

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release: September 29, 2026****Media Contact:**

Jonathan White

jwhite@childrenstheatre.org

612.872.5110

**Children's Theatre Company Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team for
Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
 CTC's legendary holiday sensation is back by popular demand**

November 3, 2026-January 3, 2027

Minneapolis—September 29, 2026 — Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is thrilled to announce the complete cast and creative team for the hotly-anticipated return engagement of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* which will run from November 3, 2026-January 3, 2027, on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Opening night is Friday, November 6, 2026, at 7pm. Featuring a book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the production will be directed once again by CTC Core Company member Dean Holt, with music direction by Jason Hansen and Victor Zupanc, and choreography by Karla Grotting. The production is adapted from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss.

This is the 14th time CTC has produced this show, which they originally commissioned and premiered in 1994. It also marks the ninth time CTC Core Company member Reed Sigmund will portray The Grinch.

"It is an absolute pleasure to, once again, spend the holidays in Who-ville," said director Dean Holt. "My goal always is to create a room of joy, curiosity, and wonder that extends into the audience as well. This show belongs to all of us, young and old; it represents our collective heart that grows three sizes each holiday season as we gather in the glow of family, friends, and loved ones. I am honored to share this tradition, this tender story, and the unmatched experience of live theatre with all of you."

CTC's beloved holiday tradition *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* returns after last year's sold-out run. In this hit musical spectacular, the grumpy green Grinch hatches a plan to steal Christmas from the cheerful Whos of Who-ville—snatching trees, swiping stockings, and sneaking away with every last present. But when one small voice and a spark of holiday spirit shine through, The Grinch begins to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Filled with music, mischief, and Seussian charm, this joyful production sparkles with laughs, warmth, and a little holiday magic your family will love.

"This will be my 9th time slithering and slinking through Whoville, and I'm still excited as I was the first time I donned the grumpy green carpet," said Reed Sigmund. "This character and story are permanently timeless, and I can't wait to climb into my lonely cave atop Mt. Crumpit once again."

CTC's production of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is a favorite across generations and celebrates the end of the calendar year. During this festive season, CTC is proud to spotlight the charitable year-end support that makes this work possible.

As a nonprofit organization, CTC relies on the generosity of our community to create extraordinary theatre experiences. Nearly half of CTC's annual budget comes from philanthropic contributions of all sizes.

When individuals, corporations, and philanthropic organizations donate to CTC, every dollar is poured directly back into the work on and off stage—funding productions, creating scholarships, supporting staff and artists, and sharing transformative theatre onstage, in classrooms, and throughout the community. This contributed financial support ensures there are no barriers to participation, and allows CTC to continue to educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities.

- A gift of \$25 covers the cost of one student matinee ticket.
- A gift of \$100 welcomes a family to any CTC show through the ACT Pass program.
- A gift of \$400 offers a full scholarship to one student attending a Theatre Arts Training class.

For more information, please visit childrenstheatre.org/give.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! runs November 3, 2026, through January 3, 2027, on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. This show is great for all ages. Tickets may be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/grinch or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

The adult cast of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* features **Reed Sigmund*** (member, CTC Core Company) as The Grinch, **Dean Holt*** (member, CTC Core Company) as Old Max, **Matthew Hall*** as JP Who, **Autumn Ness*** (member, CTC Core Company) as Mama Who, **Adam Qualls*** as Grandpa Who, and **Suzie Juul*** as Grandma Who. The adult Who ensemble includes **Aidan Folvag** (member, CTC Acting Cohort; Understudy – Grandpa Who/Jp Who), **Ben Glisczinski** (Grandpa Who), **Elisheva Scheuer** (member, CTC Acting Cohort; Understudy – Grandma Who), and **Chauncy Thomas*** (member, CTC Core Company; Understudy – Grandpa Who/Old Max).

The student cast of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* features **Luciana Erika Mayer** as Young Max, **Matea Córdova Stuart** as Cindy-Lou Who, **Julia Wissink** as Betty-Lou Who, **Truman Bednar** as Danny Who, **Aliya Bailey** as Annie Who, **Kelilah Berwald** as Boo Who (Understudy – Cindy-Lou Who), and **Miles Rauk** as Who Child. The student Who ensemble includes **Maevie Finn**, **Brecken Lee** (Understudy – Annie Who), **Nicole Rush-Reese**, **Eowyn Scullard**, **Millie Swenson** (Understudy – Boo Who), **Bastion Westerberg**, and **Ellie Grace Wolowitz**.

The adult understudies include **Brandon Brooks** (Grinch, Old Max), **Antonisia (Nisi) Collins** (member, CTC Core Company; Grandma Who, Mama Who, Who Ensemble), **Bradley**

Johnson (JP Who, Who Ensemble), and **Angela Steele** (Mama Who, Young Max, Betty-Lou Who, Who Ensemble).

The student understudies include **Matt Axtman** (Who Ensemble), **Brody Breen** (Danny Who, Who Ensemble), **Emily Ann Cleary** (Who Ensemble), **Fiona Kocaman** (Who Ensemble).

In addition to Timothy Mason, Mel Marvin, Dean Holt†, Jason Hansen, Victor Zupanc, and Karla Grotting, the creative team and production staff for *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* includes Tom Butsch^ (Scenic Designer), David Kay Mickelsen^ (Costume Designer), Nancy Schertler^ (Lighting Designer), Sean Healey (Sound Designer), Craig Gottschalk (Projection Designer), Stacy McIntosh (Associate Director), Angela Steele (Assistant Choreographer), Samantha Brown (Assistant Lighting Designer), Z Makila* (Stage Manager), Kenji Shoemaker* (Assistant Stage Manager), Meghan Gaffney* (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/grinch or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices start at \$25.

School groups interested in attending *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* can contact schools@childrenstheatre.org for more information.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! has a run time of two hours with one 20-minute intermission.

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

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Based on the Book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason

Music by Mel Marvin

Music Direction by Jason Hansen and Victor Zupanc

Choreography by Karla Grotting

Directed by Dean Holt†

A Children's Theatre Company Original Production

November 3, 2026-January 3, 2027

UnitedHealth Group Stage

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Creative Team & Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Tom Butsch^
 Costume Designer | David Kay Mickelsen^
 Lighting Designer | Nancy Schertler^
 Sound Designer | Sean Healey
 Projection Designer | Craig Gottschalk
 Associate Director | Stacy McIntosh
 Assistant Choreographer | Angela Steele
 Assistant Lighting Designer | Samantha Brown
 Stage Manager | Z Makila*
 Assistant Stage Manager | Kenji Shoemaker*
 Assistant Stage Manager | Meghan Gaffney*
 Stage Management Fellow | Jada B. Smith

Adult Cast

The Grinch | Reed Sigmund* (member, CTC Core Company)
 Old Max | Dean Holt* (member, CTC Core Company)
 JP Who | Matthew Hall*
 Mama Who | Autumn Ness* (member, CTC Core Company)
 Grandpa Who | Adam Qualls*
 Grandma Who | Suzie Juul*

Adult Who Ensemble

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who/JP Who) | Aidan Folvag (member, CTC Acting Cohort)
 Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who) | Ben Glisczinski
 Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandma Who) | Elisheva Scheuer (member, CTC Acting Cohort)
 Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who/Old Max) | Chauncy Thomas* (member, CTC Core Company)

Student Cast

Young Max | Luciana Erika Mayer
 Cindy-Lou Who | Matea Córdova Stuart
 Betty-Lou Who | Julia Wissink
 Danny Who | Truman Bednar
 Annie Who | Aliya Bailey
 Boo Who (Understudy – Cindy-Lou Who) | Kelilah Berwald
 Who Child | Miles Rauk

Student Who Ensemble

Who Ensemble | Maeve Finn
 Who Ensemble (Understudy – Annie Who) | Brecken Lee
 Who Ensemble | Nicole Rush-Reese
 Who Ensemble | Eowyn Scullard
 Who Ensemble (Understudy – Boo Who) | Millie Swenson

Who Ensemble | Bastion Westerberg
 Who Ensemble | Ellie Grace Wolowitz

Adult Understudies

Grinch, Old Max | Brandon Brooks
 Grandma Who, Mama Who, Who Ensemble | Antonisia (Nisi) Collins (member, CTC Core Company)
 JP Who, Who Ensemble | Bradley Johnson
 Mama Who, Young Max, Betty-Lou Who, Who Ensemble | Angela Steele

Student Understudies

Who Ensemble | Matt Axtman
 Danny Who, Who Ensemble | Brody Breen
 Who Ensemble | Emily Ann Cleary
 Who Ensemble | Fiona Kocaman

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ADULT CAST

The Grinch

Reed Sigmund* (member, CTC Core Company) is filled with joyful rage as he now makes his ninth journey to Who-ville as “The Mean, Green One.” When he hasn’t been cloaked in green fur, he’s appeared in many other CTC shows during his past 26 years as a CTC Company Member! Most recently, he’s appeared in: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Treasure Island*, and *Disney’s Frozen The Broadway Musical*. Happy Holidays, y’all!

Old Max

Dean Holt*† (member, CTC Core Company) is a member of CTC’s Core Company (1994-present), appearing in countless CTC shows over the past 30 years. Highlights include *Reeling*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *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.

JP Who

Matthew Hall* (he/him) has been seen in *Disney’s Frozen The Broadway Musical* and last year’s *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* with Children’s Theatre Company. Other credits include *Come From Away* at Guthrie Theater; *Guys and Dolls*, *Footloose*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Jersey Boys*, and *The PROM* at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres; *RENT* and *Little Women* with Artistry Theater. Instagram @matthewzacharyhall

Mama Who

Autumn Ness* (she/her) (member, CTC Core Company) is celebrating her 27th season as a member of the CTC Core Company! A few of her favorite CTC shows include *The Wizard of Oz*, *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 2022 and 2026 MN State Arts Board Creative Support Grant, and the 2020 and 2025 MRAC Next Step Fund. Autumn is a mom to two wild boys, and a naughty pug dog.

Grandpa Who

Adam Qualls* (he/him) is back for his sixth production of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, and the fifth as Grandpa. Other favorite roles at CTC include Lord Farquaad in *Shrek the Musical* and Tweedledee in *Alice in Wonderland*, among more than a dozen productions. He's performed locally with several organizations, including History Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and Park Square Theatre. This one is for Mom. I love you bigger than the sky!

Grandma Who

Suzie Juul* This is Suzie's fifth *Grinch!!!* Other work includes: *Into the Woods* (Guthrie Theater); *Glensheen*, *Defeat of Jesse James*, *Blended Harmony* (History Theatre); *Jersey Boys*, *The Music Man*, *Grease* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres); *The Sound of Music*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *A Christmas Story* (Ordway Center for the Performing Arts); *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Old Log Theatre); *The Most Happy Fella* (Ten Thousand Things Theater); *The Welkin* (Frank Theatre); *Marie Antoinette* (Walking Shadow Theatre Company); *Man Of God*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into the Woods* (Theater Mu); *Tick Tick...BOOM!*, *Mary Poppins*, *Candide* (Artistry Theater). Suzie sends <3 to Mom and Dad ☺

ADULT WHO ENSEMBLE

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who/JP Who)

Aidan Folvag (he/him) (member, CTC Acting Cohort) is delighted to be working with CTC this season! He has had the pleasure of performing in productions around the country and world, not limited to: *Into the Woods*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Hay Fever*, *Lés Misérables*, and more! In his free time, he loves taking walks, journaling, and hanging out with his brother, Patrick. Aidan proudly holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Minnesota.

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who)

Ben Glisczinski (he/they) makes a very merry return to Who-ville after a year as a member of CTC's Acting Cohort. Locally, he has worked with several organizations, including Lyric Arts, Nautilus Music-Theater, Frosted Glass Creative, and The Birth Play Project. For Buddy, his Old Max.

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandma Who)

Elisheva Scheuer (member, CTC Acting Cohort) is thrilled to make her CTC debut in this beloved classic! She's worked regionally with the Gray Mallard Theater Co., Playwrights' Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and Next Act Theatre, and recently premiered her one-woman verbatim

theatre piece, *Forever Young*. Elisheva holds a B.F.A. from the UMN/Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program.

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Grandpa Who/Old Max)

Chauncy Thomas* (member, CTC Core Company) is thrilled to return to Children's Theatre Company. He has performed with Utah Shakespeare Festival, Bay Street Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The Black Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Gulfshore Playhouse. He holds a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis.

STUDENT CAST

Young Max

Luciana Erika Mayer (she/her) is so joyful to be back at CTC for the holiday season. Past CTC credits include *Corduroy*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2023, 2024, 2025). In her free time, Luci loves dancing and choreographing, as well as spending time with friends. Luci is a sophomore at St. Croix Preparatory Academy.

Cindy-Lou Who

Matea Córdova Stuart (she/her) is thrilled to return to Who-ville as Cindy-Lou Who, after playing Boo Who and understudying Cindy-Lou last year. Past credits include: Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical* (CTC); *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater); *The Sound of Music* (Artistry Theater); *Willy Wonka, Jr.*, *Annie, Jr.*, and *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (Lundstrum Performing Arts).

Betty-Lou Who

Julia Wissink (she/her) is full of Christmas cheer to spend her first holiday season in Who-ville! She is beyond jolly to be back at CTC after making her debut in April, in the ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz*. Julia has enjoyed countless roles at her home away from home, Morningside Theatre Company, and has been in shows including *Mean Girls* and *Alice by Heart* at Edina High School where she is a current senior. When not on stage as Betty Lou, Julia enjoys spending time with her dog, Betty!

Danny Who

Truman Bednar (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Treasure Island*, *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*, and *Corduroy* at Children's Theatre Company. He has also performed with Park Square Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Delano Dramatic Company, and The Zephyr Theatre.

Annie Who

Aliya Bailey (she/her) is excited to return to Children's Theatre Company after appearing in *The Wizard of Oz*. She also appeared in *The Sound of Music* (Artistry Theater) and is currently a senior at St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists.

Boo Who (Understudy – Cindy-Lou Who)

Kelilah Berwald (she/her) is thrilled to be making her CTC debut! She has performed with Park Square Theatre, Speaking Out Collective, Collide Theatrical Dance Company, Twin Cities Theater Camp (TCTC), and Out on a Limb. Kelilah is the oldest of six, and a fifth grader at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion. Kelilah is grateful for the training and encouragement she receives from OOAL, Park Square Education, and Lundstrum Performing Arts!

Who Child

Miles Rauk is a freshman at Woodbury High School. His first role was Doody in *Grease: School Version* at Woodbury Middle School, followed by Olaf in *Frozen Jr.* In between the two school musicals, Miles has played Les in *Newsies Jr.*, Kyle the UPS Guy in *Legally Blonde Jr.*, and participated in 'Stars on Broadway 8' through Aspire Music Academy. He most recently played Robertson Ay in *Mary Poppins Jr.*, also at Aspire.

STUDENT WHO ENSEMBLE

Who Ensemble

Maeve Finn is elated to return to Who-ville at CTC! She's enjoyed performing at Artistry Theater, Stages Theatre Company, Morningside Theatre Company, and Good Works Community Theater. She loves chocolate, reading, cooking/baking, hiking, and playing mahjong! She wants her family to know, "I appreciate you always supporting me, no matter what. Especially you, Mommy!"

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Annie Who)

Brecken Lee is excited to return to Who-ville for a third time in one of her favorite Christmas stories. She has enjoyed roles in productions throughout the Twin Cities since she was four years old. Latest credits include: *Newsies* at Children's Performing Arts, *Mamma Mia!* at Time Dragon Theatrics, and *Hadestown: Teen Edition* at Tartan Theatre.

Who Ensemble

Nicole Rush-Reese (she/her) has enjoyed roles in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Stages Theatre Company), *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theatre), *Seussical The Musical* (Spring Dance and Theatre Company), and *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Children's Theatre Company). She has performed with many theatres, including Guthrie Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, and Spring Dance and Theatre Academy, where she also received training in singing, dancing, and acting, for many years.

Who Ensemble

Eowyn Scullard is excited to be back in *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at Children's Theatre Company! She has also enjoyed performing in *Disney's High School Musical Jr.*, and *Shrek the Musical Jr.* In addition to being on stage, she also loves Starbucks, pool time with friends, reading, and cozy rainy days. She thanks her parents, friends, and tiny dog, Socks, for their support!

Who Ensemble (Understudy – Boo Who)

Millie Swenson is thrilled to join the cast of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at CTC! Millie is in the 5th grade at Rogers Middle School. She loves dancing, singing, playing basketball and hanging out with her older sister. Enjoy the show and Happy Holidays!

Who Ensemble

Bastion Westerberg (he/him) is elated to return to Who-ville for his second year! A senior at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, he's previously been seen in *The Prom* (RHS 2026), *Newsies Jr.* (RHS 2026), and *The Addams Family* (RHS 2025). He avidly follows Minnesota sports, and speed-solves Rubik's Cubes. He hopes you all enjoy the show!

Who Ensemble

Ellie Grace Wolowitz (She/Her) is beyond thrilled to be in her first production at CTC. Aside from *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, she has performed in the Twin Cities in several shows including *The Little Mermaid* (Ashland Productions), *Mean Girls* (Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists), and most recently, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Park Square Theatre).

ADULT UNDERSTUDIES

Grinch, Old Max

Brandon Brooks (he/him) is overjoyed to be involved in the world of the Grinch for the seventh time! Recent credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Theater Latté Da) and *The Hobbit* (The Zephyr Theatre), alongside over a dozen CTC productions, and various screen appearances, including Committee Films and Lifetime.

Grandma Who, Mama Who, Who Ensemble

Antonisia (Nisi) Collins (member, CTC Core Company) is thrilled to be back in Who-ville. MN credits: (CTC): *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *Milo Imagines the World*, *Disney's Frozen The Broadway Musical*, *Pinocchio*. (Artistry Theater): *Once on This Island*. (The Zephyr Theatre): *Robin Hood*, *The Hobbit*. (Penumbra): *Don't Bother Me*, *I Can't Cope*. You can see more of her work on Instagram @antonisiacollins.

JP Who, Who Ensemble

Bradley Johnson (he/they) is delighted to be returning to Children's Theatre Company to be a part of this yuletide tradition. He has previously appeared at CTC in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Disney's Frozen The Broadway Musical*, and *Brambletown* (workshop). They've also been seen performing with Theatre Elision, The Gray Mallard Theater Company, Theater Latté Da, Starling Shakespeare Company, and Artistry Theater. They will be appearing as the voice of Artemis in the animated pilot of *Vampair*. This spring, he will be reprising his role as Anatole in the remounting of the celebrated Theatre Elision production of *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812*. Happy Holidays! Instagram: @bradleygladley

Mama Who, Young Max, Betty-Lou Who, Who Ensemble

Angela Steele is thrilled to be back in Who-ville for another year! She has previously appeared at CTC in last year's *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Cinderella*. Other credits include *Grease*, *The Prom*, *Footloose*, *The Music Man*, and *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Theatre L'Homme Dieu); *Legally Blonde*, *Footloose*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Hairspray* (Artistry Theater); *Oliver!* (Theater Latté Da); *Orphan Train* (History Theater). She would like to thank her parents and her partner, Ryan. She hopes you enjoy the show!

STUDENT UNDERSTUDIES

Who Ensemble

Matt Axtman (he/him) is thrilled to be making his debut at Children's Theatre Company. He has performed in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Park Square Theatre), and *Mean Girls* (Youth Performance Company). Matt is in his sophomore year at SPCPA.

Danny Who, Who Ensemble

Brody Breen (he/him) is feeling festive about returning to Who-ville for his final year! Previous CTC credits include *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2024, 2025), Disney's *Frozen The Broadway Musical*, *Treasure Island*, and most recently, *The Wizard of Oz*. Brody is a senior at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and would like to thank his family and friends for their support!

Who Ensemble

Emily Ann Cleary (She/Her) is thrilled to make her CTC debut! She is a 7th grader at Anoka Middle School for the Arts. Some of her recent credits include *Annie* (Lakeshore Players Theatre) and *Sister Act* (Lundstrum Performing Arts). She is a passionate dancer at Lundstrum Performing Arts, and one day hopes to open her own dance studio. She would like to thank all her teachers and mentors for pushing her to become a better performer and person.

Who Ensemble

Fiona Kocaman (she/her) is thrilled to make her Children's Theatre Company debut! A 7th grader at Highland Park Middle School, Fiona trains in dance, voice, and acting at Lundstrum Performing Arts, where she has taken the stage in vocal and musical theater productions. She is excited for you to see the show!

CREATIVE TEAM AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Book and Lyrics

Timothy Mason's musical adaptation of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (music by Mel Marvin) has become a seasonal hit on Broadway and on tour. His plays have been produced in New York by Circle Rep (including *The Fiery Furnace* starring Julie Harris and *Babylon Gardens* with Mary-Louise Parker and Timothy Hutton). Other plays have been produced by the Actors Theatre of Louisville, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Victory Gardens, Portland Stage, Jungle Theater and the Guthrie Theater Lab. Mason had a long collaboration with A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, (*Ascension Day*, *The Less Than Human Club*, *Time On Fire*, *Mullen's Alley* and, in progress, *My Life In The Silents*). He won the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award, the W. Alton Jones Foundation Award, the Berilla Kerr Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Award and the National Society of Arts and Letters Award.

Music

Mel Marvin

(Composer) Broadway; *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Cymbeline*, *A History of the American Film*, *Tintypes* (Tony Award nomination), *Yentl*, *Fascinating Rhythm*. Innumerable scores for productions of plays, from Shakespeare (Lincoln Center Theater, Guthrie Theater, A.R.T., Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, McCarter, etc.) to Kushner (world premiere, *Angels in America*). Musicals for young audiences: *Little Miss Hollywood*, *Madeline's Rescue*, *Strega Nona Meets Her Match*, *Mr.*

Popper's Penguins, A Cricket in Times Square, Gold. Opera: Guest From the Future, premiered at Bard Summerscape in 2004, and Buwalsky, Holland's Opera Spanga, Yale, the Skirball Center NYC. New work: *Truth and Reconciliation*, O'Neill Theater Center and Opera America; *Perfec 36*, workshops in Nashville and NYC; In process: *Lives of the Artists*, an album; *The Invisible Drunk*, a musical with Rachel Sheinkin. Head Faculty Composer and Director of Production, Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU.

Director

Dean Holt† is a Twin-Cities based theatre artist and longtime member of CTC's Core Company (1994-present), appearing in countless productions over the past thirty years. Highlights include *Reeling, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Romeo and Juliet, Corduroy*, and *Cinderella*, among many others. He is inspired by CTC's quality of productions, the incredible artists and staff that he has been fortunate to collaborate with, and mostly the students that have brought joy and wonder to the rehearsal rooms and stages, allowing imagination and play to remain a central part of his life. Dean is the recipient of two Ivey Awards and the Alumni Achievement Award from St. John's University and is a proud member of AEA and SDC.

Music Director/Conductor

Jason Hansen is excited to return to CTC after conducting productions such as *Cinderella, Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches The Musical*, and *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* He has also worked as music director, composer, orchestrator, and/or performer on over 75 productions at theaters such as Guthrie Theater, Theater Latté Da, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Ten Thousand Things Theater, Stages Theatre Company, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, History Theatre, Artistry Theater, Illusion Theater, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and Northern Sky Theater. Jason is a 2026-27 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at Playwrights' Center.

Music Director/Conductor

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

Karla Grotting (she/her) is a dancer, choreographer, and educator working with a unique blend of dance styles. She has proudly performed with Flying Foot Forum, Combustible Company, Off-Leash Area, Jazzdance: by Danny Buraczeski, Keane Sense of Rhythm, and the MN Jazz Dance Co. She is on faculty at St. Olaf College. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes the history of jazz dance, tap dance, social dance forms, and improvisation; exploring the connections of these histories and their relationship to concert and theatre jazz dance. Karla has been a McKnight Dancer Fellow and City Pages' Artist of the Year.

Scenic Designer

Tom Butsch^ 1971 to 1985, Resident Scenic Designer at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres; productions at many other regional theaters. TV credits include Art Director for *Diff'rent Strokes* and *Silver Spoons*. As Senior Art Director for Disneyland Creative Entertainment from 1987 to 2011, he designed events, parades, film premieres, and shows, including *Fantasmic!* and *Snow White*.

Costume Designer

David Kay Mickelsen[^] has designed more than 450 productions at many theatres, including Guthrie Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ford's Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena and Laguna Playhouses, The Old Globe, Studio Arena Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and The Oregon, Utah, Colorado, and Illinois Shakespeare Festivals. He has a B.A. from Western Oregon University, and an M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts. Originally from Canby, Ore., David now makes his home in Palm Springs, Calif.

Lighting Designer

Nancy Schertler[^] has designed the Broadway productions of Bill Irwin's *Fool Moon* and *Largely New York* (Tony nomination). Nancy's CTC designs include productions of *The Jungle Book*, *The Hobbit*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Madeline and the Gypsies*, *Dr. Seuss's Seussical The Musical*, *Reeling*, and *Korczak's Children*. She has designed for regional theatres across the country, including the American Conservatory Theater, Arena Stage, Portland Center Stage, and Seattle Rep. World premiere opera productions include *Shadowboxer*, *Clara*, and *Later the Same Evening*, all commissioned by the University of Maryland Opera Studio.

Sound Designer

Sean Healey has designed numerous productions at Children's Theatre Company. Local theatres include Jungle Theater, Guthrie Theater, Open Eye Theatre, and Theater Latté Da. Regional theatres: The Old Globe, Dallas Theater Center, The New Victory Theater, Arizona Theatre Company, Seattle Children's Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Cornerstone, and ZACH Theater. B.F.A. CalArts, 1997.

Projection Designer

Craig Gottschalk is returning for his seventh time designing projections for this production. Craig's projection design credits include *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *The Wiz*, *Cinderella*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Babble Lab* (associate projection designer). Other CTC credits include lighting designs for *The Best Summer Ever*, *Corduroy*, and *Animal Dance*. Regional credits include *Jelly's Last Jam* (Theater Latté Da); *Mary Poppins* (Artistry Theater); *Blues in the Night*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Bombitty of Errors*, and *Route 66* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater).

Associate Director

Stacy McIntosh is in her 29th season at CTC, and is excited to be back in Who-ville. In addition to 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 Theater, Guthrie Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Illusion Theater, and History Theatre (Minneapolis), and Marin Theatre Company (San Francisco). Stacy is a proud recipient of the Minnesota Theater Award.

Assistant Choreographer

Angela Steele is thrilled to be back in Who-ville for another year! She has previously appeared at CTC in last year's *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Cinderella*. Other credits include *Grease*, *The Prom*, *Footloose*, *The Music Man*, and *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Theatre L'Homme Dieu); *Legally Blonde*; *Footloose*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Hairspray* (Artistry Theater); *Oliver!* (Theater Latté Da);

Orphan Train (History Theatre). She would like to thank her parents and her partner, Ryan. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Assistant Lighting Designer

Samantha Brown is excited to return to Children's Theatre Company! She has been involved with many productions around the Twin Cities, including being the lighting designer for SOAR Regional Arts' *Spongebob Jr.*, and the assistant lighting designer for Children's Theatre Company's *Go, Dog. Go!* • *Ve Perro ¡Ve!*

Stage Manager

Z Makila* (he/him & 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 such as Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Minnesota Orchestra, and as a teaching artist! zmakila.com

Assistant Stage Manager

Kenji Shoemaker* (he/they) is delighted to be back for his third trip to Who-ville, but first as Production Stage Manager. Other recent non-CTC credits include: American Players Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Ten Thousand Things Theater, and Stages Theatre Company, among others. When not at CTC, Kenji also works in various prop shops around town, was a 2024 Art in This Present Moment recipient artist, and has taught at Macalester College.

Assistant Stage Manager

Meghan Gaffney* is excited to be back at CTC! Her recent work includes *Twelve Kinds of Ice*, *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* (Children's Theatre Company), *Come From Away*, *The Nacirema Society* (Guthrie Theater), *Gutenberg! The Musical!*, *Yoko's Husband's Killer's Japanese Wife*, *Gloria* (Theater Latté Da), *Purple Rain* (State Theatre), and *Once* (The Hive Collaborative).

Stage Management Fellow

Jada B. Smith is a stage manager and theatre technician from Raleigh, N.C. Recent credits include *Come From Away* (ASM, Theatre Raleigh), *Once On This Island* (ASM/A2, Theatre Raleigh), and *Mad Libs Live!* (PSM, Raleigh Little Theatre). She holds a B.A. Stage Management and B.S. Broadcast Communication from Western Carolina University.

*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.

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:

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Based on the Book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason

Music by Mel Marvin

Music Direction by Jason Hansen and Victor Zupanc

Choreography by Karla Grotting

Directed by Dean Holt

A Children's Theatre Company Original Production

November 3, 2026-January 3, 2027

UnitedHealth Group Stage

Best for Ages 5 and Up!

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WHEN: November 3, 2026-January 3, 2027 (Opening Night is Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7pm)

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

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

RUNNING TIME: Two hours with one 20-minute intermission.

TICKETS: Starting at \$25 and available at childrenstheatre.org/grinch by calling the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400.

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