Children's Theatre Company

BEHIND THE CURTAIN BEYOND THE STAGE

WINTER | 2026

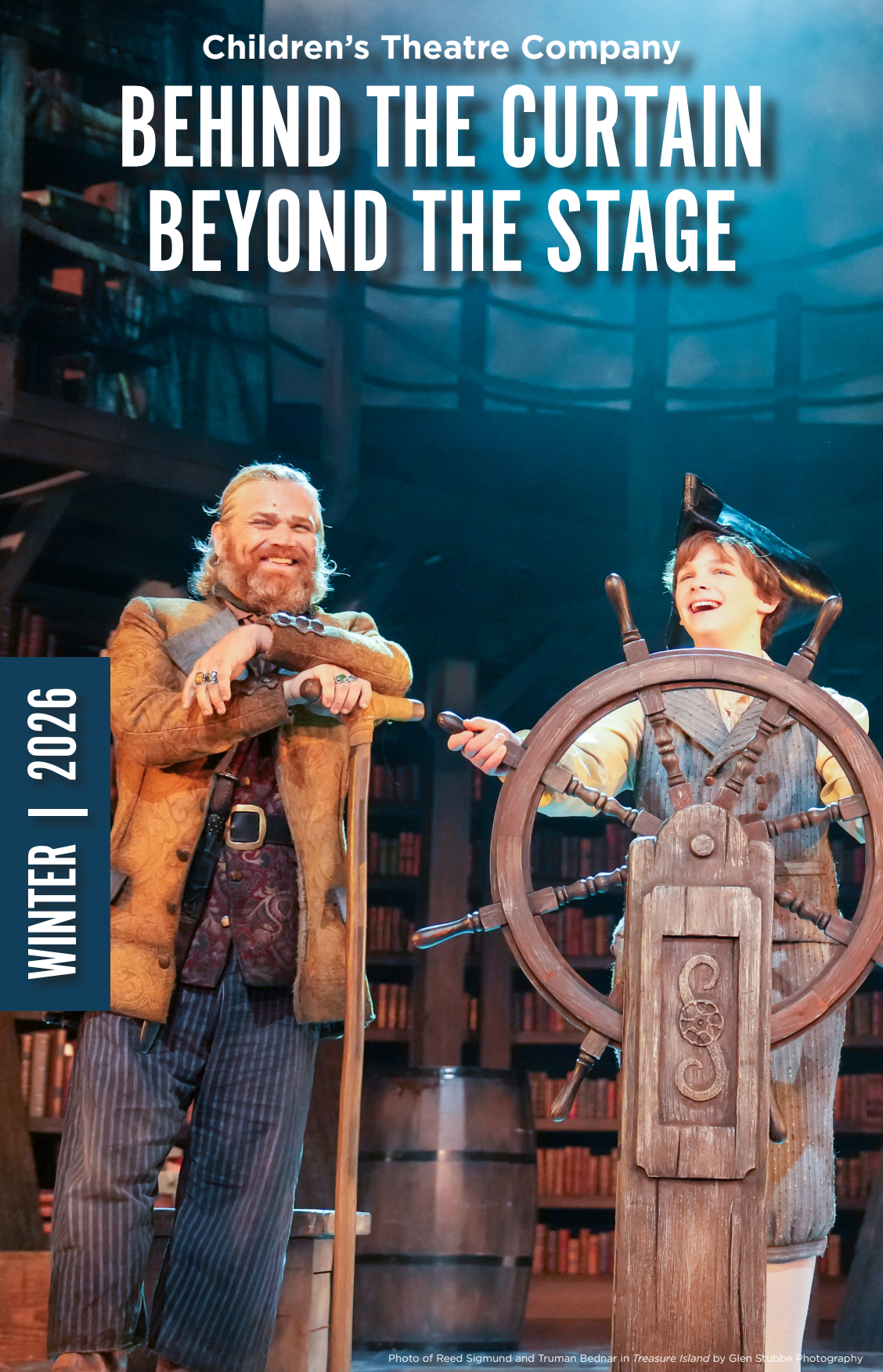


Photo of Reed Sigmund and Truman Bednar in *Treasure Island* by Glen Stubbe Photography

Inspiring the Next Generation of Audiences

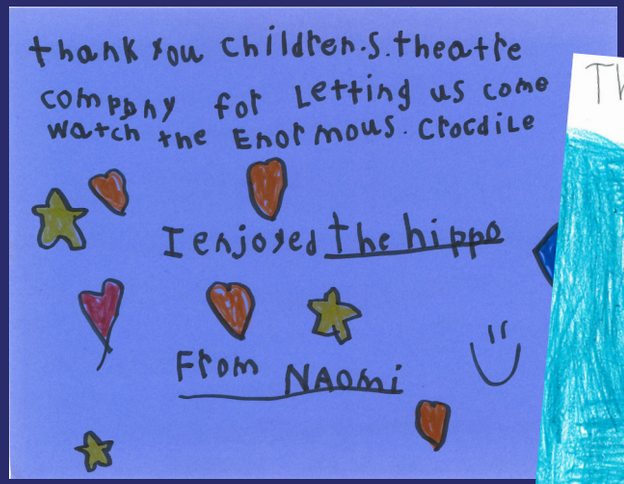
Your support connects thousands of young people to the theatre arts each year.

Like you, we at CTC know that children thrive emotionally and creatively when they have access to the arts. Every child—at every age—deserves to connect with transformational theatre experiences that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Through CTC's Student Matinee program, we can welcome nearly 40,000 young people to the theatre each year, all at little to no cost to schools or families. A cornerstone of CTC's educational work, this program enables us to host more than 90 dedicated student matinee performances throughout the season—none of which would be possible without the generous support of friends like you.

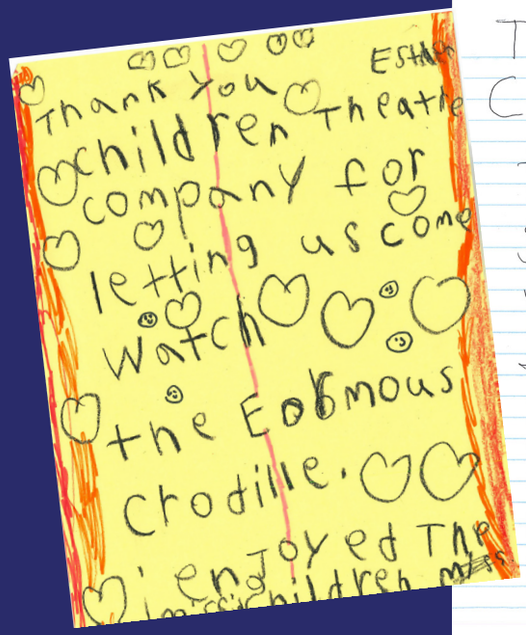
But your generosity goes even further. Thanks to you, every 2nd grader in the Minneapolis Public Schools can attend a free performance at CTC each season through the Opening ACT program. For many, this is their first opportunity to experience the magic and joy of live theatre. Earlier this season, 2,731 2nd graders (and 469 accompanying adults) attended *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical* as part of Opening ACT. Read on to the next page for a selection of special thank-you notes from the 2nd grade class at Bethune Arts Elementary School!

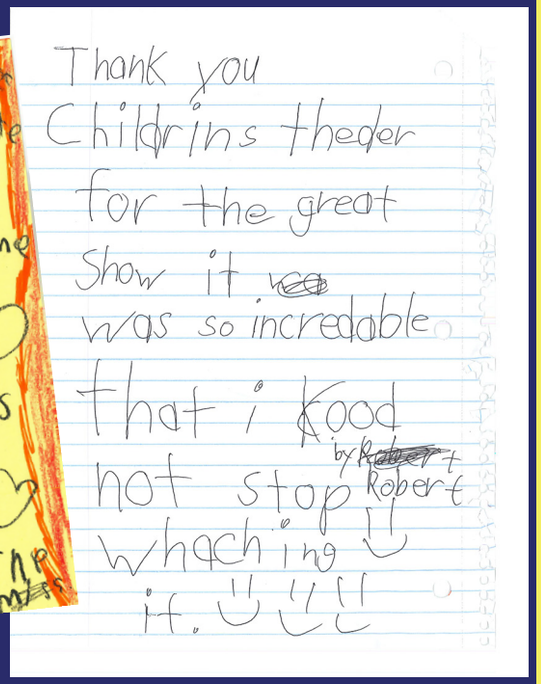
Photo of *Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical* cast by Glen Stubbe Photography



"My students have had the opportunity to attend plays at Children's Theatre Company. They have benefited enormously! I am grateful for all you do in expanding their minds and exploring important issues in their lives."

–Twin Cities 2nd Grade Teacher





Creating Engaging Theatre for All

How CTC is staging a fully bilingual production this season

At CTC, we believe that every child deserves to see their story on stage—to feel seen, celebrated, and inspired through the power of live theatre.

That belief fueled every step of the creative process to bring *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!* to the stage this winter. A fully bilingual production, CTC's latest show is a celebration of imagination, play, and connection across language and culture.

P.D. Eastman's classic book comes to life with roller-skating, bike-riding, and scoot-scootering dogs, all speaking in both Spanish and English. This production is geared towards early learners, who are in the beginning stages of developing their language and experiencing live theatre for the first time. But the colorful, music-filled spectacle of this show is sure to dazzle audiences of all ages.

"Language is for everyone, and it's never too late to learn," says CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine. "I programmed *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!* because I want young people and their communities to embrace that learning a language other than our own fosters empathy and understanding of our fellow human beings. At CTC, we seek to imagine a world that is inclusive and respectful. Though simple in its structure, it's my hope that this musical plants a seed to grow a lifelong appreciation of other languages which, for me, is the recognition of another person's value."

Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve! reflects CTC's enduring commitment to reflecting the diversity of our audiences, while simultaneously expanding the canon of new work for early learners. This project is a fully bilingual adaptation directed by Latinx artist Juliette Carrillo and featuring a majority cast of native Spanish speakers. The script interweaves English and Spanish in a way that makes them easy to understand, using repetition and context clues to ensure speakers of both languages feel included.

And thanks to your support of CTC's mission, this production can go on to inspire more audiences across the country. The script was recently added to more than 300 titles in CTC's Plays for New Audiences (PNA) catalog of licensed scripts and scores and is the first fully bilingual offering.

Your dedication to CTC's work makes every step of this production possible, both on our stage and beyond. Thank you for helping us to create a space that is accessible, equitable, and welcoming for all audiences.

Photos by Kaitlin Randolph, Illustrations by P.D. Eastman

Empowering Local Performers

How CTC's new Acting Cohort model lifts up early-career Twin Cities actors

CTC is privileged to be part of a vibrant, thriving arts scene in the Twin Cities, which includes a community of incredible early-career actors pursuing a future in theatre.

To expand our impact and develop new ways to support local artists, CTC has reimagined our Performing Apprentice program and launched a new Acting Cohort model for the 2025-2026 Season. As CTC's next evolution in supporting up-and-coming performers, this refreshed model provides a broad range of opportunities and mentorship aimed at developing young actors in our community.

This new model has assembled a cohort of eight local performers for the season. Each actor performs in one of CTC's season productions, participates in professional development opportunities, and engages with student actors performing on CTC's stages.

You can catch three of these Acting Cohort members in the latest production of *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!* Read on to learn more about each of them!

"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 theatre 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."

–Rick Dildine, Artistic Director, and Alli St. John, Casting Director/ Associate Producer

Meet the Acting Cohort Members Cast in *Go, Dog. Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!*

Julia Diaz is a singer, actress, and dancer who's passionate about spreading joy, inspiring confidence, and enacting change through performance. She's thrilled to return to CTC, where she had her very first professional gig in 2022. Since then, she's trained and performed with several Twin Cities institutions including Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, MN Opera, Theater Latté Da, Artistry, and more. Outside the theatre, she serves as the communications coordinator for West Side Community Organization. She holds a B.A. in Sociology of Criminology, Law, and Justice, and is committed to using her voice—on-stage and off—to uplift and empower others.

Zachary David Hodgkins is thrilled to be back at CTC as a non-student actor! He took a five-year hiatus to briefly study musical theatre at the University of Miami, and then study acting with the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities B.F.A. program. His favorite credits from CTC include *Peter Pan*, *Sneetches*, and *The Abominables*. Aside from being an actor, Zack is also a substitute teacher, climber, cat owner, and dessert enjoyer.

Anna M. Schloerb is beyond thrilled to be back at CTC! Her most recent projects include serving as the Ten Thousand Things Theater interim production manager, and understudying/an apprenticeship with The Moving Company on their productions of *at low tide* and *Speechless*. Other local credits include Nautilus Music Theater and Open Eye Figure Theatre. This summer, she will attend the Dell'arte Physical Theatre Intensive in California, Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute, and GIFRIC Psychoanalytic Training in Quebec City! Anna holds a B.A. in American Studies and in Theatre and Dance from Macalester College.

Photos by Kaitlin Randolph, Illustrations by P.D. Eastman

JOIN US FOR SUMMER CAMP 2026!

We're back for another summer of fun through CTC's Theatre Arts Training camps! Students K-12 can spend the summer participating in age-appropriate lessons and activities that foster a love of the arts and build curious, creative, and confident young people. With 11 weeks of camp, each week brings a new adventure.

Register Today!

childrenstheatre.org/summer

Photo by Kaitlin Randolph

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GIFT!

We're halfway through our season, but there is still time to enjoy exclusive benefits as a CTC donor! Save the date for two upcoming behind-the-scenes experiences:

CTC Shop Tour
Saturday, March 14 | 10-10:45am
Tour the CTC shops and learn more about what it takes to bring a show to life on stage.

***The Wizard of Oz* Show-N-Tell**
Saturday, May 9 | 4:45-6pm
Join us on stage after the show and discover how costume changes, set pieces, lights, and sounds all come together to make the land of Oz come to life!

Visit **childrenstheatre.org/benefits** to learn about your early access, discounts, and behind-the-scenes opportunities, and watch your inbox for invitations coming later this spring!

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