



PRESS RELEASE

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**Plays For New Audience (PNA)-Represented Plays
Are Among Recipients of 2026 American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE) Awards**

Minneapolis, Minn.—[Children's Theatre Company](https://www.childrenstheatre.org) (CTC) is pleased to announce the following winners of the 2026 American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE) Awards:

Distinguished Play Award – Category A

[*The Golden Loc*](#) by Prentiss Matthews III

Publisher: Plays for New Audiences

Distinguished Play Award – Category C

[*Milo Imagines the World*](#)

Book by Terry Guest

Lyrics by Christian Albright

Music by Christian Magby

Based on the Book by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson

A Children's Theatre Company World Premiere (2025)

Publisher: Plays for New Audiences

[Plays for New Audiences](#) (PNA) is the script licensing division for the Tony Award-winning® Children's Theatre Company. [*The Golden Loc*](#) and [*Milo Imagines the World*](#) are now available for licensing from PNA.

"CTC is thrilled that to continue expanding the canon of plays specifically created for multigenerational audiences and actors," said Ryan French, CTC's Managing Director. "Centering stories on children and youth is at the core of all of the plays in the PNA catalogue and CTC's mission to educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities."

About *The Golden Loc*

The Golden Loc

by [Prentiss Matthews III](#)

Inspired by African Mythology, the story centers on Zia, a young black girl who learns to embrace her unique locs, beauty, and magic within. The Aziza Fairies, which are magical African Fairies with elemental abilities, offer spiritual and emotional guidance to young Zia as she trains to become a Fairy protector. Will she succeed and learn to harness her power from within?

About *Milo Imagines the World*

Milo Imagines the World

Book by [Terry Guest](#)

Lyrics and Music by [Christian Albright](#) and [Christian Magby](#)

Based on the book by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson

On a crowded subway, Milo passes the time imagining the lives of the other passengers. See his illustrations brought to spirited life in this enchanting musical, featuring dynamic new songs ranging from hip hop and pop to country. Ride along with Milo from stop to stop as he begins to understand that first impressions aren't always accurate, that his older sister Adrienne isn't always annoying, and that real life can sometimes be even more incredible than an imaginary one.

"Milo will brighten your day." - Chicago Tribune

"Light on its feet with ten breezy, tuneful original numbers." - Talkin' Broadway

About The American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)

The [American Alliance for Theatre and Education](#) (AATE), among the most recognized arts education organizations, works to ensure that every young person experiences quality theatre arts in their lives provided by proficient, talented artists and educators. AATE is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Through its membership of theatre artists, inservice and pre-service teachers, professors, directors, scholars and playwrights, AATE serves more than a million students in 48 U.S. states and 19 countries worldwide.

About Plays for New Audiences (PNA)

[Plays for New Audiences](#) (PNA) licenses quality scripts for multigenerational audiences and actors. Written by some of the world's most extraordinary playwrights including 4 of the top 10 most-produced Theatre for Young Audiences playwrights, PNA's 300+ show catalog features plays and musicals for any programming need. A division of [Children's Theatre Company](#), PNA offers contemporary stories and reimagined classics that are topical, relevant, and even fantastical. As a non-profit licensing company, all profits are invested back into supporting artists and creating new work.

About Children's Theatre Company (CTC)

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

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