

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: February 25, 2026****Media Contact:**

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team for
The Wizard of Oz
 Directed by Rick Dildine**

April 21-June 14, 2026

Minneapolis—February 25, 2026 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the complete cast and creative team for the upcoming production of *The Wizard of Oz*, based on the classic motion picture. Directed by CTC Artistic Director Rick Dildine†, with music direction and orchestrations by Victor Zupanc and choreography by Christopher Windom, *The Wizard of Oz* will run from April 21-June 14, 2026, on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Opening night is Friday, April 24, 2026, at 7pm.

"This 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 [CTC Acting Company member] Autumn Ness star as the shoe-obsessed Wicked Witch of the West!"

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!

CTC's production of *The Wizard of Oz* is recommended for all ages. Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/oz or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

The adult cast of *The Wizard of Oz* features **Becca Claire Hart*** as Aunt Em/Glinda the Witch of the North, **Riley McNutt** as Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper/Ensemble, **Reed Sigmund*** as Zeke/Cowardly Lion, **Regina Marie Williams*** as Hickory/Tin Man, **Dean Holt*** as Hunk/Scarecrow, **Autumn Ness*** as Almira Gultch/Wicked Witch of the West, **JoeNathan Thomas*** as Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz/Ensemble, **Janely Rodriguez*** as Ensemble (Understudy: Aunt Em, Glinda, Almira Gultch, Wicked Witch), **Bella West** as Ensemble (Understudy: Dorothy), **Keegan Robinson** as Ensemble (Understudy: Hunk/Scarecrow), **Bradley Johnson** as Ensemble (Understudy: Hickory/Tin Man), and **Brendan Nelson Finn** as Ensemble (Understudy: Zeke/Cowardly Lion).

The student cast of *The Wizard of Oz* features **Aniya Bostick** and **Harriet Spencer** alternating as Dorothy. The student ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz* includes **Aliya Bailey, Truman Bednar, Brody Breen, Zhandile Chidothe, Charles Foster, Morgan Houser, Wren Lillian Hatling, Addica Sharbono, George Wellens, and Julia Wissink.**

The adult understudies are **Monty Hays** and **Joshua Row.**

The student understudies include **Evie Blake, Logan Gordon, Luciana Erika Mayer, and Chloe Sorensen.**

In addition to Rick Dildinet†, Victor Zupanc, and Christopher Windom†, the creative team and production staff for CTC's production of *The Wizard of Oz* includes Adam Koch^ (scenic designer), Lex Liang^ (costume designer), Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew^ (lighting designer), Reid Rejsa (sound designer), Kylee Loera^ (projection designer), William Berloni (animal trainer), Lara Hayhurst (lead dog handler), Landon Tate Boyle (dog handler), Alli St. John (student actor coach), Hannah Steblay (assistant director), Gabrielle Dominique (assistant choreographer), Ellie Simonett (assistant lighting designer), Daniel J Hanson* (stage manager), Z Makila* (assistant stage manager/stage manager), Nate Stanger* (assistant stage manager), and Ashley Pupo (stage management fellow).

**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/oz or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

School groups interested in attending *The Wizard of Oz* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

The Wizard of Oz has a run time of 2 hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

This production is recommended for all ages. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

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 and Orchestrations 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

Creative Team and Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Adam Koch^
 Costume Designer | Lex Liang^
 Lighting Designer | Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew^
 Sound Designer | Reid Rejsa
 Projection Designer | Kylee Loera^
 Animal Trainer | William Berloni
 Lead Dog Handler | Lara Hayhurst
 Dog Handler | Landon Tate Boyle
 Student Actor Coach | Alli St. John
 Assistant Director | Hannah Steblay
 Assistant Choreographer | Gabrielle Dominique
 Assistant Lighting Designer | Ellie Simonett
 Stage Manager | Daniel J Hanson*
 Assistant Stage Manager/Stage Manager | Z Makila*
 Assistant Stage Manager | Nate Stanger*
 Stage Management Fellow | Ashley Pupo

Adult Cast

Aunt Em/Glinda the Witch of the North | Becca Claire Hart*
 Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper/Ensemble | Riley McNutt
 Zeke/Cowardly Lion | Reed Sigmund*
 Hickory/Tin Man | Regina Marie Williams*
 Hunk/Scarecrow | Dean Holt*
 Almira Gultch/Wicked Witch of the West | Autumn Ness*
 Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz/Ensemble | JoeNathan Thomas*
 Ensemble (Understudy: Aunt Em, Glinda, Almira Gultch, Wicked Witch) | Janely Rodriguez*
 Ensemble (Understudy: Dorothy) | Bella West
 Ensemble (Understudy: Hunk/Scarecrow) | Keegan Robinson
 Ensemble (Understudy: Hickory/Tin Man) | Bradley Johnson
 Ensemble (Understudy: Zeke/Cowardly Lion) | Brendan Nelson Finn

Student Cast

Dorothy | Aniya Bostick
 Dorothy | Harriet Spencer

Student Ensemble

Aliya Bailey
 Truman Bednar
 Brody Breen
 Zhandile Chidothe
 Charles Foster
 Morgan Houser
 Wren Lillian Hatling
 Addica Sharbono
 George Wellens
 Julia Wissink

Adult Understudies

Monty Hays
 Joshua Row

Student Understudies

Evie Blake
 Logan Gordon
 Luciana Erika Mayer
 Chloe Sorensen

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ADULT CAST

Aunt Em/Glinda the Witch of the North

Becca Claire Hart* (she/her) feels so lucky to be a part of this wonderful show. Hart has performed in several CTC shows and has worked at the Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, and other stages around the Twin Cities. She sends love to her family and friends!

Uncle Henry/Gatekeeper/Ensemble

Riley McNutt (he/they) is back after having played in *Treasure Island* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Off-Broadway, Riley worked at the Sheen Center, regionally at Asolo Repertory Theater, 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.

Zeke/Cowardly Lion

Reed Sigmund* ain't afraid of making his 5th prancing and dancing journey down that glorious road of yellow bricks! Now in his 26th season at CTC, Reed has appeared in numerous shows here,

including *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Annie*, Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical*, and *Treasure Island*.

Hickory/Tin Man

Regina Marie Williams* last performed at CTC in *Bud Not Buddy*. Williams' recent works include *A Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Nacirema Society* at the Guthrie. She has performed at many other theatres locally and nationally. She has received the McKnight Theater Artist Award and was 2023 *Minnesota Star Tribune* Artist of The Year.

Hunk/Scarecrow

Dean Holt* (he/him) is a member of CTC's Acting Company (1994-present), appearing in countless CTC shows over the past 30 years. Highlights include *Reeling*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Huck Finn*, *Pinocchio*, and *Cinderella*. He is the recipient of two Ivey Awards (*Reeling* and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*) and St. John's University Alumni Achievement Award.

Almira Gultch/Wicked Witch of the West

Autumn Ness* (she/her) is celebrating her 26th season as a member of the CTC Acting Company! A few of her favorite CTC shows include *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Babble Lab*, *Annie*, *Cinderella*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Autumn is a recipient of the TCG Fox Foundation Fellowship, the Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support Grant, and most recently the 2025 Metro Regional Arts Council Next Step Fund. Autumn is a mom to two wild boys and a naughty pug dog.

Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz/Ensemble

JoeNathan Thomas* (he/him) is elated to be back at CTC, having performed previously in *Annie*, *Once on this Island*, and *Galileo*. He has worked the stages of The Ordway, Guthrie Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Artistry Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, Frank Theatre, and Yellow Tree Theatre, to name a few. Most recently seen in *Waitress* (Artistry Theater).

Ensemble (Understudy: Aunt Em, Glinda, Wicked Witch)

Janely Rodriguez* (she/they/he) hails from Miami, Fla. and holds a B.F.A in Musical Theatre from Brenau University. She is a proud member of the Acting Company at CTC and has enjoyed roles in *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Annie* at Children's Theatre Company. They've also had the pleasure of working with other organizations throughout the Twin Cities including the Guthrie Theater (*Cabaret*), Trademark Theater (*The Reunion*), Theater Latté Da (*Hello Dolly*), Ten Thousand Things (*Iphigenia at Aulis*), and Artistry Theater (*Shrek the Musical*, *Songs for a New World*).

Ensemble (Understudy: Dorothy)

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.

Ensemble (Understudy: Hunk/Scarecrow)

Keegan Robinson (he/they) is honored to be back onstage and over the rainbow for his 11th production with CTC where he has enjoyed roles in *Milo Imagines the World*, *Treasure Island*, *Corduroy*, and more. He'd like to thank everyone behind the scenes who make productions like this possible.

Ensemble (Understudy: Hickory/Tin Man)

Bradley Johnson (he/they) is returning to CTC after being in last year's production of Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical*. They have also appeared at Theatre Elision, Theater Latté Da, Artistry Theater, Lyric Arts, and the Starling Shakespeare Company. He must thank his friends and family for all their love. Instagram: @bradleygladley

Ensemble (Understudy: Zeke/Cowardly Lion)

Brendan Nelson Finn (he/they) is thrilled to be making his CTC debut! He has performed with Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Artistry Theater, Lyric Arts, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, Duluth Playhouse, and Arizona Broadway Theatre. Brendan holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from University of Minnesota-Duluth.

STUDENT CAST

Dorothy

Aniya Bostick is thrilled to make her CTC debut in *The Wizard of Oz*! She has performed in multiple high school musicals like *Mamma Mia!*, *Hairspray*, *Sister Act*, and *Hadestown*. She was selected as a 2025 Triple Threat on Hennepin. She's immensely thankful for her teachers and this opportunity.

Dorothy

Harriet Spencer is filled with gratitude to be returning for her fifth and final production at CTC before she graduates high school! She has enjoyed roles in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2024, 2025), *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Corduroy* at Children's Theatre Company. She has also performed with various theatres in the Twin Cities, including Youth Performance Company, Theatre in the Round, and Shakespearean Youth Theatre. Harriet would like to thank everyone at CTC, her family, friends, and mentors, for teaching her everything she knows.

STUDENT ENSEMBLE

Ensemble

Aliya Bailey (she/her) appears in the ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz* at Children's Theatre Company. Her credits include *The Sound of Music* (Artistry Theater), *Mamma Mia!*, *Chicago*, *Fugitive Songs*, and *Hadestown* (Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists). She currently trains at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists.

Ensemble

Truman Bednar (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *Treasure Island*, *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*, and *Corduroy* at Children's Theatre Company. Other performance experience includes *Goosebumps The Musical* (Park Square Theatre), *Billy Elliot* (Delano Dramatic Company), *Fun Home* (Theater Latté Da), and *School of Rock* (Zephyr Theatre).

Ensemble

Brody Breen (he/him) is thrilled to be back at CTC. Previous CTC credits include *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2024, 2025), Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical*, and *Treasure Island*. Brody has also enjoyed roles at Shakespearean Youth Theatre, and Stages Theatre Company. Brody is a Junior at SPCPA, and would like to thank his family and friends for their support!

Ensemble

Zhandile Chidothe is a dedicated 11-year-old performer who has dreamed of taking the stage at Children's Theatre Company since she was 2 years old. She has trained in Jazz, Ballet, and African dance, and has already stepped into the spotlight with leading roles in her elementary school's Disney grant productions. She made her professional debut at Stages Theatre Company in *Madagascar*, marking the beginning of her growing performance career. Zhandile is thrilled to make her debut at CTC and to continue her journey as a young actor.

Ensemble

Charles Foster (he/him) is a 6th grader at Eagle Ridge Academy. He enjoys singing and gymnastics and is thrilled to make his debut with Children's Theatre Company in *The Wizard of Oz*. Charles is excited to share the stage with this talented cast and bring this classic story to life.

Ensemble

Morgan Houser (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Children's Theatre Company debut! Favorite credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater); *Elf the Musical Junior*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Stages Theatre Company); and *High School Musical on Stage* (Lundstrum Performing Arts). She is a 9th grader at Hill-Murray High School.

Ensemble

Wren Lillian Hatling has always loved to sing, act, write creative stories and do gymnastics since an early age. She performed in the Minneapolis Prelude Choir for two years. In the summer of 2024, Wren was in the chorus for Southwest High School Performing Arts Community's production of *The Little Mermaid*. Wren is now in the Minneapolis Youth Choir as a 6th grader. She has been doing gymnastics since she was 3. Her idol is Idina Menzel.

Ensemble

Addica Sharbono (she/her) is thrilled to be back for her second show with Children's Theatre Company, after previously performing in *Drawing Lessons*! She is a senior at the FAIR School for Arts and a PSEO student at the University of Minnesota. Addica would like to thank her family and friends for their support! IG: addicamavis

Ensemble

George Wellens (he/him) is thrilled to be making his CTC debut. George has previously been on stage at Stages Theatre Company. He is a junior at Hill Murray and he would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

Ensemble

Julia Wissink (she/her) is beyond excited to be making her CTC debut! Credits include *Mean Girls* and *Alice By Heart* at Edina High School, and numerous shows at her second home, Morningside Theatre Company! She's a Junior at EHS and thanks everyone involved in her theater journey! IG @Julia_Wissink_Performs

ADULT UNDERSTUDIES

Monty Hays (they/he) is thrilled to be back at Children’s Theatre Company. He was in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Shrek the Musical*. He has also performed at Theater Latté Da, Guthrie Theater, and the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

Joshua Row is thrilled to be back at CTC! His last appearance was *Milo Imagines The World*. He has also been seen at: Theater Latté Da, Guthrie Theater, Nautilus Music-Theatre, and Open Window Theatre. Joshua would like to thank his amazing wife, Elle. JoshuaRow.com. Ephesians 1:3

STUDENT UNDERSTUDIES

Evie Blake (she/her) is thrilled to make her Children’s Theatre Company debut. Previous credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Open Window), *The Music Man* (Lyric Arts), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Youth Performance Company), *Beauty and the Beast* (Ashland Productions), and *Matilda* (CastleCo Theatre). Evie, a 10th grader at Eagan High School, enjoys dance and spending time with friends.

Logan Gordon (he/him), an 8th grader at Woodbury Middle School, is making his Children’s Theatre Company debut. He has enjoyed roles in *Beauty and the Beast Jr* (Ashland Productions); *Seussical* (Open Door Community Theater); *Moana*, *Frozen*, *Grease* (WMS); and *High School Musical*, *Newsies*, *Legally Blonde* (Aspire Music Academy).

Luciana Erika Mayer (she/her) is thrilled to be back at CTC! Luci has enjoyed roles in *Corduroy*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2023, 2024, 2025) at Children’s Theatre Company. Outside of theatre, she dances and participates in speech. Luci is a freshman at St. Croix Preparatory Academy.

Chloe Sorensen is thrilled to return to Children's Theatre Company! Recent credits include Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical* (CTC 2025), *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (CTC 2024, 2025), and *The Sound of Music* (SOAR Regional Arts). A passionate 7th grader, Chloe loves singing, acting, art and ballet. She is grateful to CTC, her mentors, and her family for making acting dreams come true. Chloe can't wait to see you in Oz!

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Rick Dildine† 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 and Orchestrator

Victor Zupanc 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

Choreographer

Christopher Windom† (he/him) choreographed the feature film "Respect" for MGM, starring Jennifer Hudson as Aretha Franklin. He has directed and/or choreographed at The Vineyard Theatre, The Public Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, Guthrie Theater, Alley Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Play House, Dallas Theater Center, and Disneyland. He's a Drama League Fellow. B.F.A., Webster University; M.F.A., Brown/Trinity.

Scenic Designer

Adam Koch^ On Broadway Adam designed *A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical*. Additional credits include off-Broadway, national tours, and projects around the world, including: *Dreamgirls*, *Sister Act* (Seoul); *Pretty Woman*, *Mean Girls* (São Paulo). Hundreds of regional productions, with multiple awards and nominations, including *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (The Ordway). Education: Carnegie Mellon University. For William and Mary Koch. See more on Instagram @instadamkoch.

Costume Designer

Lex Liang^ NYC/Off-Broadway: 50+ productions; Select Regional: Alliance Theatre, Asolo Rep, Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, Denver Center, Goodman, Guthrie, La Jolla Playhouse, McCarter, Old Globe, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Other: exec. creative director of LDC Design Associates, an experiential event design and production company in NYC. www.lexliang.com @MrLexLiang

Lighting Designer

Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew^ is an award-winning designer for theatre, dance, opera, musicals, music performances, and large-scale immersive installation across the U.S. Her designs have been described as "clever" and "inventive." Excited to be back to CTC since *An American Tail the Musical*. Arts professor and head of lighting design training with NYU Tisch Drama. www.jeanetteyew.com

Sound Designer

Reid Rejsa has worked in the Twin Cities for over 35 years. Past sound designs include The Jungle Theatre, Mixed Blood, Guthrie Theater, Katha Dance Theatre, Six Points Theater, The Children's Theatre Company, and others. He also works as a recording engineer, musician, and audio mixer for independent films.

Projection Designer

Kylee Loera^ is a video designer for live performances. Selected designs: Warner Theatre (Hispanic Heritage Awards), WNO Kennedy Center (*Gods and Mortals*, *Fidelio*), Alabama Shakespeare Festival (*Murder on the Orient Express*, *Disney's Frozen The Broadway Musical*), The Muny (*Jersey Boys*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Disney's Frozen The Broadway Musical*), Pittsburgh CLO (*Young Frankenstein*, *The Color Purple*). kloeradesign.com

Animal Trainer

William Berloni is the 2011 Tony Honoree for Excellence in Theatre. Broadway: 33 Broadway shows, from *Annie* (1977) to *Gypsy* (2025). Animal director for the new musical *Because of Winn Dixie*. Credits include hundreds of off-Broadway, regional, national tours, television shows, and movies. Latest film: *The Friend*. Author of *Broadway Tails*. Follow us on Instagram @berlonitheatricalanimals and www.theatricalanimals.com

Lead Dog Handler

Lara Hayhurst has been an actor/handler with Berloni Theatrical Animals for 12 years and has Broadway, Off-Broadway, film, and television credits. Most recently: *Gypsy* (Audra McDonald), *And Just Like That* (HBO), *The Wizard of Oz* (Alabama Shakespeare). She is honored to go Over the Rainbow with the amazing Minneapolis community. @larahayhurst and larahayhurst.com for more!

Dog Handler

Landon Tate Boyle (he/him) is ecstatic to be joining the William Berloni team, and even more excited to work with the team at CTC. He is also an actor who has worked around the country and holds a B.F.A. from Webster University.

Student Actor Coach

Alli St. John (she/her) is a theatre director and educator based in the Twin Cities. She has worked with organizations such as Guthrie Theater, Theater Latté Da, Children's Performing Arts, and Phipps Center for the Arts. Alli holds a B.A. in Theater and an M.F.A. in Theater for Youth and Community. She is casting director and associate producer for CTC.

Assistant Director

Hannah Steblay (she/her) is overjoyed to return to Children's Theatre Company to dive into the land of Oz, having served as an associate director for *Drawing Lessons* and an assistant director on *Alice in Wonderland* (2013, 2024) and *Pippi Longstocking* (2012). She is a freelance director, educator, and enthusiastic momma. She holds a B.A. in Theater from Hamline University.

Assistant Choreographer

Gabrielle Dominique is thrilled to be making her CTC choreographic debut! A south Minneapolis native, she graduated from St. Olaf College with two Bachelor's Degrees in Dance and Theatre, and has been working across the country as a performing/teaching artist since 2011. In addition to her onstage appearances at CTC (*Annie*, *I Come From Arizona*), she has been featured in the Twin Cities at Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Theater Latté Da, and more. Proud member of Actors Equity Association (AEA). Gabrielle would like to extend special thanks to her family and her partner Michael for their constant love and support.

Assistant Lighting Designer

Ellie Simonett (she/her) worked on *An American Tail the Musical*, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* ('22-'25), *Bina's Six Apples*, and *Diary of A Wimpy Kid the Musical* at Children's Theatre Company and is excited to return. She has also worked with the Guthrie Theater, the Minnesota Opera, The Ordway, and other organizations around the Twin Cities.

Stage Manager

Daniel J Hanson* is a Chicago-based AEA stage manager and is thrilled to be back at CTC. Previous CTC credits include *A Year With Frog and Toad* and *500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*. Other credits include Skylight Music Theatre, Mercury Theater Chicago, and Paramount Theatre. Dan serves as production stage manager for Santa Cruz Shakespeare.

Assistant Stage Manager/Stage Manager

Z Makila* (he/him and they/them) loves to make theatre with and for people of all ages at CTC! Favorite shows include *Milo Imagines the World*, *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*, and *An American Tail the Musical*. Z also works for places like the Guthrie Theater, The Ordway, Minnesota Orchestra, and as a teaching artist! zmakila.com

Assistant Stage Manager

Nate Stanger* (he/him) has stage managed at CTC for the last 10 years. His favorite credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Corduroy*, *Cinderella*, and *The Jungle Book*. Other notable credits include Guthrie Theater, Ordway, and Perseverance Theatre in Juneau Alaska.

Stage Management Fellow

Ashley Pupo (she/her) is excited to be the stage management fellow for Children's Theatre Company's 2025-2026 Season. Past technical credits include *Paw Patrol Live! The Great Pirate Adventure*. Stage management credits include *Beauty and The Beast*, *Sweeney Todd: School Edition*, and *Elf Jr.*

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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:

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
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WHEN: April 21-June 14, 2026 (Opening Night is Friday, April 24, 2026 at 7pm)

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

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is recommended for all ages. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

TICKETS:

Starting at \$25 and may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/oz or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400.

#