

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: January 25, 2024****Media Contact:**

Jonathan White

jwhite@childrenstheatre.org

612.872.5110

**Children's Theatre Company to Receive \$40,000 Grant
from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Minneapolis—Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$40,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through its Grants for Arts Projects program. This grant will support the upcoming world premiere of *Babble Lab*. In total, the NEA will award 958 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$27.1 million that were announced as part of its first round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

"The NEA is delighted to announce this grant to Children's Theatre Company, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and local community," said National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives."

"We are thrilled to have the support of the NEA for our World Premiere of *Babble Lab*, created and performed by our longtime company member Autumn Ness," said CTC Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius. "This is a wonderfully imaginative piece that takes the audience into laboratory where the world of language and sound is explored through dazzling projections and delightful scientific experiments. We know the critical importance of arts experience for the preschoolers and this production is developed with our youngest audiences in mind. This has been in development for years and we are so excited to share this production with our audiences at long last."

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!

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 blurbles 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.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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](https://www.childrenstheatre.org)

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