

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: July 18, 2025****Media Contact:**

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team for
*Treasure Island***

Adapted for the stage by Stuart Paterson

Directed by Rick Dildine

September 9-October 19, 2025

Minneapolis—July 18, 2025 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the complete cast and creative team for the first production of the company's 2025-2026 Season, the swashbuckling adventure *Treasure Island*. Adapted for the stage by Stuart Paterson and directed by CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine, *Treasure Island* is based on the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The 2025-2026 Season is the first season programmed by Dildine, and *Treasure Island* marks his CTC directorial debut.

Treasure Island will run from September 9-October 19, 2025 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Opening night is Friday, September 12, 2025 at 7pm.

"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 Scottish music played live onstage!"

In *Treasure Island*, 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!

CTC's production of *Treasure Island* is recommended for everyone 8 and up. Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/treasure or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$20.

The cast of *Treasure Island* features **Truman Bednar** and **Mason Yang** alternating as Jim Hawkins, **Jon Schumacher** as Dick/Ensemble, **Reed Sigmund*** as Long John Silver, **Matt Riehle*** as Billy Bones/Captain Smollett, **Keegan Robinson** as Harry/George Merry, **Ryan London Levin*** as Black Dog/Morgan/Israel Hands, **José Sabillón** as Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/Ben Gunn, **Max**

Wojtanowicz* as Doctor Livesey, **Em Adam Rosenberg** as Squire Trelawney, **Theo Janke-Furman** as John/Ensemble (Understudy: Billy Bones/Captain Smollett), and **Logan Lang** as Job Anderson/Gray (Understudy: Livesey).

The understudies include **Cooper Lajeunesse** (Squire Trelawney; Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/ Ben Gunn), **Riley McNutt** (Long John Silver, Black Dog, Israel Hands, Morgan), and **Anya Naylor** (Job Anderson, Gray, George Marry, Harry, John, Ensemble).

In addition to Rick Dildine†, the creative team and production staff for CTC's production of *Treasure Island* includes Victor Zupanc‡ (music director/musician), Christopher Swader^ and Justin Swader^ (co-scenic designers), Alexa Behm^ (costume designer), Jeff Behm^ (lighting designer), Melanie Chen Cole^ (sound designer), Blake Manns^ (projection designer), Paul Dennhardt† (fight director), Keely Wolter (dialect coach), Aaron Preusse† (assistant fight director), Annie Cady (assistant costume designer), Andrew Vance (assistant lighting designer), Jenny R. Friend* (stage manager), Stacy McIntosh* (assistant stage manager), Ashley Pupo (stage management fellow), and Aiden Clayburn (directing intern).

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.*

†Member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

‡Member of the Twin Cities Musician Union, Local 30-73, AFM.

^Member of the United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

Ticket Information

Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/treasure or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$20.

School groups interested in attending *Treasure Island* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

Treasure Island has a run time of 1 hour and 45 minutes, with one 15-minute intermission.

This production is recommended for everyone 8 and up. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

Stuart Paterson's adaption of *Treasure Island* (as well as his play *Merlin the Magnificent*) is available for licensing via Plays for New Audiences (PNA). A division of Children's Theatre Company, PNA licenses quality scripts for multigenerational audiences and actors. Written by some of the world's most extraordinary playwrights, PNA's 300+ show catalog features plays and musicals for any programming need.

PNA offers contemporary works that are topical, relevant, and even fantastical. In addition, PNA offers many reimagined classics that are stage-ready for your next production. For more information, visit playsfornewaudiences.org.

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!

Creative Team and Production Staff

Music Director/Musician | Victor Zupanc†

Co-Scenic Designers | Christopher Swader^ and Justin Swader^

Costume Designer | Alexa Behm^

Lighting Designer | Jeff Behm^

Sound Designer | Melanie Chen Cole^

Projection Designer | Blake Manns^

Fight Director | Paul Dennhardt†

Dialect Coach | Keely Wolter

Assistant Fight Director | Aaron Preusset†

Assistant Costume Designer | Annie Cady

Assistant Lighting Designer | Andrew Vance

Stage Manager | Jenny R. Friend*

Assistant Stage Manager | Stacy McIntosh*

Stage Management Fellow | Ashley Pupo

Directing Intern | Aiden Clayburn

Cast

Jim Hawkins | Truman Bednar

Jim Hawkins | Mason Yang

Dick/Ensemble | Jon Schumacher

Long John Silver | Reed Sigmund*

Billy Bones/Captain Smollett | Matt Riehle*

Harry/George Merry | Keegan Robinson

Black Dog/Morgan/Israel Hands | Ryan London Levin*

Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/Ben Gunn | José Sabillón

Doctor Livesey | Max Wojtanowicz*

Squire Trelawney | Em Adam Rosenberg

John/Ensemble (Understudy: Billy Bones/Captain Smollett) | Theo Janke-Furman

Job Anderson/Gray (Understudy: Livesey) | Logan Lang

Understudies

Student Swing | Brody Breen

Squire Trelawney; Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/ Ben Gunn | Cooper Lajeunesse

Long John Silver, Black Dog, Israel Hands, Morgan | Riley McNutt

Job Anderson, Gray, George Marry, Harry, John, Ensemble | Anya Naylor

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CAST

Jim Hawkins

Truman Bednar

Truman Bednar (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* and *Corduroy* at Children's Theatre Company. He has performed with several organizations including Theater Latté Da, Delano Dramatic Company, The Zephyr Theatre, and Minnesota Dance Theatre. He has had 10 years of dance training, including summer intensives at School of American Ballet, Chautauqua Institute, and Miami City Ballet.

Jim Hawkins

Mason Yang

Mason Yang (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* and Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical* at Children's Theatre Company. He has performed with several organizations, including Park Square Theatre, Lakeshore Players Theatre, and Ashland Productions. He is currently a 12th grader at SPCPA.

Dick/Ensemble

Jon Schumacher

Jon Schumacher (he/him) is thrilled to be back for his third show with CTC, after performing in Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical* and *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Favorite credits include Eddie Birdlace (*Dogfight*), Tommy (*The Who's Tommy*), and Crutchie (*Newsies*). He is a junior at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and thanks his family, friends, and coaches for their support!

Long John Silver

Reed Sigmund

Reed Sigmund is itching to unfurl this tale of friendship, parlays, and piracy. This be his 26th season of adventures on the treasured CTC stage, but he is grateful to be making this maiden voyage alongside his newest friend and fellow adventurer, Rick Dildine. When not at sea, Reed can be found holding his truest treasures, Sawyer and Sully.

Billy Bones/Captain Smollett

Matt Riehle

Matt Riehle is thrilled and honored to make his CTC theatrical debut. He's loved playing make believe with several theatres/organizations including Theater Latté Da, Asolo Rep, 7th House Theater, and the North Carolina Symphony. Matt lives for making music, beagle cuddles, and creating anything with the incomparable Brianna Graham-Riehle.

Harry/George Merry

Keegan Robinson (he/they)

ARR! Avast, ye mateys! First of all I've got a pirate-themed joke for ye. What is a pirate's favorite letter? Hmm? Don't read ahead, really think of it. Were you thinking of ARR? Well, if so, you'd be wrong. For a pirate loves the SEA!!! Keegan is a proud actor, playwright, performer, and pirate based in the Twin Cities.

Black Dog/Morgan/Israel Hands

Ryan London Levin (he/him)

Ryan London Levin is ecstatic to be returning to CTC after playing Snail in *A Year With Frog and Toad* and Tony Toponi in *An American Tail the Musical*! Levin has worked at many of the local stages including Ten Thousand Things, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Latté Da, Jungle Theater, History Theatre, Yellow Tree, Park Square, Six Points Theater, Artistry, Trademark, and many others. FILM/TV work: *I Was There* (History Channel) Awards: Best Comedic Performance 2024 TCTheaterBloggers.

Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/Ben Gunn

José Sabillón

José Sabillón (he/him) is excited to be making his CTC debut! He has performed with several organizations, including Park Square Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Pangea World Theater, Teatro Del Pueblo, and Open Window Theatre. He hold a B.F.A. from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program.

Doctor Livesey

Max Wojtanowicz

Max Wojtanowicz (he/him) is glad to be back at CTC! A graduate of St. Olaf College, he has performed at the Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, and Ten Thousand Things, among others, and directed plays at Artistry and Lyric Arts. Thank you for supporting live theatre! @maxwhattimeisit

Squire Trelawney

Em Adam Rosenberg

Em Adam Rosenberg (they/them) is thrilled to be making their Children's Theatre Company debut! They have recently performed at the Guthrie Theater, History Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Trademark Theater, Artistry Theater, and The Gray Mallard Theater Co. They hold a dual degree from the University of Minnesota. emrosetheatre.com.

John/Ensemble (Understudy: Billy Bones/Captain Smollett)

Theo Janke-Furman

Theo Janke-Furman (he/him) is a Twin Cities-based performing artist and member of CTC's acting cohort for the 2025-2026 Season. Recent credits include *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *Passion* (Theater Latté Da). Theo would like to thank Jean Del Santo, Melissa Hart, and Rich Remedios for their guidance and support.

Job Anderson/Gray (Understudy: Livesey)

Logan Lang

Logan Lang (he/him) is thrilled to be making his CTC debut! He has had the pleasure of working with Twin Cities theatres 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.

Understudies

Student Swing

Brody Breen

Brody Breen (he/him) is thrilled to return to CTC for his 3rd production! Previously he's been seen in *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and most recently Disney's *Frozen* The Broadway Musical. Brody has enjoyed roles at Stages Theatre Company, Shakespearean Youth Theatre, and Eagan High School. Brody is an 11th grader at Eagan High School. He'd like to thank his family for their support!

Squire Trelawney; Blind Pew/Mr. Arrow/Tom/ Ben Gunn

Cooper Lajeunesse

Cooper Lajeunesse is an actor and director based in Minneapolis. Select acting credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Gray Mallard Theater Co.), *The Tempest* (Guthrie), and *Heaven* (Flying Foot Forum/Park Square). They graduated from the U.M.N./Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program, where they recently directed *Anna in the Tropics*. Catch them next in *Go Dog Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!* with Children's Theatre Company!

Long John Silver, Black Dog, Israel Hands, Morgan

Riley McNutt

Riley McNutt (he/they) is back after playing in *Alice in Wonderland* last season. Off-Broadway, Riley worked at the Sheen Center, regionally at Asolo Repertory Theatre, and several national tours. Other local theatre companies he has worked with include Theater Latté Da, Artistry, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, and Flying Foot Forum.

Job Anderson, Gray, George Marry, Harry, John, Ensemble

Anya Naylor

Anya Naylor (she/her) is very excited to be making her Children's Theatre Company debut! Recent credits include *The Nacirema Society* (Guthrie Theater), *Survivors* (Six Points Theater), and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres). She holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater.

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright

Stuart Paterson

Stuart Paterson's magical, funny children's plays have been staged throughout Scotland, the UK and around the world. They include *Merlin The Magnificent*, *Granny and the Gorilla*, *Hansel and Gretel* (nominated for TMA Best Children's Play of the Year), *Princess and the Goblin*, *Puss In Boots*, plus adaptations of *Peter Pan*, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, and *The Jungle Book*.

Director

Rick Dildine†

Rick Dildine (Director) is the artistic director of Children's Theatre Company. Previously, Dildine led Alabama Shakespeare Festival (artistic director), St. Louis Shakespeare Festival (artistic director), Shakespeare & Company (president), and About Face Theatre (managing director). Rick is a graduate of Brown University, a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, and serves on the Board of Directors of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA.

Music Director/Musician

Victor Zupanc‡

Victor grew up in Victoria, British Columbia. Since 1989, Victor has been the resident music director/composer at Children's Theatre Company 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 around the world. victorzupanc.com

Co-Scenic Designers

Christopher Swader^ and Justin Swader^

Christopher and Justin Swader are New York-based designers for theatre and live events. Previous designs with: Goodspeed Musicals, Old Globe, Signature Theatre, Hartford Stage, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Geva Theatre Center, Two River Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, People's Light, Everyman Theatre, Miami New Drama. Graduates of Ball State University. CJSwaderDesign.com

Costume Designer

Alexa Behm^

Alexa is excited to join the *Treasure Island* team. She has designed for several theatres; her most recent credits include *Hamlet* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Sherwood* (ASF), *Sapphires: A Balanchine Ballet* (American Contemporary Ballet), *Cabaret* (ASF), and *Touch* (Opera Birmingham). Alexa also works as an assistant professor of costume design at University of California, Santa Barbara. She would like to thank Rick for welcoming her to this collaboration.

www.abehmdesign.com

Lighting Designer

Jeff Behm^

Jeff Behm (he/him) is an Emmy-nominated lighting designer and production designer who specializes in a variety of genres including multi-camera television, live events, concerts, and theatre. His favorite credits include *Cabaret* (ASF), *The Tempest* (ASF), *The Academy Awards*, *The Kennedy Center Honors*, *Adele: One Night Only*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*. Jbehmdesign.com

Sound Designer

Melanie Chen Cole^

Melanie Chen Cole (she/her) is a San Diego-based freelance sound designer who travels around the country to work on shows. Earlier this year, she was at The Old Globe, Utah Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alley Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, and Cincinnati Playhouse. Education: M.F.A. from UC San Diego.

Projection Designer

Blake Manns^

Blake Manns is an Austin, Texas-based video and projection designer. Recent credits include: (as projection designer) *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Roméo et Juliette* (Washington National Opera); (as animator) The 66th Annual Grammy Awards, The 75th Primetime Emmy Awards; (as associate projection designer) *SMASH* (Broadway–Imperial Theatre), *Skeleton Crew* (Broadway–Samuel J. Friedman Theatre). www.blakemanns.com

Fight Director
Paul Dennhardt†

Paul Dennhardt (he/him) has directed fights for numerous theatre companies including the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Folger Theater, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center, Perseverance Theatre, the Arden Theatre, and numerous others. Representative recent productions include *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Baskerville*, *Hamlet*, and *Sherwood* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); and *Noises Off*, *Sherwood* (Arrow Rock Lyceum). He has an M.F.A. from Western Illinois University and is a proud member of SDC.

Dialect Coach
Keely Wolter

Keely Wolter (she/her) has served as a dialect consultant on *Alice in Wonderland*, *An American Tail the Musical*, *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, and *The Jungle Book* at Children's Theatre Company. She has worked with many other Twin Cities companies, including the Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, The Ordway, and Theatre Latte Da. She holds an MA in voice studies from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Assistant Fight Director
Aaron Preusse†

Aaron Preusse (he/him) was the fight director last season for *Alice in Wonderland* at Children's Theatre Company. He has created fight scenes for over 25 productions at Guthrie Theater. Aaron also works with many theatres and film productions throughout the Twin Cities and Midwest.

Assistant Costume Designer
Annie Cady

Annie Cady (she/her) is happy to be back at CTC! Previous designs include *Milo Imagines the World*, *Babble Lab*, *Snow White*, *The Hobbit*, and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Annie has designed costumes for several Twin Cities theatre and dance companies and currently serves as Chair of the Theatre Department at Normandale Community College.

Assistant Lighting Designer
Andrew Vance

Andrew Vance (he/him) has previously worked on *Drawing Lessons*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Corduroy*, and *Carmela 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 Lyric Arts, Omaha Playhouse, and Washington & Lee University. @av.ld

Stage Manager
Jenny R. Friend*

Jenny R. Friend (she/her) For 20 years as the production stage manager, CTC has given her the gift of seeing the world with wonder through a child's eyes. She learned her craft at Stephens College

and the Yale School of Drama. She has travelled the country and the world organizing and nurturing theatre from San Jose to Santa Fe to San Diego; from Okoboji, Iowa to Nagoya, Japan. She wishes you island breezes, sunsets, and curiosity in whatever treasure chest you open next.

Assistant Stage Manager

Stacy McIntosh*

In her 27th year at CTC, Stacy has been a part of more than 70+ productions at CTC. She also worked at Cort Theatre (Broadway), New Victory Theater (New York), The Old Globe (San Diego), Alliance Theatre (Atlanta), Sod House, Guthrie, Mixed Blood, Illusion and History Theaters (Minneapolis) and Marin Theatre Company (San Francisco). Stacy is a proud recipient of the Minnesota Theater Award and member of Actors Equity.

Stage Management Fellow

Ashley Pupo

Ashley Pupo (she/her) is the former assistant properties technician on the national and international tour of *Paw Patrol Live!* Stage management credits include *Sweeney Todd: School Edition*, *Beauty and The Beast*, and *Elf Jr.* at Area Stage. She holds a B.S. in Entertainment Management from the University of Central Florida.

Directing Intern

Aiden Clayburn

Aiden Clayburn is a rising junior directing major at Webster University's Sargent Conservatory. He recently served as assistant director and dramaturg for *Assassins* (Paradise Community Theater), *Cabaret* (New Jewish Theatre), and *Our Town* (Webster Conservatory). Endless thanks to CTC team and his fellow artists for the opportunity.

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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:

Treasure Island

Adapted for the stage by Stuart Paterson

Directed by Rick Dildine

Best for Everyone 8 and Up!

WHEN: September 9-October 19, 2025 (Opening Night is Friday, September 12,, 2025 at 7pm)

WHERE: CTC's UnitedHealth Group Stage (2400 Third Avenue South Minneapolis MN 55404)

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is recommended for everyone 8 and up. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour and 45 minutes, with one 15-minute intermission.

TICKETS:

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