

PRESS RELEASE

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces 2025-2026 Season
Including a Swashbuckling Adventure;
A Magical Extravaganza Based On A Classic Film;
A Bilingual Spectacular;
A Creative Interactive Experience;
An Extraordinary Prehistoric Journey;
The U.S. Premiere of a Smash Hit U.K. Musical;
and A Beloved Holiday Favorite**

Minneapolis, Minn.— Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is delighted to announce the 2025-2026 Season, the first season programmed by CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine. The 2025-2026 Season will feature the swashbuckling adventure *Treasure Island*; the U.S. premiere of the smash hit U.K. musical *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical*; the return of the beloved holiday favorite *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*; the bilingual spectacle *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!*; the interactive experience *Forts! Build Your Own Adventure*; the prehistoric journey *Dinosaur World Live*; and a magical stage adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, based on the classic motion picture.

"I am excited to share with you the incredible lineup for next season at Children's Theatre Company, a season that is all about mentorship, teamwork, confidence, and curiosity," said CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine. "These shows have been carefully selected to inspire, engage, and challenge young audiences, while encouraging them to embrace their potential and explore the world around them."

The season begins with *Treasure Island*, the swashbuckling adventure in which gold-hungry pirates and not-so-noblemen are repeatedly outwitted by one clever boy. Sail the open seas, explore a remote island, and search for buried treasure alongside young Jim as he navigates overheard schemes and ever-shifting alliances. Is Long John Silver an unlikely friend, or a treacherous villain? In between sword fights and rounds of live music, you can decide for yourself! Adapted for the stage by Stuart Paterson and directed by CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine, *Treasure Island* runs September 9-October 19, 2025 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. This production is recommended for everyone 8 and up.

"For the first time in over 20 years, we're opening with a new production of *Treasure Island*—a quirky adventure with real-world consequences," said director Rick Dildine. "This timeless story of courage, personal growth, and discovery also serves as a powerful call to action, urging us to reflect on the role of mentors in the lives of young people. As a boy who dreamed of adventure, I am reminded of the critical need for positive role models in today's world, especially for boys who are falling behind academically and facing mental health challenges. I'm also excited to bring Reed Sigmund's lifelong dream to life as Long John Silver, alongside my longtime collaborator, sound designer Melanie Chen Cole, creating a soundtrack of live Scottish music with a live band!"

Next, **Roald Dahl's *The Enormous Crocodile The Musical*** is weaving his way through the jungle with his tummy rumbling... Only the other jungle creatures can foil his secret plans and clever tricks, but they're going to have to find a large amount of courage to stop this greedy brute. Get to know all of the creatively puppeted creatures—from frogs and birds to hippos and monkeys—in the U.S. premiere of the smash U.K. hit. You'll go from the jungle into outer space and back again, just in time for a wild dance party! *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical* runs October 1-November 23, 2025 on the Cargill Stage and is best for all ages.

This mischievous musical based on Roald Dahl's snappy book has toe-tapping tunes by Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, a rib-tickling book and lyrics by Suhayla El-Bushra, and additional music and lyrics by Tom Brady. Developed and directed by Emily Lim, it features puppets by co-director and puppetry designer Toby Olié, with set and costume design by Fly Davis and puppetry co-designed and supervised by Daisy Beattie.

"*The Enormous Crocodile* has already been on quite a journey and we are beyond excited to bring him to CTC in Minneapolis!" said Suhayla El-Bushra (bookwriter/lyricist), Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab (composer), and Tom Brady (additional music and lyrics).

"We can't wait for our greedy Croc to have its USA premiere at Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis this year," added director Emily Lim. "It's been so special seeing how the story and songs have landed with our audiences in the UK to date and we're so glad we get to bring it all the way to America."

"*The Enormous Crocodile* has been one of the most enjoyable and lively shows to create," stated co-director and puppetry designer Toby Olié. "So to continue sharing its mischievous glee and playful puppets with audiences in Minneapolis is an absolute thrill."

Next, CTC's beloved holiday favorite ***Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** returns this holiday season after last year's sold-out run. A miserly and miserable, ever-so-cantankerous Grinch has observed the despicable Christmas joy of the Whos with disdain, from a distance, for decades. Enough! In this holiday favorite filled with music and Seussian rhymes, he plots the greatest heist imaginable—stealing the very thing they love the most! Until, that is, the smallest of the Whos, tiny Cindy Lou, extends a hand. Through the combination of kindness and community, we witness not only a change in the course of Who-History, but the size and capacity of the old green guy's heart. Directed by CTC Company Member Dean Holt, this musical favorite runs November 4, 2025-January 4, 2026 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage.

"I am so happy to be a part of what has become a holiday tradition for so many," said director Dean Holt. "The opportunity to share this beloved story and bring heart and humor to the holiday season, to remember our Christmases past as we live in the excitement of Christmas to be. It is a story of community, onstage and off, and the joy we find in that togetherness."

The new year begins with ***Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!*** P.D. Eastman's classic book lands onstage with roller-skating, bike-riding, and scoot-scooting dogs! Over here a dog plays baseball; over there a dog prances about in a funny hat; everywhere dogs swim underwater, drive race cars to *fiestas en los árboles*, and speak—in both Spanish and English! Soon, you'll be singing along with this bilingual spectacle that makes no sense (and TOTAL sense), all at the same time! *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!* runs January 20-February 22, 2026 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage, and is best for younger audiences.

"P.D. Eastman's iconic book has been reaching audiences in multiple languages for years," said playwrights Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz. "This project was born of our desire to see two of those languages braided together onstage, side-by-side, in a show that seeks to welcome, instruct, surprise and delight. We're thrilled to share this joyful adaptation with CTC's eager audience."

Up next is ***Forts! Build Your Own Adventure***, an interactive experience! Pull back the curtains and there you are—surrounded by old sofas, crazy lampshades, piles of blankets, and towering towers of cardboard boxes! It’s like the coolest attic you’ve ever seen, where everything’s up for grabs. Use whatever you want to build...whatever you want—the tallest fort, the longest fort, tons of cozy little forts... Quick, someone hands you a flashlight—*what will you do?* In *Forts!* you make it all happen. Best for all ages, *Forts!* runs February 13-April 5, 2026 on the Cargill Stage.

“Twenty years ago, as a student at Northwestern University, I did a research presentation about Children's Theatre Company,” said *Forts!* creator Julie Ritchey. “The thought that *Forts!*, a piece I am so proud of, will be presented at CTC, a company I have so long admired, is a true full-circle moment. I am overjoyed and honored to bring *Forts!* to Minneapolis, and I can't wait to see what the imaginations of the incredible CTC audiences build!”

Next, dinosaurs take over CTC in ***Dinosaur World Live***. Are you brave enough to face a T-rex? Do you know what it feels like to get sneezed on by a triceratops? Find out when dinosaurs take over CTC! Feel the rumble of their *rawrs* as a young paleontologist takes you on a tour so up-close-and-personal you’ll almost smell their stinky breath! This extraordinary experience has wowed kids and adults all over the world. But be on the lookout: you never know who (or what!) you’ll run into after the show... *Dinosaur World Live* runs from March 3-April 5, 2026 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage, and is best for everyone 3 and up.

Dinosaur World Live is written and directed by Derek Bond (*Sweet Charity*, Manchester Theatre Awards 2017 winner, *Little Shop of Horrors* Manchester Royal Exchange). The creative team includes: Puppet Designer Max Humphries (National Theatre, Royal Opera House, Cirque de Soleil); Puppet Director Laura Cubitt (*Running Wild*, Chichester Festival Theatre; *Don Quixote*, RSC; *War Horse* NT Berlin); Puppetry Consultant Toby Olié (for the National Theatre: *Elephantom*, *Peter Pan*, *The Light Princess*, *Hansel & Gretel*, NT: 50 Years on Stage and also the original hind puppeteer of Joey in *War Horse*); Set & Costume Designer James Perkins; Lighting Designer John Maddox and Sound Designer Tom Mann. Produced by Nicoll Entertainment. Casting to be announced.

"We are so excited to be bringing *Dinosaur World Live* to CTC," said writer and director Derek Bond. "We've heard that there are lots of young people in Minneapolis who just love dinosaurs, so we're sending my friend Miranda and some of her dino-friends to come and meet you. She might even need your help with some of the dinosaurs!"

The 2025-2026 Season concludes with ***The Wizard of Oz***, directed by CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine. It’s not every day that a wild tornado whizzes right over your head, taking the house and the whole farm with it! Or that the entire world magically shifts from black and white to technicolor right before your very eyes. But there’s nothing everyday about a shoe-obsessed witch, flying monkeys, or a yellow brick road, either. Join Dorothy, her three oh-so-curious friends, and Toto (played by a *real* dog!) in this grand spectacle, featuring songs you know and love from the classic film! Best for all ages, *The Wizard of Oz* runs April 21-June 14, 2026 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage.

“Next spring, we’re thrilled to bring the one and only *The Wizard of Oz* to the stage,” said director Rick Dildine. “This beloved production resonates across generations, touching on themes of self-discovery, courage, and the power of friendship. Dorothy’s journey to find her way home is a timeless story of growth and resilience. Few stories have had such an enduring impact, and I’ve been dreaming of this production for a decade. We’re especially excited to have Autumn Ness star as the shoe-obsessed Wicked Witch of the West!”

Full season subscriptions and renewals for the 2025-2026 Season are now on sale and can be purchased online at <https://childrenstheatre.org/shows-and-tickets/subscribe-and-save/> or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400.

5-Play Full Season Subscriptions range from \$190 - \$257 for adults and \$150 - \$218 for kids and seniors. 5-Play Preview Subscriptions are \$150 for adults and \$100 for kids. *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* can be added on to any 5-Play subscription for \$43-\$65 (\$35-\$45 for Preview.)

These prices reflect a 25% discount off of the lowest ticket price—one of the benefits of subscription at CTC.

CTC's 2025-2026 Season of artistic and educational programming is supported by The Shubert Foundation, Inc. and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

2025-2026 Season

Treasure Island

Adapted for the stage by Stuart Paterson
Directed by Rick Dildine

September 9-October 19, 2025
UnitedHealth Group Stage
Best for Everyone 8 and Up!

Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical

Book and Lyrics by Suhayla El-Bushra
Music by Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab
Additional Music and Lyrics from Tom Brady

October 1-November 23, 2025
Cargill Stage
Best for All Ages!

Originally co-produced by Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Roald Dahl Story Company and Leeds Playhouse. *The Enormous Crocodile* musical was developed by Emily Lim, Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, Suhayla El-Bushra, Tom Brady and The Roald Dahl Story Company.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Based on the Book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss
Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason
Music by Mel Marvin
Choreography by Karla Grotting
Directed by Dean Holt
A Children's Theatre Company Original Production

November 4, 2025-January 4, 2026
UnitedHealth Group Stage
Best for all ages!

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Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!

Adapted for the Stage by Allison Gregory & Steven Dietz
Directed by Juliette Carrillo
Based on the Classic Book "Go, Dog, Go!" by P.D. Eastman

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 Music Composed by Michael Koerner
 Spanish Translations by Ana Maria Campoy
 “Do You Like My Hat?” Lyrics by Michael Koerner

Originally commissioned and produced by Seattle Children's Theatre in Seattle, WA
 VE PERRO ¡VE! received its world-premiere production at Chicago Children's Theatre under Jacqueline Russell, Artistic Director
 Produced by Special Arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

January 20-February 22, 2026
 UnitedHealth Group Stage
 Best for younger audiences!

Forts! Build Your Own Adventure
An Interactive Experience

Conceived by Julie Ritchey
 Created in Collaboration with Eleanor Kahn, Jeffrey Levin, Christian Libonati, Andrew Marikis, and Carley Walker

February 13-April 5, 2026
 Cargill Stage
 Best for all ages!

Dinosaur World Live

Written and Directed by Derek Bond
 Puppet Design by Max Humphries
 Puppet Direction by Laura Cubitt
 Produced by Nicoll Entertainment

March 3-April 5, 2026
 UnitedHealth Group Stage
 Best for Everyone 3 and Up!

The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum
 With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg
 Background Music by Herbert Stothart
 Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard
 Orchestration by Larry Wilcox
 Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company
 Music Direction by Victor Zupanc
 Choreography by Christopher Windom
 Directed by Rick Dildine

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by
 Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

April 21-June 14, 2026
 UnitedHealth Group Stage
 Best for all ages

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

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