

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: January 23, 2024****Media Contact:**

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Children's Theatre Company Announces Cast and Creative Team for**The World Premiere of
*Babble Lab*****March 9-April 14, 2024**

Minneapolis— January 23, 2024 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the cast and creative team for the World Premiere of *Babble Lab*, which will run from March 9-April 14, 2024 in the Cargill Stage. Opening is Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Conceived, written, and performed by CTC Company Member Autumn Ness, the World Premiere of *Babble Lab* will be directed by Sarah Agnew.

"I am so excited that with the world premiere of *Babble Lab* I get to return to performing for my favorite audience, the pre-schoolers," said playwright and performer Autumn Ness. "This play is about discovering the power of your own voice, and learning to be fearless in using it. I want every preschooler that sees our show to find their own magical, musical, courageous, EPIC voice!"

"It is truly a thrill to bring to the stage Autumn Ness's exploration of sound, language, science, discovery and the celebration of the curious spirit," said CTC Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius. "Autumn has been a fearless and wonderfully inventive creator and this piece is sure to spark imagination, the joys of scientific exploration and the love of discovering new worlds. We can't wait to share this delightful, totally original new piece with you."

Sarah Agnew, Director of *Babble Lab*, said "I am so pleased to know that this wonderfully weird piece that Autumn has created, a convergence of Da-Da art esthetics and preschoolers, with Autumn at the helm, will be the first theatrical experience for many of our audience members. Lucky them!"

Strap on your safety goggles and clean out your ears! When an experiment unexpectedly goes awry, a concoction of sneaky, sprightly **LETTERS** takes over a weird and wondrous science lab. Watch them jump into jars, spring from drawers, bounce around the room, and even play hide-and-seek as our scientist makes her surprising findings: Bluku terullala blaulala loooo! Rakete bee bee? Rekate bee zee! Enjoy the blubbering and blibbering exploration of spoken blurbbles as they spring forth in this one-of-a-kind laboratory. The World Premiere of *Babble Lab* is created with early learners in mind.

Babble Lab is a Children's Theatre Company and Alliance Theatre World Premiere Co-production.

Babble Lab is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Art. Ness, Autumn Michelle and Children's Theatre Company are participants in the Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowships, funded by the William & Eva Fox Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group.

Babble Lab runs March 19-April 14, 2024, in the Cargill Stage. This show is best enjoyed by audiences 0-105! Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/babblelab or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Tickets are \$17 for kids and \$26 for adults.

Babble Lab will be performed by Autumn Ness* as The Scientist.

In addition to Autumn Ness and Sarah Agnew, the Creative Team and Production Staff for *Babble Lab* includes Michael Sommers (Scenic Designer), Annie Cady (Costume Designer), Wu Chen Khoo (Lighting Designer), Katharine Horowitz (Sound Designer), Jorge Cousineau (Projection Designer), Craig Gottschalk (Associate Projection Designer), and Stacy McIntosh* (Stage Manager).

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

Ticket Information

Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/babblelab or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Tickets are \$17 for kids and \$26 for adults.

School groups interested in attending *Babble Lab* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

Babble Lab has a run time of 45 minutes with no intermission.

This production is best enjoyed by audiences aged 0-105. 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.

World Premiere

Babble Lab

By CTC Company Member Autumn Ness

Directed by Sarah Agnew

A Children's Theatre Company and Alliance Theatre World Premiere Co-production

March 9-April 14, 2024

Cargill Stage

Created with early learners in mind—best enjoyed by audiences aged 0-105!

Creative Team and Production Staff

Michael Sommers | Scenic Designer

Annie Cady | Costume Designer

Wu Chen Khoo | Lighting Designer

Katharine Horowitz | Sound Designer

Jorge Cousineau | Projection Designer

Craig Gottschalk | Associate Projection Designer

Stacy McIntosh* | Stage Manager

Taylor Engel* | Assistant Stage Manager

Adult Cast

The Scientist | Autumn Ness*

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

ADULT CAST

Playwright/'The Scientist'

Autumn Ness

Autumn Ness (she/her) is celebrating her 23rd season as a member of the CTC Acting Company! A few of her favorite CTC shows include: *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *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 TCG Fox Foundation Fellowship, the 2020 MRAC Next Step Fund, and the 2022 MN State Arts Board Creative Support Grant.

CREATIVE TEAM AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Director

Sarah Agnew

Sarah Agnew is a theatre maker based out of the Twin Cities. She has performed in theatres nationwide and was a company member of Theatre de la Jeune Lune where she collaborated in the creation of multiple new works. She has toured the state with two shows she created for Sod House Theater: *Arla Mae's Booyah Wagon*, and *Table*. She is currently a producer of children's television for Children's Minnesota.

Scenic Designer

Michael Sommers

Michael Sommers has worked as a co-director, designer, composer and technician at Children's Theatre Company. He co-founded Open Eye Figure Theatre in 2000 where he created over fifty original works for the Open Eye stage.

Costume Designer

Annie Cady

Annie Cady (she/her) is happy to be designing again at CTC. Previous designs include *Snow White*, *The Hobbit*, and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Annie has designed costumes for several Twin Cities theatre and dance companies and currently serves as Chair of the Theatre Department at Normandale Community College.

Lighting Designer

Wu Chen Khoo

Wu Chen Khoo (he/him) has designed with several organizations, including Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Fergana Art, and MN Opera. He is the production manager for Macalester College's Theater and Dance department. He shares his life with his partner, Kristin, and their children Teng Jin and Yi Lian.

Sound Designer

Katharine Horowitz

Katharine Horowitz (she/her) most recently designed sound for *An American Tail the Musical*. She has been the associate sound designer for many CTC shows such as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*, *Annie*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* and more. She designs regularly at History Theatre, Jungle Theater, Park Square Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Gremlin Theatre, Theater Mu, and others. Katharine is a 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center.

Projection Designer

Jorge Cousineau

Jorge Cousineau is glad we finally get to enjoy this delicious madness. Previously at CTC: *Seedfolks* (set and projections), *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (set and projections), and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (projections). His work has also been seen and heard internationally, regionally, and all over Philadelphia, his home for 25 years.

Associate Projection Designer

Craig Gottschalk

Craig Gottschalk's projection design credits include *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *The Wiz*, *Cinderella*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Other CTC credits include lighting designs for *The Best Summer Ever*, *Corduroy*, and *Animal Dance*. Regional credits include *Jelly's Last Jam* (Theater Latté Da), *Mary Poppins* (Artistry), *Blues in the Night*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Bombitty of Errors*, and *Route 66* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater).

Stage Manager

Stacy McIntosh*

Stacy is excited to be exploring the laboratory with her good friend Autumn. In her 25 years at CTC, Stacy has brought to life more than 70 productions. She has also worked throughout the Twin Cities and across the country with numerous artists and large scale events. Stacy is a proud recipient of the Minnesota Theater Award.

Assistant Stage Manager

Taylor Engel*

Graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with his B.A in Theatre Arts, Taylor has worked as a SM for St. Croix Off Broadway Dinner Theater, Classical Actors Ensemble, Freshwater Theatre and Lyric Arts. Taylor has been Run Crew for many of our CTC productions and for the Guthrie Theater.

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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 nearly 250,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the Special Tony® Award for Outstanding 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 is the most significant provider of theatre education opportunities in the region. Every year, thousands of children experience theatre for the first time at CTC. Our student matinees and education programs demonstrably benefit the community, from the intergenerational conversations sparked by our world premieres, to the sequential skill-building that happens in our Theatre Arts Training, to the pre-K focus of our Early Childhood Initiative. 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: ***Babble Lab***

By CTC Company Member Autumn Ness

Directed by Sarah Agnew

A Children's Theatre Company Commissioned World Premiere Production

March 9-April 14, 2024

Cargill Stage

Created with early learners in mind—best enjoyed by audiences aged 0-105!

WHEN: March 9-April 14, 2024 (Opening Night is Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.)

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

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is best enjoyed by audiences aged 0-105. 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: 45 minutes with no intermission.

TICKETS: Tickets are \$17 for kids and \$26 for adults and may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/babblelab or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400.

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