

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: July 21, 2025****Media Contact:**

Jonathan White

jwhite@childrenstheatre.org

612.872.5110

**Children's Theatre Company Announces
Inaugural Acting Cohort
For 2025-2026 Season**

Minneapolis—July 21, 2025 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the inaugural CTC Acting Cohort: a group of eight Twin Cities-based early career actors who will each perform in one season production, engage with student actors, and participate in professional development opportunities at CTC for the 2025-2026 season.

"At Children's Theatre Company, we believe in meeting the moment—and right now, the Twin Cities is home to a vibrant, thriving community of early-career actors," said CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine. "That's why we've reimaged our traditional Performing Apprentice program and launched a new Acting Cohort model for the 2025-2026 season. This shift allows us to focus our resources on nurturing local talent, offering meaningful performance opportunities, and investing in the artists who are shaping the future of our theater community. We're excited to welcome eight incredible Twin Cities-based actors into this inaugural cohort and to support their artistic journeys in the place they call home."

The 2025-2026 Acting Cohort includes Julia Diaz, Ben Glisczinski, Zachary David Hodgkins, Theo Janke-Furman, Logan Lang, Ebony Ramquist, Anna Schloerb, and Bella West.

About the Acting Cohort:**Julia Diaz**

Julia Diaz (she/her) made her professional debut at Children's Theatre Company in *Something Happened in Our Town*. Since then, she has trained and performed with the Guthrie, Ordway, MN Opera, Theater Latté Da, Artistry, and more. She holds a B.A. in Sociology, Criminology, and Justice from the University of Minnesota.

Ben Glisczinski

Ben Glisczinski (he/him) is originally from Duluth, where he performed with companies such as The Duluth Playhouse, The Underground, and Wise Fool Theater. Since moving to the Twin Cities last year, he has understudied in *Significant Other* and performed in *The Music Man* at Lyric Arts Anoka. He loves his sisters and his dog very much.

Zachary David Hodgkins

Zachary David Hodgkins (he/him) is thrilled to make his adult debut at CTC, having performed in *Peter Pan*, *Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches The Musical*, and *Abominables* as a student. He has also worked with the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Opera, History Theatre, and more. ZDH holds a B.F.A. from the University of Minnesota.

Theo Janke-Furman

Theo Janke-Furman (he/him) is thrilled to be a part of the 2025-2026 acting cohort! He is a Saint Paul native and graduate of Northwestern University. Recent credits include *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *Passion* (Theater Latté Da). He looks forward to working and growing with the wonderful artists at CTC!

Logan Lang

Logan Lang (he/him) is thrilled to be a member of the CTC Acting Cohort this season! He has had the pleasure of working with Twin Cities theaters in *Red Speedo* (Walking Shadow Theatre Company), *The Ferryman* (Park Square Theatre/UMN B.F.A.), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Frosted Glass Creative). He holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Minnesota.

Ebony Ramquist

Ebony Ramquist (she/her) has enjoyed roles in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Frank Theatre) and The Dinner Detective improv comedy show. She is a 2024 GreenRoom Fellow (The Ordway), a 2025 Guthrie Actors Lab member, and a 2025-2026 CTC Acting Cohort member. Ebony holds a B.S. from the University of Minnesota and a M.A. from Bethel Seminary.

Anna Schloerb

Anna M. Schloerb (she/they) is beyond thrilled to be back at CTC! She has worked locally with Ten Thousand Things Theater, The Moving Company, Nautilus Music-Theater, and Open Eye Figure Theater. Anna has studied at Dell'arte International and the Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute, and holds a B.A. in American Studies and in Theater & Dance from Macalester College.

Bella West

Bella West (she/her) is thrilled to be making her CTC debut! She has worked locally with Guthrie Theater, Collide Theatrical Dance Company, and Trademark Theater. She holds a B.F.A with a Dance Emphasis from Boston Conservatory at Berklee. For Lily, her Toto.

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