

October 8-November 10, 2024

By Michi Barall
Original conception by Michi Barall and Jack Tamburri
___ Directed by Jack Tamburri

A Children's Theatre Company World Premiere Production Co-commissioned by Ma-Yi Theater Company and Children's Theatre Company





Mission

Children's Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities.

Vision

We unleash the power of curiosity, empathy, and imagination.

Values

Imagination Excellence Respect Inclusion

Generation Now



Expanding the canon of work produced for multigenerational audiences and creating a model of transformative partnership for the theatre field

Michi Barall's *Drawing Lessons* was originally commissioned as part of the landmark Generation Now partnership, a consortium between Latino Theater Company (Los Angeles, California), Ma-Yi Theater Company (New York, New York), Native Voices (Los Angeles, California), Penumbra (St. Paul, Minnesota), and Children's Theatre Company (Minneapolis, Minnesota). *Drawing Lessons* is the first Generation Now commission to receive a full production.

What's Next for Generation Now?

Scripts in Development Include:

Dustin Tahmahkera's Comanche Girl on the Moon

· Co-commissioned by Native Voices and CTC.

Ifa Bayeza's **One Small Alice**

• Co-commissioned by Penumbra and CTC.

Gabriel Rivas Gómez's *Level Up*

· Co-commissioned by Latino Theater Company and CTC.

Kalani Queypo and Chadwick Johnson's *The Mainlanders*

· Co-commissioned by Native Voices and CTC.

Llovd Suh and Diana Oh's The Science Fair Project >>>>

Co-commissioned by Ma-Yi Theater and CTC.

Nambi E. Kelley's Untitled Commission

· Co-commissioned by Penumbra and CTC.

Folklórico, a work exploring the world of folklórico dance created by Latino Theater Company.

• Co-commissioned by Latino Theater Company and CTC.





A Message from Leadership

Rick Dildine
Artistic Director

Welcome to the world premiere of *Drawing Lessons* by Michi Barall!

At some point, every play was a new play. The titles we consider foundations of American theatre were once mere ideas that had to first find their voices and themes on paper and then on a stage with actors in front of a live audience for the very first time. Children's Theatre Company is deeply committed to developing and premiering new work. Our development process is one of the most rigorous in the country because we believe that we serve the most important audience in the country: our young people and their communities.

By attending this performance, you are sharing in the life of a new play. To date, CTC has developed more than 200 new plays, with more than 90 original plays available for production through Plays for New Audiences, our in-house licensing division that makes our work available to theatres and schools across the country and around the world.

With funding from the Mellon Foundation in 2021, Generation Now was launched as a part of a five-theatre partnership that includes CTC, Latino Theater Company and Native Voices in Los Angeles, Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City, and Penumbra in St. Paul. The goal of Generation Now is to expand the canon of work produced for multigenerational audiences and to create a model of transformative partnership for the theatre field. The consortium will co-commission and co-develop 16 new plays by both established and emerging BIPOC artists for multigenerational audiences over five years. The partners strongly believe that if we are to have an extraordinary theatre culture in this country, we must start young and it must be intergenerational, inclusive, inspiring, transformative, and lifelong. Together we envision creating a lasting canon of new works for multigenerational audiences.

Michi Barall's *Drawing Lessons* is a co-commission with Ma-Yi Theater Company. Exploring the world of comics and graphic novels, this play marks our first production of the 16 plays we have commissioned through the Generation Now partnership. Over the past several years, Michi has written numerous drafts, participated in multiple workshops and readings of those drafts, and synthesized the feedback into the story you will hear today.

My thanks to Ma-Yi Artistic Director Ralph Peña who is a passionate advocate for playwrights, CTC Associate Artistic Director Michael Winn who oversees this commissioning program and works closely with our cohorts, and to former CTC Artistic Director Peter Brosius for his vision to bring this group together.

Enjoy the show!

Prick

Rick Dildine

Board of Directors

Stefanie Adams

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Mary Lou Dasburg



Land Acknowledgment

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) acknowledges that the theatre was established on land that the Wahpekute Tribe of the Dakota nation still calls home. Around the year 1600, the Wahpekute were a wandering people who landed in Mni Sota Makoce (Land Where the Waters Reflect the Clouds—and the people's roots here remain strong). They are a part of the Dakota Seven Councils of Fire, which include the Mdewakanton (Dwellers by the Sacred Lake). Sisitonwan (People of the Marsh). Wahpetonwan (Dwellers Among the Leaves). Ihanktown (People of the End), Ihanktowana (People of the Little End). Tetonwan (People on the Plains), and Wahpekute (Shooters Among the Leaves).

Today, Minnesota is a vibrant and diverse state with the history and influence of the Dakota people woven throughout. We honor and respect the many Indigenous People still connected to this land. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from systems that have hoarded power and marginalized Indigenous Nations, communities of color, the LGBTQIAP+community, people with disabilities, women, children, and all who meet at the intersections.

CTC acknowledges that we are now stewards of the land the Wahpekute People of the Dakota Nation were largely driven from. As storytellers, it is our duty to recognize that the narratives of this region have long been told from one dominant perspective without acknowledging those whose narratives began before. It is our responsibility to the Dakota Nation, our staff, our board, our audiences, and our artists to collectively honor their lives, amplify their voices, and reimagine our future.

For our full Land Acknowledgment and Anti-Racism statement, please visit **childrenstheatre.org/jedi**.



Anxiety and Fears

By Michael Winn

Associate Artistic Director/Director of
Equity and Community Partnerships

Many of us experience fears, worries, sadness, and hopelessness at many points in our lives. Infants may be distressed when they are away from their parents even in the safety and care of another adult. Experiencing these emotions from time to time is typical. Experiencing nervousness before a test is common. These feelings help us prepare for real danger and to perform at our best. These feelings, though uncomfortable, do not last long and will eventually decrease.

When some of us, like Kate in *Drawing Lessons*, have so many fears and worries that it begins to interfere with our regular activities there is the possibility of having an anxiety disorder. Anxiety can appear as emotional symptoms (fear, panic, or embarrassment), physical symptoms (headaches, nausea, or shortness of breath), behavioral symptoms (clingy, avoidance, difficulty sleeping), cognitive symptoms (trouble concentration, negative thoughts), and social symptoms (fear of being judged, ability to speak at home but won't speak at school or with friends).

Severe anxiety problems can be treated. Early treatment can prevent future difficulties, such as loss of friendships, failure to reach social and academic potential, and feelings of low self-esteem. Treatments may include a combination of the following: individual psychotherapy, family therapy, medications, behavioral treatments, and consultation to the school. For preschool and school age children, caregiver involvement in treatment is essential.

If anxieties become severe and begin to interfere with the child's usual activities (for example separating from parents, attending school, and making friends), parents should consider seeking an evaluation from a qualified mental health professional or a child and adolescent psychiatrist. If your family is experiencing symptoms of severe anxiety, please visit mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/mental-health or childrensmn.org/services/care-specialties-departments/behavioral-health-program.

Children's Theatre Company's Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Statement

Children's Theatre Company is committed to recognizing, addressing, and eliminating all forms of racism, ethnic oppression, and biases on our stages, in our staff, artists, audience, and on our board. We understand that bias can be unconscious or unintentional and that racism is the combination of social and institutional power plus racial prejudice. We acknowledge the historical legacy of exclusion and marginalization in theatre. We are committed to providing a just, equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible space for every member of our community.

CTC will work to:

- Take a proactive approach to eliminating biases and racism in our daily interactions.
- Restructure our systems to eliminate barriers to access that are visible and invisible.
- Engage in ongoing and intentional anti-bias and anti-racist learning to understand personal biases and privileges.
- Reflect the diversity of our community in the stories we tell on our stages.
- Transform our recruitment, hiring, and retention efforts.

We know that this work is ongoing and evolving. We look to our community and ourselves for accountability as we strive to be a theatre where everyone can bring their full authentic selves.







ART AND THEATRE K-12 COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION



STUDENT **TEACHER**

RIGOR WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE

MoundsPark PreK-12 moundsparkacademy.org

Dream Big. Do Right.

Looking Ahead



In this CTC holiday favorite, filled with music and Seussian rhymes, everyone's avorite grouchy, green Grinch plots the greatest heist imaginable-stealing the very thing the joyful Whos love the most!

November 5, 2024-January 5, 2025



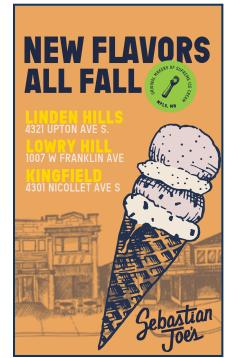
Nationally acclaimed theatre company Manual Cinema breathes innovative life into this beloved story by Mo Willems, using hundreds of puppets to magically create a movie right before your very

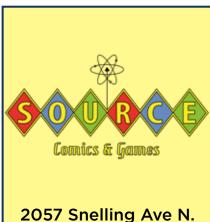
January 8-March 9, 2025



Don't miss this world-premiere musical, featuring dynamic new songs ranging from hip hop and pop to country as Milo learns that real life can sometimes be even more incredible than an imaginary one!

Don't miss the Children's Theatre Company production of the hit Broadway musical! Join Elsa, Anna, and Olaf, a snowman who melts your heart. You won't want to let it go! April 15-June 15, 2025





Roseville, MN

sourcecomicsandgames.com

651-645-0386

source@sourcecomicsandgames.com

Discover More: Drawing Lessons

3 THINGS TO KNOW

Jack Tamburri, Director of *Drawing Lessons*, shares three things to know about the world premiere play:

- The role of Matt, the father, was written for actor-musician Matt Park, who wrote a musical with Michi Barall in 2016, and who is a Minneapolis native. Matt's childhood informed the decision to set the play in Minneapolis and in the 1990s.
- Illustrator Blue Delliquanti, who is creating many of the drawings that you'll see in the play, teaches comics and cartooning at Minneapolis College of Art and Design, right next door to CTC.
- Elfquest, the comic book that inspires Kate to draw her own comic, is a real comic series, published independently by its creators Wendy and Richard Pini. It ran continuously from 1978 to 2013!

Photo of Mars Niemi by Kaitlin Randolph

Popular Toys of the 1990s



Tickle Me Elmo



Polly Pockets



amagotchi



Beanie Babie



Easy-Bake Oven



Don II



Furby



Ask your parents if they had any of these toys growing up.



Skip-It



Nintendo 64 Video Game Console

heDad.com "The 15 Most Popular Toys from the '90s" by Jordan Strattor

ICONIC POP CULTURE OF THE 1990S

The 1990s were chock-full of exciting pop culture moments and trends. The period is usually remembered as a time of relative prosperity and optimism, and the rise of the internet increased communication and access to information. It's no wonder the decade is remembered so fondly! Here's an overview:



New Era of Celebrity

The 1990s ushered in a new era of celebrity, with actors like Cameron Diaz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Angela Bassett, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Brad Pitt shooting to stardom.

Supermodels like Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista, and Christy Turlington also exploded in popularity.

(Clockwise) Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow, Angela Bassett, Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington

Iconic Fashion Trends

Sought-after clothing brands in the 1990s included **Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Donna Karan**, and **Ralph Lauren**.

Hair trends of the 1990s included **crimped** waves, baby braids, butterfly clips, barrettes, and scrunchies.

And of course, there was "**The Rachel**," a layered haircut inspired by **Jennifer Aniston's** character from *Friends*.





Clockwise starting on the left: The Spice Girls; Photo of Destiny's Child; Britney Spears; NSYNC

Memorable Music Moments

Girl groups like TLC, Destiny's Child, and The Spice Girls rose to fame, releasing timeless hits like "No Scrubs," "Say My Name," and "Wannabe."

Boy bands like **NSYNC** and the **Backstreet Boys** enjoyed similar popularity with hits like "Bye Bye Bye" and "I Want It That Way."

Pop stars like **Britney Spears**, **Mariah Carey**, and **Christina Aguilera** dominated the charts.

Impactful Movies







Major blockbusters: Titanic (1997), Jurassic Park (1993), Forrest Gump (1994)

Family movies: Home Alone (1990), Matilda (1996), The Parent Trap (1998)

Disney Renaissance: Beauty and the Beast (1991), Aladdin (1992), The Lion King (1994), The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996), Hercules (1997), Mulan (1998)

Teen Movies: Clueless (1995), 10 Things I Hate About You (1999), The Craft (1996), She's All That (1999)

Romantic comedies: Pretty Woman (1990), Sleepless in Seattle (1993), You've Got Mail (1998)

Learn More About *Manhwa* 만화 | 漫畵



Manhwa are comics that originate from South Korea, and while their themes and art are quite similar to that of *manga*, there are a few significant differences. Like Western texts, *manhwa* are read from left to right, and most of them are in color instead of the traditional *manga* standard of black and white. The artwork features very detailed clothing and intricate backgrounds.

What are the most popular manhwa? Some of the most popular manhwa include Solo Leveling, The Horizon, and Wind Breaker.

What is the longest manhwa? The Tower of God is considered the longest manhwa ever.

What was the first manhwa? The first Manhwa was Manhwa Haengjin, which was first published in 1945.



The Difference Between *Manga*, *Manhwa*, and *Manhua*, Explained

The terms *manga* and *manhwa* come from the Chinese term *manhua*, which means "impromptu drawings."

Manga are Japanese comics, manhwa are Korean comics, and manhua are Chinese comics.

The creators of these East Asian comics also have specific titles: a person who makes *manga* is a *manhwaga*, a person who creates *manhwa* is a *manhwaga*, and a person who makes *manhua* is a *manhuajia*.

Manhwa has its own history of development, though it's still tied to that of Japanese manga.

- During the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910-1945), Japanese soldiers brought their culture and language into Korean society, including the importation of *manga*.
- From the 1930s to the 1950s, manhwa was used as propaganda for war efforts and to impose a political ideology. Manhwa became popular in the 1950s but then experienced a decline in the mid-1960s because of strict cencorship laws.
- However, manhwa became popular again when South Korea launched websites that publish digital manhwa known as webtoons.

Manga and manhua are read from right to left, and from top to bottom, which can definitely take some getting used to. However, manhwa is similar to American and European comics in that they're read from left to right, and from top to bottom.

Digital *manhwa* is published in **color**, but print *manhwa* is traditionally published in **black and white**, similar to *manga*.

(CBS.com "The Differences Between Manga, Manhwa, & Manhua, Explained" By Timothy Blake Donohoo, Ederlyn Peralta, Jenny Melzer & Katie Doll).

16 | Activities Activities Activities

Draw yourself as a comic book character

Draw yourself as a comic book character doing your favorite hobby.

Awesome Alliteration

Throughout *Drawing Lessons*, the protagonist Kate is finding her voice and discovering how she views herself. Some artists use alliteration to find their voices to describe themselves to others.

Alliteration is when two or more words begin with the same sound.

Think of an alliterative adjective that begins with the same sound as your first name. This adjective should be a positive word that describes you. For example, "Kind Kate," "Brave Ben," or "Generous Georgia."

State your name along with the alliterative adjective you chose. Pair it with a physical gesture that matches the adjective.

ONOMATOPOEIAS!



Comic books are notorious for using onomatopoeias to communicate sounds to the reader. These are words like "Wham!" "Slam!" "Boom!"



Onomatopoeia is a type of word that phonetically imitates the sound it describes.

Tell your family a story about your day, using onomatopoeias to convey the sounds that appeared throughout your day.

Imaginary Interview

After the show, pick a character to have an imaginary interview with.

Imagine you are a character from *Drawing Lessons*. Have a friend or family member ask you the following questions and answer as if you were that character. Take turns asking each other questions.

What do you love about your favorite hobby or activity?

How has your family supported you? What could they do to be more supportive?

What do you love about living in Minnesota in the 1990s?

COMIC REFERENCES IN DRAWING LESSONS

FALL IS COMING.

The Yellow Kid

The Yellow Kid was a comic strip character from *Hogan's Alley*, a comic strip from the 1890s created by Richard F. Outcault. *Hogan's Alley* was one of the first Sunday comic strips in an American newspaper. The Yellow Kid was a bald, barefoot boy who wore an oversized yellow nightgown. His speech was often written across his shirt.



Charles M. Schulz and *Peanuts*

A Minneapolis native, Charles M. Schulz was the creator of the comic strip *Peanuts* which featured Charlie Brown and his dog Snoopy. He is one of the most influential cartoonists in history and influenced many other artists and cartoonists. He drew over 17,000 strips of *Peanuts*.



A comic book fantasy series created by Wendy and Richard Pini about a community of elves and other fictional species who struggle to survive and coexist on an Earth-like planet.

The first issue of Elfquest from 1

QUESTIONS FOR THE RIDE HOME

How do theatre, music, and art tell stories in different ways?

Have you ever felt like you couldn't speak up in front of others?

3

Do you have a mentor who has made a difference in your pursuits?

4

Kate makes herself heard by drawing; how do you make yourself heard?

5

How do you find the courage to speak up?

Are you loving the music playing before the show? Scan below for the curated playlist!



AUDIENCE SUPPORT STATION

Visit our Audience Access Desk where you can find fidgets, ear plugs, noise canceling headphones, assisted listening devices, basic necessities, and resources to help make the performance the most enjoyable experience possible!

ACCESS SERVICES

Audio-described and ASLinterpreted services are available for select performances.

Sensory Friendly performance schedule, guidance, resources, and tools are available online at childrenstheatre.org/sensory.

Wheelchair seating is available in both theatres. Balcony seating in the UnitedHealth Group Stage is not accessible by elevator.

An Accessible/All-Gender restroom is located in the Target Lobby next to the elevator and in the MacMillan Family Lobby.

Please call the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400 with any questions or requests related to access services.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Taking any photos or making any audio or video recording inside the theatre is strictly prohibited in accordance with union contracts and copyright laws. However, you are encouraged to take photos and selfies in the lobby!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all electronic devices (phones, tablets, smartwatches, etc.) before the show starts, as the light from your device can be distracting during a performance. Please do not turn on any device while the show is in progress.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

We are proud to offer a selection of snacks that are gluten-free, nut-free, and vegan friendly. Please note that food must be consumed in the lobby. Only beverages in covered containers are allowed in the theatre. For your convenience, drinking fountains are located in the first floor lobby.

CAREFUL. IT'S DARK

If you need to leave your seat during the performance, please allow an usher with a flashlight to assist you. When exiting or entering the theatre during a show, let the first set of doors close completely before opening the second set.

IF YOU'RE LATE, PLEASE WAIT

For personal safety and as a courtesy to those already seated, latecomers will be seated after a designated "hold period."

NEED A QUIET SPACE?

Should your child need a change of environment, we invite you to enjoy the performance from our Quiet Room, located at the rear left side of the main floor of the UnitedHealth Group Stage.

PRAYER/PRIVATE NURSING SPACE

Please ask a member of our staff to use our private space for nursing a child, prayer, or other needs.





This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Artistic Director

Rick Dildine



Managing Director **Jill A. Anderson**

By Michi Barall
Original conception by Michi Barall and Jack Tamburri
Directed by Jack Tamburri

A Children's Theatre Company World Premiere Production
Co-commissioned by Ma-Yi Theater Company and Children's Theatre Company

Creative Team & Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Junghyun Georgia Lee •
Costume Designer | Trevor Bowen •
Lighting Designer | Paul Whitaker •
Composer/Sound Designer | Victor Zupanc
Projection Designer | Elizabeth Barrett
Illustrator | Blue Delliquanti
Dialect Coach | Joy Lanceta Coronel
Student Actor Coach | Amanda Espinoza
Associate Director | Hannah Steblay
Assistant Lighting Designer | Andrew Vance
Stage Manager | Kenji Shoemaker ÷
Assistant Stage Manager | Janae Lorick
Production Assistant | Taylor Engel
Stage Management Fellow | Elijah Virgil Hughes

Cast

Kate | Olivia Lampert ■ and Mars Niemi
Lia | Malia Berg
Gomo/Customer | Katie Bradley ❖
Omar | De'Anthony Jackson ■
Paul | Jim Lichtscheidl ❖
Jon/Mr. Daher | Darrick Mosley ❖
Matt | Matt Park ❖
Miss Evans/Mrs. Larsen/Cool Art Student
| Sophina Saggau
Jason | Anders Thielen ■
Justin/Anderson | Cullen Van Ranst

Understudies

Omar | Amir Byrd

Jason/Justin/Anderson | Charlie Gold ■
Jon/Mr. Daher | Dominique Jones
Gomo/Customer | Jeannie Lander
Paul | Ryan Nelson
Lia | Addica Sharbono ■
Miss Evans/Mrs. Larsen/Cool Art
Student | Colleen Somerville
Matt | Nikko Soukup-Raymo

- Denotes a member of the United Scenic Artists, Local 829
- Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
 - Student in Theatre Arts Training

Cameras and video recorders may not be operated during the performance

Drawing Lessons has a run time of 80 minutes with no intermission.

Special thank you to Groth Music for use of their music cases and instruments.

Special thank you to Korean Language Consultant, Aerin Park

Art from ElfQuest by Wendy Pini. Copyright @Warp Graphics Inc, and used with permission. All rights reserved.

"Wonderwall" by Oasis, "Wannabe" by Itzy, "Enjoy the Silence" by Depeche Mode, all licensed and used by permission.

Artistic Director

Rick Dildine is a director and producer. Previously, Dildine was artistic director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, one of the largest Shakespeare festivals in the country, artistic director of the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, president of Shakespeare & Company, and managing director of About Face Theatre. Rick is a graduate of Brown University and member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Managing Director

Jill A. Anderson oversees CTC's administrative operations, including finance, fundraising, marketing, and education. Previously, she was managing director at Syracuse Stage (NY), general manager of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center (CT), and spent years at Arena Stage (DC), and stage managing nationally. Originally from Marshfield, Wis., Anderson is delighted to return to CTC.

Meet the Creative Team

Playwright

Michi Barall Born in Canada, Michi is a New York City based actor, playwright and theatre professor. Her plays Rescue Me and PEER GYNT and The Norwegian Hapa Band, were both produced in New York by Ma-Yi Theatre Company. Michi holds degrees from Stanford University (A.B.), NYU (M.F.A, Acting) and Columbia University (PhD.).

Director

Jack Tamburri has directed performance art, plays, and musicals including: Stress Exorcist (Mary McCool), Twelfth Night (Shakespeare in Clark Park), PEER GYNT and the Norwegian Hapa Band (Ma-Yi Theater Co.), Not For Profit (Ferdinand), School Play (Tribe of Fools). He is a lecturer at SUNY Purchase, where he spent five years as the Director of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts. He holds an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama.

Scenic Designer

Junghyun Georgia Lee has designed for New York Theatre Workshop, Audible Theatre, Atlantic Theatre, Public Theatre, Soho Rep, Ma-Yi, NAATCO, Guthrie Theater, Alley Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Indiana Rep, Playmakers Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Huntington Theatre Company. Nominations include: Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Set Design (Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord), Henry Hewes Design Award (Romeo and Juliet), CT Critics Circle Award (The Chinese Lady). M.F.A.: Yale School of Drama. Faculty at Amherst College, MA.

Costume Designer

Trevor Bowen is glad to be back at CTC. He has designed costumes for An American Tail the Musical, Last Stop on Market Street, Corduroy, Spamtown USA, Three Little Birds, and I Come From Arizona at CTC. Trevor is a 2020 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship recipient. trevorbowendesign.com

Lighting Designer

Paul Whitaker (He/Him): CTC Credits: Alice in Wonderland, Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, Carmela Full of Wishes, I Come From Arizona, The Snowy Day and other stories by Ezra Jack Keats, Cinderella, Seedfolks, Annie, and Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, among others. Paul is a partner at Schuler Shook a theatre planning and architectural lighting firm.

Composer/Sound Designer

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 theatres across the country. He also composes for orchestras, choirs, and films, and his music has been performed in over a dozen countries. Victorzupanc.com

Projection Designer

Elizabeth Barrett (they/them) is a projection and media designer based in New York. Recent design credits include How to Break (Village Theatre), Bulgaria! Revolt! (Quinnipiac University), and Undocuments (Latino Theater Company). Recent associate credits include Lehman Trilogy (Guthrie Theater) and Here There are Blueberries (NYTW).

Illustrator

Blue Delliquanti (they/them) is contributing illustrations to *Drawing Lessons* at Children's Theatre Company. They are a comic artist and the author of graphic novels including *Across a Field of Starlight*. They teach comics classes at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Dialect Coach

Joy Lanceta Coronel is a theatre artist, coach, and award-winning writer focused

on topics related to accent work, identity, cultural sensitivity, and equitable coaching practices. Joy has worked as a coach to Broadway and Emmy-Award-winning actors across North America and the U.K. and has taught at drama training programs internationally, joylancetacoronel.com

Student Actor Coach

Amanda Espinoza (she/her) served as acting coach on Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, Carmela Full of Wishes, and Locomotion at CTC. She has performed with Jackdonkey Productions, Gray Mallard Theatre Co, Pulley and Buttonhole Theatre Company, Rachel Lynett Theatre Company, and Two River Theater. She holds an M.F.A from Texas Tech University School of Theatre and Dance.

Associate Director

Hannah Steblay (she/her) is delighted to return to Children's Theatre Company having served as assistant director on Alice in Wonderland (2013, 2024) as well as Pippi Longstocking (2012). She is a freelance director, educator, and enthusiastic momma. She holds a B.A. in Theater from Hamline University.

Assistant Lighting Designer

Andrew Vance (he/him) has previously worked on *Alice in Wonderland, Corduroy, 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

Stage Manager

Kenji Shoemaker (he/they) is a Minneapolis-based stage manager and props designer last seen at CTC for A Year With Frog and Toad. Other recent credits include: Theater Mu, Guthrie Theater, American Players Theatre, and Stages Theatre Company, among others. When not at CTC, Kenji also works in various prop shops around town, and teaches at Macalester College.

Assistant Stage Manager

Janae Lorick (they/any)'s favorite CTC credits: Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, Dr. Suess's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Alice in Wonderland, and A Year With Frog and Toad. Recent credits: Gremlin Theatre, Stages Theatre Company (2025), Theater Mu (2025), TigerLion Arts. They hold a B.A. from St. Olaf College in Theater, Race and Ethnic Studies.

Production Assistant

Taylor Engel Having graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with his B.A in Theatre Arts, Taylor has worked as a stage manager for St. Croix Off Broadway Dinner Theater, Classical Actors Ensemble, Freshwater Theatre, and Lyric Arts. Taylor has been run crew for many CTC productions and was assistant stage manager for *Babble Lab*.

Stage Management Fellow

Elijah Virgil Hughes (they/them) has worked as a stage manager in A Christmas Carol, YOU MUST WEAR A HAT, and The Dreamer Examines His Pillow at Brevard College; and performed in Kinky Boots (Weathervane Playhouse) and Next to Normal (Brevard College). They hold a B.A. from Brevard College.

Meet the Cast

Kate

Olivia Lampert is a 12th grader at Wayzata High School. Previous CTC credits include: Alice in Wonderland, Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Bina's Six Apples, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical. Other credits include: Anne of Green Gables (SOAR Arts), The Kung Fu Zombies Saga: Shaman Warrior and Cannibals (Theater Mu), Bina's Six Apples (Alliance Theatre), We Will Rock You, Sound of Music (BWTC), Descendants (Lundstrum Performing Arts). She is also a part of Stages Theatre Company's Teen Mentorship Program 2024-2025.

Kate

Mars Niemi (he/they) is ecstatic to make his CTC debut! They have previously performed in Circus Juventas' production of Jangala, Youth Performance Company's Youth Artist Council's production of Puffs, YPC's production of Little Women, and SPCPA's productions of Alice by Heart and The Prom. He has performed with numerous organizations including Mixed Precipitation, and Stages Theatre Company.

4444

Lia

Malia Berg is 16 years old from Woodbury and has enjoyed performing in productions such as Spamtown, USA, Bina's Six Apples (Children's Theatre Company), Disney's Freaky Friday, Little Women (Merrill Arts Center), Disney's Descendants (Phipps Performing Arts Center), School of Rock (Open Door Theatre and Zephyr Theatre), and many others. Malia loves to sing, play guitar, and write her own original songs.

Gomo/Customer

Katie Bradley (she/her) was previously seen as Mulan in Mulan Jr. at Children's Theatre Company. She is based in Minneapolis and has appeared onstage at the Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Pacific Conservatory Theatre. She is also a long-time artist with Theater Mu.

Omar

De'Anthony Jackson is 15 years old and has had notable mentions on PBS National News. De'Anthony's journey as a young actor is marked by passion, dedication, and a deep understanding of the power of storytelling. Through his roles in *Something Happened in Our Town, A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*, he has proven himself as a rising star with immense potential and a bright future ahead in the world of theatre.

Paul

Jim Lichtscheidl (he/him) has recently performed at Yellow Tree Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, and Jungle Theater. His other acting credits include Guthrie Theater, St. Ann's Warehouse, Berkeley Rep, Portland Centerstage, and Alley Theatre. He has served as choreographer, director, and creator at many regional theatres as well.

Jon/Mr. Daher

Darrick Mosley (he/him) is excited to be back after his role in *Locomotion* at CTC. Other credits include *Wine in the Wilderness* (Penumbra) and *A Raisin in the Sun* (Guthrie Theater). He has performed with Pillsbury House Theatre, History Theatre, and Yellow Tree Theatre. He holds a B.F.A. from Grambling State University.

Matt

Matt Park is a songwriter, guitarist, poet, and actor. He co-wrote music for Ma-Yi's production of *PEER GYNT and The Norwegian HAPA Band* at ART/NY in the winter of 2016. He performed in Diana Oh's *My Lingerie Play* at The Rattlestick Theater in the fall of 2017. He orchestrated the music for Rebecca Lee Lerman's musical *Her Hotel* which was performed in the summer of 2020 at WT Fringe. He has performed live at Joe's Pub, OBERON at American Rep Theater, The National Underground, and Parkside Lounge.

Miss Evans/Mrs. Larsen/Cool Art Student **Sophina Saggau** (she/her) has performed in *The History Plays* (Guthrie Theater), *Emilia* (Ten Thousand Things), and *Sherwood* (Yellow Tree Theatre). She has also worked as an understudy, director, and stage combat assistant with various local companies. She holds a B.F.A from the UMN/Guthrie Acting program.

Jason

Anders Thielen has enjoyed roles in *La Bohème* (MN Opera) and *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater). In his free time, he enjoys tinkering and sketching designs for engines. He also enjoys singing and acting in school plays and professional plays.

Justin/Anderson

Cullen Van Ranst (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Disney's Finding Nemo, School of Rock*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He has performed with the Guthrie Theater as well as several community theatres on the east side of the Twin Cities.

Understudies

Omar

Amir Byrd (he/him) is excited to be returning to the CTC stage for another show. He has performed in Elf The Musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Little Shop of Horrors, Newsies Jr., and Head Over Heels at Ashland Productions. He has also been in Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Locomotion, and Alice in Wonderland, previously at CTC. Amir is

excited to share this amazing story with you and with his talented castmates, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Jason/Justin/Anderson

Charlie Gold Previous CTC shows include *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, and Theatre Arts Training Intensives *The Garden* and *Be More Chill*. Other credits include *Matilda* (Stages), *Elf* (Bunce), *The Lightning Thief* (Interlochen) and *Fugitive Songs* (SPCPA). He is currently a 10th grader at SPCPA. He dedicates his performance in memory of his sister Lizzie.

Jon/Mr. Daher

Dominique Jones (they/them) is a multiversed performance artist and mentor who has participated in many reputable performances through theatre, music, poetry, and dance. A slight Minnesota nomad originally from the Twin Cities, they've been grateful to be a part of various productions as a videographer, actor, producer/composer, and poet.

Gomo/Customer

Jeannie Lander is thrilled to be making her debut with Children's Theatre Company. Previous theatre performances include: The Name Jar (Stages Theatre/ Theater Mu), Fast Company, Purple Cloud, Kung Fu Zombies vs Cannibals, Yellow Fever, Into the Woods (Theater Mu), 36 Views (Walking Shadow), Barefoot in the Park (5th Season Entertainment), American Noise (Nimbus Theatre).

Paul

Ryan Nelson (he/him) has previously appeared in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* at Children's Theatre Company. He's performed with several other theatres, including Yellow Tree, The Jungle, Zeitgeist Arts, Brave New Workshop, and Science Live at the Science Museum of Minnesota. He holds a B.A. from Southwest Minnesota State University.

Lia

Addica Sharbono (she/her) is making her Children's Theatre Company debut! She has previously enjoyed roles in Finding Nemo Jr., Dragons Love Tacos: The Musical, and Spookley the Square Pumpkin at Stages Theatre Company. Addica is a PSEO student at the University of Minnesota and Minneapolis College.

Miss Evans/Mrs. Larsen/Cool Art Student Colleen Somerville (she/they) makes her CTC debut with *Drawing Lessons!*Other roles: Stepsister Grace in *Cinderella* (Ordway), Maureen in *RENT* (Cardinal Theatricals), and The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (Artistry). She is also a director, educator, and activist, creating feminist art through her company, Somerville Productions. For Joss.

Matt

Nikko Soukup-Raymo (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *The Flower Drum Song* (Theater Mu/Park Square Theatre), *Princess's Nightingale* (Theater Mu), and *Hairspray* (Artistry). He holds a B.A. in Musical Theatre from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and is an Early Childhood Montessori teacher at Hopkins Montessori School.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Founded in 1913, AEA is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. actorsequity.org

It takes a village to create a play! Special thanks to Peter Brosius, Jacob Carter, Ralph Peña, and Michael Winn for all their moral and dramaturgical support; to Esther Chae, Clara Chung, and Monica Rhee for Korean cultural (and mom) support!; to Jack Tamburri and Josephine Mee without whom this play would not have been written; and to all the actors whose voices helped me develop the play in workshops:

Malia Berg, Emma Callahan, Esther Chen, Josh Cornillon (illustration), Lily Tung Crystal (director), Emily Donahoe, Nate Entz, David Lee Huynh, Joshaviah Kawala, Oliva Lampert, Jim Lichtscheidl, Jully Lee, Clay Mansoo, James McCallum, Brenda Meaney, Matthew Meeks, Miles Miranda, Audrey Mojica, Max Gordon Moore, Darrick Mosely, Dixie O'Connel, Olivia Oguma, Matt Park, Justin Parrish, Brandon Pierece, Travis Raeburn, Elizabeth Reese, Kimberly Richardson, Steven Rutledge, Eric Sharp, Will Sturdivant, Vincent Szutenbach, Momoko Tanno



Staff Spotlight: Mary Novodvorsky, Charge Artist

CTC: What is your role at CTC?

Mary Novodvorsky: I am the charge artist, which literally means "the artist in charge."

CTC: What does your job involve?

MN: My job involves coordinating with the designers, the technical director, and other department heads to get the scenery painted. I hire and supervise the scene shop painters, decide the processes that should be used, purchase the materials, and paint most of the scenery. The charge artist also needs a varied background in many different skills. I have painted both opaquely and in watercolor styles, sculpted, textured, draped and dyed fabric and rope, made faux finishes, and on occasion used my sewing skills.

CTC: What is your favorite thing about your job?

MN: It's fun to create very large works of art that go on stage, and It's not the same work for every show. Each show is completely different. You're not always building and painting a box set with a staircase over and over. Plus, what works for one show might be used again for another, but the process may be tweaked to create an entirely different look. There's a lot of problem-solving to figure out how to get the look that the designers want.

CTC: What do you love most about CTC?

MN: How friendly and collaborative everyone is.

CTC: How can someone prepare for a career like yours?

MN: A) Learn to draw, and then keep learning to draw better. Drawing skills are the basis for many arts processes and these skills are the foundation that everything is built up from. You don't paint or sculpt anything without first drawing it. If the drawing is bad, the rest of the piece will suffer.

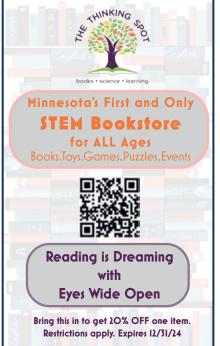
B) Look at everything around you. Take pictures and keep a picture/source file. See what things really look like instead of what you assume they look like. What does rust look like on different types of metal? Hey, there's a source picture for you to reference. Learn what makes things look the way they do. Good faux wood grain happens when you understand how a tree grows first.

C) Learn how to work effectively in a shop situation. It can be a dangerous environment if you don't know how to work safely. And you should always question how safe something is to work with.

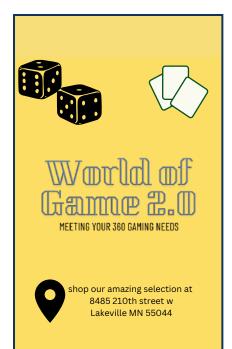
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Artwork by John W. Kurtich



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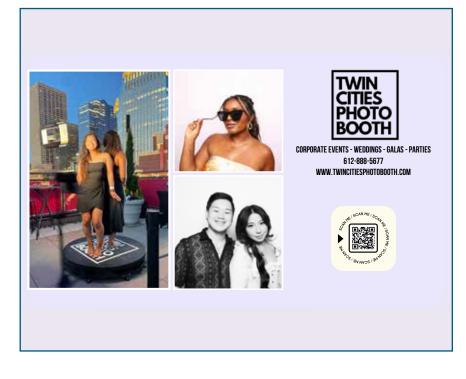
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Minnesota Theater Alliance

Theatre Communications Group



CTC Costume and Wardrobe Staff, Front of House Staff, Ticketing Staff, Stagehands and Craftspeople are represented by IATSE Local 13



CTC engages members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), a national theatrical labor union



CTC engages designers represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829



CTC engages members of Actors' Equity Association
(AEA) under a special agreement with AEA



CTC engages musicians represented by Twin Cities Musicans Union, Local 30-73, AF

Don't miss this smash hit holiday favorite, filled with music, Seussian rhymes, and everyone's favorite grouchy green guy!



November 5, 2024-January 5, 2025

Best for all ages! | UnitedHealth Group Stage



Based on the book How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason Music by Mel Marvin Choreography by Kelli Foster Warder Directed by Dean Holt

A Children's Theatre Company Original Production

childrenstheatre.org/grinch