam Beck-O’Sullivan (he/him) is thrilled to be back on the CTC stage in *Alice in Wonderland*. Theatre credits include: *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Children’s Theatre Company - 2022-2023 and 2023-2024), *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Des Moines Metro Opera), *The Music Man* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres), *Disney’s Mary Poppins, Our Town* (Artistry Theater), *Albert Herring, The Barber of Seville* (Minnesota Opera), and roles with CastleCo Theatre.

Ensemble

Amir Byrd

Amir is excited to be back on the CTC stage performing *Alice in Wonderland*. You may have previously seen him in the productions of *Locomotion* and *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Amir hopes you enjoy the show!

Ensemble

Evan Decker

Evan Decker (he/him) is thrilled to journey to Wonderland this winter. Previous CTC productions include *Dr.*
Evan has also performed with SteppingStone Theatre, Stages Theatre, Lakeshore Players Theatre, and ETC Productions. He is currently a senior at Washburn High School in South Minneapolis and thanks his family and friends for their constant love and support.

Ensemble

**Ronan Guevara**
Ronan Guevara (he/him) is making his stage debut at Children’s Theatre Company. He has performed with several organizations including Stages Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, and Youth Performance Company. He is a senior at St Louis Park High School and has lettered in track, football, and choir.

Ensemble/Alice Double

**Olivia Lampert**
Olivia Lampert (she/her) is excited to return to Children's Theatre Company! Previous CTC credits include: *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Bina’s Six Apples, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*. Additional select credits: *The Kung Fu Zombies Saga: Shaman Warrior and Cannibals* (Theater Mu), *Bina’s Six Apples* (Alliance Theatre Company), *We Will Rock You* (BWTC), *Hamlet* (Wayzata), *Descendants* (Lundstrum Performing Arts). She is currently a junior at Wayzata High School.

Ensemble

**Ayla Porter**
Ayla Porter (she/her) embraced singing, dancing, and acting at age three. She has enjoyed roles in *Something Happened in Our Town* and *Corduroy* at Children’s Theatre Company. She has performed in *The Wiz Jr.* and *Once on This Island Jr.* at the Capri Theater’s summer program.

Ensemble/White Rabbit Understudy/White Rabbit Double

**Harriet Spencer**
Harriet Spencer is so excited to be in her second show at CTC. She has previously been in *Corduroy* (Children’s Theatre Company); *Little Women*, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Percy Jackson Musical*, *The World According to Snoopy*, *Frozen Jr.* (Youth Performance Company); *Head Over Heels* and *Be More Chill* (CTC TAT Triple Threat Summer Intensive).

Ensemble/White Rabbit Double Understudy

**Nicola Wahl**
Nicola Wahl (she/her) is thrilled to be back at Children’s Theatre Company after appearing in *Roald Dahl’s Matilda The Musical* and *Annie*. She has also performed in productions at the History Theatre and Youth Performance Company. Nicola is currently a sophomore at SPCPA.

**ADULT UNDERSTUDIES**

Cover/Edith/Duchess/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble

**Georgia Doolittle**
Georgia Doolittle (she/hers) recently worked with Open Eye Figure Theatre as Ella in *Life Sucks*. Previously, she performed in *Antigonick* (Full Circle Theater Company), *Hairball! The Bigfoot Musical* (Open Eye), *Analog & Vinyl* (Minneapolis Musical Theatre), and assistant directed *Moscow, Moscow, Moscow...* with Craig Johnson at the University of Minnesota.

Cover/Caterpillar/March Hare/White Knight/Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum/Ensemble

**Riley McNutt**
Riley McNutt (he/him) is making his debut at Children’s Theatre Company. He has worked with other theaters such as Theater Latté Da, Artistry Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, The Ordway, and several others. He holds a B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

STUDENT UNDERSTUDIES

Luciana Erika Mayer
Luciana Erika Mayer (she/her) is ecstatic to be performing at CTC! Children’s Theatre Company credits include: Corduroy and Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Luci is passionate about ballet, singing, and acting. She is currently a seventh grader at St. Croix Preparatory Academy. Luci would love to thank Peter Brosius for the opportunities given to her!

Alice Double Understudy

Lola Ronning
Lola Ronning (they/them) is overjoyed to be back at CTC after previously playing Annie in Annie, and Emma Hartley in Something Happened in Our Town. They also appeared in two productions of A Christmas Carol at the Guthrie Theater, and flourished through roles in CTC’s training intensives—one of their favorites was playing Christine in Be More Chill. They thank family and friends, teachers, directors, fellow actors, and the De La Salle High School community for their support.

CREATIVE TEAM AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Adapter

Sharon Holland
Sharon Holland started writing at the age of 10. By the time she was 23 years old, she had produced 10 plays and innumerable poems and essays. Holland graduated from Oberlin College before moving to Minneapolis to study playwriting at the University of Minnesota. In 1980, she wrote a musical about the life of Henry Fielding for CTC’s studio series. She wrote another short play for the summer school institute and was commissioned by CTC to do an adaptation of the Charles Perrault fable Puss in Boots. In 1982, Holland adapted the classic books by Lewis Carroll (Alice Through the Looking Glass) for the stage. Sharon Holland died in January 2002 at the age of 53.

Director

Peter C. Brosius
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.

Composer/Sound Designer

Victor Zupanc
Victor Zupanc has been the resident music director/composer at Children’s Theatre Company since 1989, composing music and conducting orchestras for many of your favorite productions. He has worked on over 300 plays at countless theaters across the country. He also composes for orchestras, choirs, and films and his music has been performed in over a dozen countries around the world. victorzupanc.com

Scenic and Costume Designer

GW Mercier
GW Mercier was the scenic designer for CTC’s productions of Alice in Wonderland and Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, and the scenic and costumer designer for Bert and Ernie, Goodnight!, Iqbal, and Average Family. Broadway: Juan Darien: A Carnival Mass by Julie Taymor (Tony nomination and two Drama Desk
nominations). Off-Broadway: *Dream True* by Tina Landau and Ricky Ian Gordon (Drama Desk nomination), *Bed and Sofa* by Polly Penn and Laurence Klavan (Drama Desk nomination). He received the Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award for Outstanding Talent and Vision in Design.

**Lighting Designer**

**Paul Whitaker**

**Associate Scenic Designer/Puppet Designer**

**Eric Van Wyk**
Eric has designed puppetry or scenery for multiple Children’s Theatre Company productions including *The Biggest Little House in the Forest, Babe the Sheep Pig, Cinderella*, and *The Last Firefly*. Regional credits include Open Eye Figure Theatre, Imagination Stage, Washington Ballet, and The Hong Kong Ballet. His company, WonderStruck Theatre, created *Mop Dog and The Elephant Speaks Jazz*.

**Associate Costume Designer**

**Sarah Bahr**
Sarah Bahr (she/her) is a Twin Cities based costume and scenic designer for theatre, opera, and dance. Her designs have been featured at the Minnesota Opera, Jungle Theater, Trademark Theater, History Theatre, and Vail Dance Festival. She holds an M.F.A in Design and Technical Theatre from the University of Minnesota.

**Movement Director**

**Darrius Strong**
Darrius Strong, a Twin Cities-based choreographer and founder of STRONGmovement, curated the 51st Annual Choreographers Evening at the Walker Art Center. His innovative work—showcased at venues like Guthrie Theater, Schubert Club, and Ordway Center for the Performing Arts—reflects in collaborations with TU Dance and James Sewell Ballet. A recipient of Jerome Hill and Choreographer McKnight Fellowships, Strong is a trailblazer in the dance community.

**Fight Director**

**Aaron Pruesse**
Aaron Preusse (he/him) worked with Children’s Theatre Company in the 90s as an actor, and is thrilled to be back as a Fight Director. He has created fight scenes for over 25 productions at the Guthrie Theater. Aaron also works with many theatres and film productions throughout the Midwest.

**Dialect Coach**

**Keely Wolter**
Keely Wolter (Dialect Coach) has coached on *An American Tail the Musical* and *Carmela Full of Wishes* with Children’s Theatre Company. She has also coached with HBO, Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, and many others. She holds an M.A. from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London.

**Assistant Director**

**Hannah Steblay**
Hannah Steblay (she/her) is delighted to return to Children's Theatre Company, having assisted on *Alice in Wonderland* and *Pippi Longstocking*. She has worked with several organizations, including Park Square
Assistant Lighting Designer
Andrew Vance
Andrew Vance (he/him) has previously worked on Corduroy and Camela Full of Wishes at Children’s Theatre Company. He is a Minneapolis based lighting designer who has designed all over the country. Recent credits include the Theatre in the Round, Washington and Lee University, and SOAR Regional Arts. @av.ld

Production Stage Manager
Jenny Friend*
Jenny R. Friend (she/her) has spent nineteen years as the Production Stage Manager. CTC has given her the gift of seeing the world with wonder through a child’s eyes. When not in a dark theatre, Jenny takes inspiration from Alice, rooting about in the woods finding fascinating fungi or curious about what’s around the next bend. May you be met with many adventures in your life and also know your direction home.

Assistant Stage Manager
Z Makila*
Z Makila* (he/him & they/them) has previously worked at Children's Theatre Company on Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress and An American Tail. Other credits include Jersey Boys (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres), Beauty and the Beast (The Ordway), Twelve Angry Men: A New Musical (Theater Latté Da), and Joyful Echoes (Minnesota Orchestra).

Stage Management Fellow/PA
Janae Lorick
Janae Lorick (they/them) has created onstage, offstage, and even outside in The Buddha Prince (TigerLion Arts). Just finishing Fargo Allegro (Nightfall Productions), they are excited to work with Children’s Theatre Company for their 2023-2024 Season. They hold a B.A. in Theater and Race and Ethnic Studies from St. Olaf College.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

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, 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: Alice in Wonderland
Story by Lewis Carroll
Adapted for the stage by Sharon Holland
Music by Victor Zupanc
Directed by Peter C. Brosius
A Children’s Theatre Company Original Production
February 13-March 31, 2024
UnitedHealth Group Stage
Best enjoyed by everyone aged 6 and up!

WHEN: February 13-March 31, 2024 (Opening Night is Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 7:00pm)

WHERE: CTC’s UnitedHealth Group Stage (2400 Third Avenue South Minneapolis MN 55404)

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is best enjoyed by everyone aged 6 and up. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

RUNNING TIME: 2 hours with one 20-minute intermission.

TICKETS: Starting at $15 and available at childrenstheatre.org/alice by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400.

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