

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: June 10, 2024****Media Contact:**

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces
Triple Threat Summer Intensive Production****World Premiere Musical
The Garden
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Hannah Bakke****Friday, August 9, 2024 at 7pm
Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 2pm and 6pm**

Minneapolis—June 10, 2024— Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is pleased to announce that the 2024 Triple Threat production will be the World Premiere Musical *The Garden*. Featuring book, music, and lyrics by Hannah Bakke, *The Garden* will be directed by Emma Y. Lai, with choreography by Jack Moorman, and music direction by Justin Cook. Alex Church will serve as dramaturg. More information is available at childrenstheatre.org/garden.

Students enrolled in the Triple Threat Summer Intensive spend the first half of their day in theatre arts training (classes in acting, movement, voice, and more) and the second half in rehearsal for the production. Past productions include *Carrie*, *Rent*, *Be More Chill*, and *Head Over Heels*. The students work with professional directors, professional designers, and other experienced theatre artists and practitioners. The focus is on process; students have the opportunity to hone their craft, dig deeper, and build their community.

About the Show

The Garden is the world's first music venue, the genesis of honkytonks—an electric, cozy place where creation begins and woman finds her voice. It's a story old as time, told through the lens of Eve's self-discovery and resolve. This bluegrass, backwoods revival takes you on a journey of what it means to be imperfectly perfect.

"*The Garden* has always been at its core a 'folk musical,' which makes sense considering that I grew up playing in a family folk band," said Hannah Bakke, bookwriter/composer/lyricist. "We covered classics from Peter, Paul & Mary, the Everly Brothers, and the Indigo Girls (to name a few favorites). I was constantly surrounded by musicians who emphasized storytelling, reinforcing the idea that creating music doesn't have to require a high barrier to entry. You don't need to be the best guitarist or have a flawless voice, because folk music isn't about making a 'perfect' sound. Folk music is about telling stories and singing in community. I think something really transformative can happen when we encourage gritty, unique, 'non-musical-theatre' sounds in the musical theatre space. It's an honor to work on this project with such a wonderful group of students, and I can't wait to see them leave their mark on it. Audiences can expect an epic, boot-

stomping, good time. It's 'Eden like you ain't seen her before!'"

"I am so delighted to have the opportunity to bring *The Garden* to CTC," said Ann Joseph-Douglas, Director of Education at CTC. "This is a unique opportunity for young artist to be a part of new work and I'm thrilled that CTC can be that place for all our young artists to grow. This is an uplifting musical that challenges our ideas about women and the stories that have been told about us. I have always been a huge fan of Hannah Bakke and this project is a rare opportunity for me to see just how deeply talented she is."

CTC's Triple Threat production of *The Garden* will perform on Friday, August 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. All performances will take place on CTC's Cargill Stage (2400 Third Avenue South Minneapolis MN 55404). Tickets may be purchased online at childrenstheatre.org/tickets or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. All tickets are \$25.

In addition to Emma Y. Lai, Jack Moorman, Justin Cook, and Alex Church, the creative team includes Dakota Blankenship (Costume Design), Nate Glewwe (Sound Design), and Kyia Britts (Lighting Design).

Ticket Information

Tickets to *The Garden* may be purchased online at childrenstheatre.org/tickets or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. All tickets are \$25.

Recommended for ages 10 and up.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 50 minutes with one intermission.

About CTC's Triple Threat Summer Intensive (Grades 8-12)

Theatre Arts Training's performance opportunities are specifically designed for students who have a demonstrated commitment to their craft as performers and display a positive attitude in their work. Students work with like-minded peers and industry professionals to produce a play or musical. During this five-week intensive, students spend their mornings in studio classes advancing voice and dance skills; the afternoons are dedicated to rehearsal.

About CTC's Education and Engagement Programs

CTC's Education and Engagement programs deepen the theatrical experience throughout our community, reaching tens of thousands of people each year. We create opportunities for audiences of all ages to connect with the art, the artists, and each other. Grounded in ACT One, the theatre's commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, we choose programming and partners that reflect all of the experiences and perspectives that make our community strong, with a focus on communities of color, the LGBTQIAP+ community, and the disability community spanning the full socio-economic spectrum.

Theatre Arts Training's Scholarship Program: Made Possible by You

At Children's Theatre Company we believe that every child should have the opportunity to

experience the arts in order to learn, grow, and discover themselves. But for many families, this exploration is not financially possible. Please consider a donation to help support our Theatre Arts Training Scholarship program. Your gift will help a child live out their dream. Every dollar counts— If we all do a little, we all do a lot. Donate today at childrenstheatre.org/give

Children’s Theatre Company’s 2024-2025 Season

CTC’s 2024-2025 Season of six productions features the world premiere play *Drawing Lessons*, the rolling world premiere musical *Milo Imagines the World*, the thrilling spectacle of *MOYA* by Zip Zap Circus from Cape Town, South Africa, the return of the smash-hit holiday favorite *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, the Minnesota premiere of Manual Cinema’s *Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster* based on the beloved books by Mo Willems, and the CTC original production of Disney’s Tony®-nominated *Frozen the Broadway Musical!*

Full season subscriptions for the 2024-2025 Season are now on sale and can be purchased online at childrenstheatre.org/shows-and-tickets/subscribe-and-save/ or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400.

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 more than 200,000 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: CTC’s Triple Threat production of World Premiere Musical *The Garden*

WHEN: Friday, August 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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

AGE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended for ages 10 and up.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 50 minutes with one intermission.

TICKETS: Tickets are \$25 and are available at childrenstheatre.org/tickets or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400.

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