

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: August 10, 2026****Media Contact:**

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**Children's Theatre Company Announces Cast and Creative Team for
World Premiere Musical Celebrating The Minnesota State Fair:
*Princess Kay of the Milky Way***

February 23-April 4, 2027

Minneapolis—August 10, 2026 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is delighted to announce the cast and creative team for the hotly anticipated world premiere musical *Princess Kay of the Milky Way*. Developed and directed by Addie Gorlin-Han†, and featuring book, music, and lyrics by Christopher Anselmo and Jared Corak, *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* will run from February 23-April 4, 2027, on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Opening night is Friday, February 26, 2027, at 7pm. Jason Hansen will serve as music director, with choreography by Cat Brindisi†.

"At Children's Theatre Company, we believe the most universal stories often begin in a very specific place," said Rick Dildine, Artistic Director. "*Princess Kay of the Milky Way* is a joyful celebration of Minnesota—its traditions, its humor, its people, and the dreams that grow from its farms and fairgrounds. Christopher Anselmo, Jared Corak, and Addie Gorlin-Han have created a musical that is unmistakably Minnesotan, yet speaks to anyone who has ever imagined a bigger future while remaining deeply connected to home. We can't wait to share this world premiere with audiences."

"I am absolutely over the galaxy to have the *Princess Kay* world premiere at Children's Theatre Company," said director Addie Gorlin-Han. "As a theatre kid growing up in the Twin Cities, CTC undoubtedly shaped who I am today. I'm thrilled to channel my love for all things Minnesota and bring together audiences of all ages to celebrate what unifies us and makes this great state unique."

Who will be crowned dairy queen in 1980? Find out in this world premiere musical celebrating Minnesota's state fair. Join the Berglund family as they navigate farm chores, Mom's frozen butterhead, and teenage aspirations ranging from 4H contests and country music stardom to adventures in outer space (wait, what?). Experience the crowds, the foods, and a plot-turning ride on the Space Tower. The Petersons, Petersens, and Peterssens will all be there, plus a mysterious visitor who drinks an unbelievable amount of milk at the fair. Oh yeah, you betcha!

CTC's production of *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* is recommended for ages 7 and up. Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/princess or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

The adult cast of *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* features **Nicola Wahl** as Sadie Berglund, **Autumn Ness*** (member, CTC Core Company) as Beverly Berglund, **Dean Holt*** (member, CTC Core

Company) as Dean Berglund, **Greta Grosch*** as Narrator, and **Reed Sigmund*** (member, CTC Core Company) as Chock Hubbard/Ensemble.

The student cast of *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* features **Zachary Garcia** as Emmett Berglund, **Eve Scharback** as Eugenia Berglund, and **Peter McNattin** as Palmer Gibson.

The adult understudies for *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* include **Kate Beahen** (Beverly Berglund/Narrator) and **Ben Bakken** (Dean Berglund/Chock Hubbard).

The student understudies for *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* include **Julia Wissink** (Sadie Berglund), **Chloe Sorensen** (Eugenia Berglund), and **Brody Breen** (Emmett Berglund/Palmer Gibson).

In addition to Ms. Gorlin-Han†, Mr. Anselmo, Mr. Corak, Mr. Hansen, and Ms. Brindisi†, the creative team and production staff for CTC's production of *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* includes Eli Sherlock^ (scenic designer), An-Lin Dauber^ (costume designer), Alice Trent (lighting designer), Michael Costagliola^ (sound designer), Dorothy James (puppet designer and puppet director), Andy Manjuck (puppet designer and puppet director), Victor Zupanc‡ (orchestrator/conductor), Nate Stanger* (stage manager), Z Makila* (assistant stage manager), and Jada B. Smith (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/princess or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

School groups interested in attending *Princess Kay of the Milky Way* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

Princess Kay of the Milky Way is proudly sponsored by Land O'Lakes and Faegre Drinker.

Children's Theatre Company gratefully recognizes Karen Bachman, Barbara Burwell, Cinda Collins, Dr. Mary Ebert and Paul Stembler, John Junek, Scott and Julie Kammer, Kathy Low and Joe Cieslowski, Jennifer Melin Miller and David Miller, Mike and Jodi Mooney, Jennifer Sarteau, and Sharron Steinfeldt as Producing Sponsors of *Princess Kay of the Milky Way*.

This project was made possible by the Helen Gurley Brown Theater Ventures Fund.

Princess Kay of the Milky Way has a run time of 2 hours with one 15-minute intermission.

This production is recommended for ages 7 and up. Lap passes are available for children 3 years and younger.

Princess Kay of the Milky Way

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Christopher Anselmo and Jared Corak

Music Direction by Jason Hansen

Choreography by Cat Brindisi

Developed and Directed by Addie Gorlin-Han

February 23-April 4, 2027

UnitedHealth Group Stage

Creative Team and Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Eli Sherlock^

Costume Designer | An-Lin Dauber^

Lighting Designer | Alice Trent

Sound Designer | Michael Costagliola^

Puppet Designer and Puppet Director | Dorothy James

Puppet Designer and Puppet Director | Andy Manjuck

Orchestrator/Conductor | Victor Zupanc†

Stage Manager | Nate Stanger*

Assistant Stage Manager | Z Makila*

Stage Management Fellow | Jada B. Smith

Adult Cast

Sadie Berglund | Nicola Wahl

Beverly Berglund | Autumn Ness* (member, CTC Core Company)

Dean Berglund | Dean Holt* (member, CTC Core Company)

Narrator | Greta Grosch*

Chock Hubbard/Ensemble | Reed Sigmund* (member, CTC Core Company)

Student Cast

Emmett Berglund | Zachary Garcia

Eugenia Berglund | Eve Scharback

Palmer Gibson | Peter McNattin

Adult Understudies

Beverly Berglund/Narrator | Kate Beahen

Dean Berglund/Chock Hubbard | Ben Bakken

Student Understudies

Sadie Berglund | Julia Wissink

Eugenia Berglund | Chloe Sorensen

Emmett Berglund/Palmer Gibson | Brody Breen

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CREATIVE TEAM

Book, Music, and Lyrics

Christopher Anselmo's musicals include *Fountain* (O'Neill NMTC, NAMT), *Atlantic* (Edinburgh), *Fable* (NYMF), and the *New York Times* Critic's Pick adaptation of *The Pout-Pout Fish* (album streaming now). With Jared Corak, he is currently developing a new commission from Two River Theater and a new licensing project with Disney Theatrical Group. As a team, they have been named finalists for the Larson Grant and Kleban Prize. In addition to his work as a writer, Anselmo served as associate to composer Jeanine Tesori on projects such as the Tony Award®-winning *Kimberly Akimbo*. Learn more at christopheranselmo.com.

Book, Music, and Lyrics

Jared Corak's musicals include *Fountain* (O'Neill NMTC, NAMT) and the *New York Times* Critic's Pick adaptation of *The Pout-Pout Fish*, which premiered at the New Victory Theater in 2019, continues to tour nationally with TheaterWorksUSA, and recently released an official cast album available on all streaming platforms. With Christopher Anselmo, he is currently developing a new commission from Two River Theater and a new licensing project with Disney Theatrical Group. As a team, they have been named finalists for the Larson Grant and Kleban Prize. Jared is also the recipient of the BMI Foundation's Ellen Schwartz Award for Outstanding Literary Merit in Lyric Writing and the Jean Banks Award. When he's not writing musicals, he works on the CBS TV show "FBI."

Director and Co-Developer

Addie Gorlin-Han† is a director, producer, and educator invested in the regional theatre movement, new musical development, and theatre for all ages. She is based at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, where she works as associate producer. Recent directing includes *Fun Home* (Theater Latté Da), *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater), *The Root Beer Lady* (History Theatre and tour), *Into the Woods* (featuring Hillary Clinton, Arkansas Rep), and *The Laramie Project* (Children's Theatre Company). She was named in *American Theatre's* Role Call: People to Watch and was recently a finalist for the prestigious Zelda Fichandler Award. Learn more at addiegorlin.com

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Children's Theatre Company (CTC) activates the creative lives of children and families—strengthening imagination, connection, and belonging to help young people thrive and communities grow stronger. Participating in year-round programming, theatre attendees and arts learners represent diverse racial, cultural, socioeconomic, neurocognitive, and geographic backgrounds. 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.

For 200,000 people annually, CTC aims to be a destination where families create lasting memories and grow together through the power of story and play. We seek to build emotional connections and position CTC as essential to family life and childhood development. Every year, thousands of children experience theatre for the first time at CTC. Our innovative education programs demonstrably benefit the community, from the resilience-based Creative Play program for early learners to the pre-professional skill-building in our Theatre Arts Training. 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:

Princess Kay of the Milky Way

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Christopher Anselmo and Jared Corak

Music Direction by Jason Hansen

Choreography by Cat Brindisi

Developed and Directed by Addie Gorlin-Han

WHEN: February 23-April 4, 2027 (Opening Night is Friday, February 26, 2027 at 7pm)

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

AGE RECOMMENDATION: This production is recommended for ages 7 and up. 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/princess or by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400.

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