

# The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party



chicago  
children's  
theatre

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**JACQUELINE RUSSELL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

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**chicago  
children's  
theatre**

**The  
Beatrix Potter  
Holiday Tea Party**



Based on the stories by Beatrix Potter  
Created by Will Bishop, Lara Carling, Kay Kron,  
Grace Needman, and Ray Rehberg  
Directed by Will Bishop  
Co-Directed by Lara Carling  
Music Composed by Ray Rehberg and Charlie Malave  
Puppets Designed and Built by Grace Needman

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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Created by Will Bishop, Lara Carling, Kay Kron, Grace Needlman,  
and Ray Rehberg

Directed by Will Bishop

Co-Directed by Lara Carling

Music Composed by Ray Rehberg and Charlie Malave

Puppets Designed and Built by Grace Needlman

Production Coordinated by Anastar Alvarez

Costumes Designed by Johan Gallardo, based on original designs  
by Jillian Gryzlak

Lighting Designed by Becca Jeffords

Sound Designed by Daniel Etti-Williams

Assistant Sound Designed by Emily Hayman

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## CAST

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Performed by Felix Mayes, Charlie Malave, and Lily Emerson

Understudied by Josiah Robinson

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## CCT PRODUCTION STAFF

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Johan Gallardo  
Costumes Supervisor

Hannah Wien  
Lighting Supervisor

Chas Mathieu  
Scenic Supervisor

Maggie Meyer  
Assistant Lighting Supervisor

Matt Reich  
Sound Supervisor

Alanna Young  
Sound Board Operator

Spencer Meeks  
Assistant Sound Supervisor

Dare Wedgeworth  
Crew Cover

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## CAST

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**Charlie Malave** aka Charlie Universe aka Charlie Wednesday aka Charlie Business, is a musician, multi-instrumentalist, performing artist, and video maker whose body of work has produced an array of unique instruments, compositions, music videos, and theatrical productions. He is the guitarist and current Artistic Director for Mucca Pazza (a performance-art, marching band/rock band/orchestra), and half of the Creative Weirdo team which produces Adventure Sandwich (a cartoon-ish cardboard-based family show). As Charlie Wednesday, he is the bandleader and co-host of Mr. and Mrs. Wednesday-Night (a mostly-improvised fever dream of music and variety).



**Lily Emerson** is a multifaceted performer, producer, collaborator, and all-around creative weirdo. She recently performed at the Chicago Children's Theatre with Manual Cinema's Leonardo!, and has been honored to work with both CCT and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a part of the Once Upon a Symphony program. Lily is the co-creator of Adventure Sandwich, a Chicago-based family-friendly performance collective. Previously, she served as the Artistic Director of Opera-Matic NFP and as founder of Lucid Street Theatre. Lily has performed throughout the US, the UK, Belarus, the Czech Republic, and France, and has been recognized

with various awards and residencies, including Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Individual Artists Program, the Lisa Dershin LinkUP Residency, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum's Artist in Residence, and the Chicago Digital Media Production Fund. More information about Lily can be found at [creative-weirdo.com](http://creative-weirdo.com).



**Felix Mayes** is so excited to share these stories with you. They are from the East Coast where they worked in classical theater. Here in Chicago they've worked with companies like Rough House and Manual Cinema, exploring their love of puppetry.



**Josiah Robinson** (Understudy) is an actor, musician, and audio producer. When he's not onstage you can often find him behind a microphone working on music, podcasts, audiobooks, and voiceover roles. Recent credits include Loudmouth in Lost Highway (Timber Lake Playhouse), the swing in Hundred Days (Kokandy Productions), and Jimmy Ray in Bright Star (BoHo Theatre). Check out his website [josiahrobinson.biz](http://josiahrobinson.biz) for his other projects. He would like to thank his parents and his partner Charlie for all their love and support.



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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**Will Bishop** (Creator, Director, he/him/his) is Chicago Children's Theatre's Director of Production. He is the director and a co-creator of *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party*, which has played as CCT's holiday tradition for the past seven years, has toured to dozens of schools and libraries around Chicago, played in the Ninth Annual China Children's Theatre Festival, in Beijing and Jinan, and has been adapted into a hybrid film/live drive-in movie experience during the pandemic. He has also designed scenery, props, costumes and/or puppets for *Frederick* (with Michael Shannon), *Doll Face Has a Party!* (with Brian Selznick), *The Relocation of Nokwsi*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, *The World Inside Me* (Chicago, Miami, and New Victory Theatre, NYC), *X Marks the Spot!* (Chicago and Sarasota FL), *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*, *Red Kite Green Mountain* (Flynn Center, Burlington VT) and numerous collaborations with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has overseen the production of all of CCT's shows since he started with the company in 2016. When not making theatre, he's a TTRPG GM, an avid vegan cook, baker, and brewer, and spends too much time with his pets, Fawkes the dog and Goblin the cat.



**Grace Needlman** (Creator, Puppet Designer and Builder, they/she) is a cultural worker and maker preoccupied with questions of collective imagination and agency. Grace's puppet designs have appeared in theatrical productions across Chicago. As a company member at Rough House and Chicago Puppet Lab Coordinator, Grace works to create equitable pathways for puppeteers in Chicago. Grace is also the Manager of Studio Programs at Marwen, supporting artists and youth in building inspiring learning communities through art. Grace graduated with a BA in fine art from Yale University and an MA in Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths University of London.



**Lara Carling** (Creator, Co-Director) has performed and taught with Chicago Children's Theatre for several years. She appeared in previous productions of *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, and numerous Red Kite shows. She is delighted to have stepped into a co-directing role this year.



**Kay Kron** (Creator) is a theatre maker and teaching artist with a special place in her heart for puppets. She was a performer in CCT's annual show *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party* and toured across Chicago and in 2019, to China. Previous to CCT, she spent several years as a professional actor with credits at The House, Lookingglass, Haven, First Floor, Caffeine, Rough House, and Redmoon. Her written work includes *The Stranger and The Shadow* (co-production Rough House and Adventure Stage Chicago); *Constance and the Perpetual Motion Machine* (co-author; Rough House); *Dis-Placement*, *Winter Pageant*, and *Devil's Cabaret* (various lyrics, narration, and dialog, Redmoon); and a handful of poetry chap books. She holds a BFA in Acting and a Masters of Nonprofit Management from DePaul University.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**Ray Rehberg** (Creator, Composer) is so proud that this little show has become an 8 year tradition! Onstage CCT credits include Frederick, The Year I Didn't Go to School, and Frog and Toad - and as composer: My Wonderful Birthday Suit. Chicago credits include the Jeff-nominated Verboten (Jason's Dad) at the House, workshops of Lucy and Charlie's Honeymoon with Steppenwolf (Gabriel) and Lookingglass (Martin), and Tybalt in various productions of Romeo and Juliet. Ray is currently pursuing his on-camera career in Los Angeles.



**Anastar Alvarez** (Stage Manager, they/them) is a self and community taught stage and production manager born and raised in Chicago. They are thrilled to be returning back to CCT and Beatrix Potter! Other stage management credits include Red Bowl at the Jeffs (The Sound), Meet Juan(ito) Doe, The Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de las Rosas (Free Street Theatre), Wake Up! Brother Bear, This Ability!, Carmela Full of Wishes (Chicago Children's Theatre), Refrigerator, I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard, Sugar in Our Wounds,

Vape Naysh, House of Audacity (First Floor Theater), The Fly Honey Show at Thalia Hall, and The Wizards (Concrete Content). They are also the Director of Production for First Floor Theater. They are committed to creating an equitable, safe, and inviting collaboration space.



**Daniel Etti-Williams** (Sound Designer) i[They/he] (Sound Designer) is an up-and-coming Sound Designer and Engineer local to Chicago. After Studying Acting at Oklahoma City University, they moved to Chicago to participate in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Apprenticeship Program. Since then, they have had the opportunity to work all over Chicago making theatre and telling stories and expressing their passion through design.

Chicago design credits include Run The Beast Down (Stawdog Theatre Company); Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins (Stawdog Theatre Company); Beatrix Potter's Holiday Tea Party (Chicago Children's Theatre); Haus of Atrous (Mudlark Theater); Peerless (Northwestern University Graduate Directing Program); On The Greenbelt (Stawdog Theatre Company); At The Vanishing Point (The Gift Theatre); Paris (Steeep Theatre); Light Falls (Steeep Theatre); Private Lives (Raven Theatre); The Island (Court Theatre)



**Johan H Gallardo** (Costume Designer/ Illustrator) is excited to join CCT and THE BEATRIX POTTER TEA PARTY as Costume Supervisor for their 22/23 season. Chicago design credits include THE WHISTLEBLOWER at Theatre Wit, LAST HERMANOS at A Red Orchid Theatre, and TOMMY ON TOP at PrideArts. Associate design credits include TROUBLE IN TIME at Timeline Theatre and DREAM KING at Teatro Vista. Assistant design credits include CHLORINE SKY, KING JAMES, SEAGULL, NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER, THE BROTHER SIZE at Steppenwolf Theatre and A RAISIN IN THE SUN at American Players Theatre. Visit [JohanHGallardo.com](http://JohanHGallardo.com).

**Becca Jeffords** (Lighting Designer) is a Chicago based lighting designer, artist and storyteller. She is thrilled to be joining Mx Potter's tea party again. The winter holidays somehow didn't seem quite so cozy without this particular tradition. To find out more about Becca's work visit [www.beccajeffords.com](http://www.beccajeffords.com)

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**Jacqueline Russell** (Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Chicago Children’s Theatre) served as the previous Executive Director of Lookingglass Theatre Company, during which time she led the company’s build and move into Lookingglass’ current performance space in the Water Tower Water Works. Before joining Lookingglass, she spent five years as creator of Children’s Programs at Old Town School of Folk Music. In addition to leading CCT’s new play development, main stage, and education programs, Russell is

the creator of the Red Kite Project, a CCT program dedicated to bringing theatre into the lives of children with special needs. In 2010, she was appointed by the U.S. State Department to serve as Cultural Envoy to Canada, was honored with the 2013 “Hero of the Year Award” from the Chicago chapter of Autism Speaks, and was recently honored as one of 20 women who have shaped arts and culture in Chicago on the Kerry James Marshall mural at the Chicago Culture Center. She was named “Tastemaker” by Time Out Chicago Kids, and has three times been highlighted in New City’s “Players” list of “People Who Really Perform for Chicago.” Jacqueline is originally from Houston, Texas, and is a graduate of New York University. Her daughter, Shiri Nicole, attends the University of Chicago.

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## CHICAGO CHILDREN'S THEATRE

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Since its launch, Chicago Children’s Theatre has served more than half-a-million children and families with productions of the highest caliber and innovative classes and camps, including groundbreaking programming for children on the autism spectrum and young people with disabilities. We believe, and statistics support, that exposure to high quality arts experiences increase a child’s capacity for empathy, ultimately cultivating a more inclusive community.

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A black circle containing the text "chicago children's theatre" in a white, lowercase, serif font.

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# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF PLAY

A photograph of two young girls in the foreground, both wearing face masks. The girl on the left has a dark red mask and is looking towards the right. The girl on the right has a colorful, abstract patterned mask and is looking upwards and to the right. In the background, other audience members are visible, some also wearing masks. The lighting is dim, suggesting a theater setting.

CLASSES | CPS SCHOOL'S OUT DAY CAMP  
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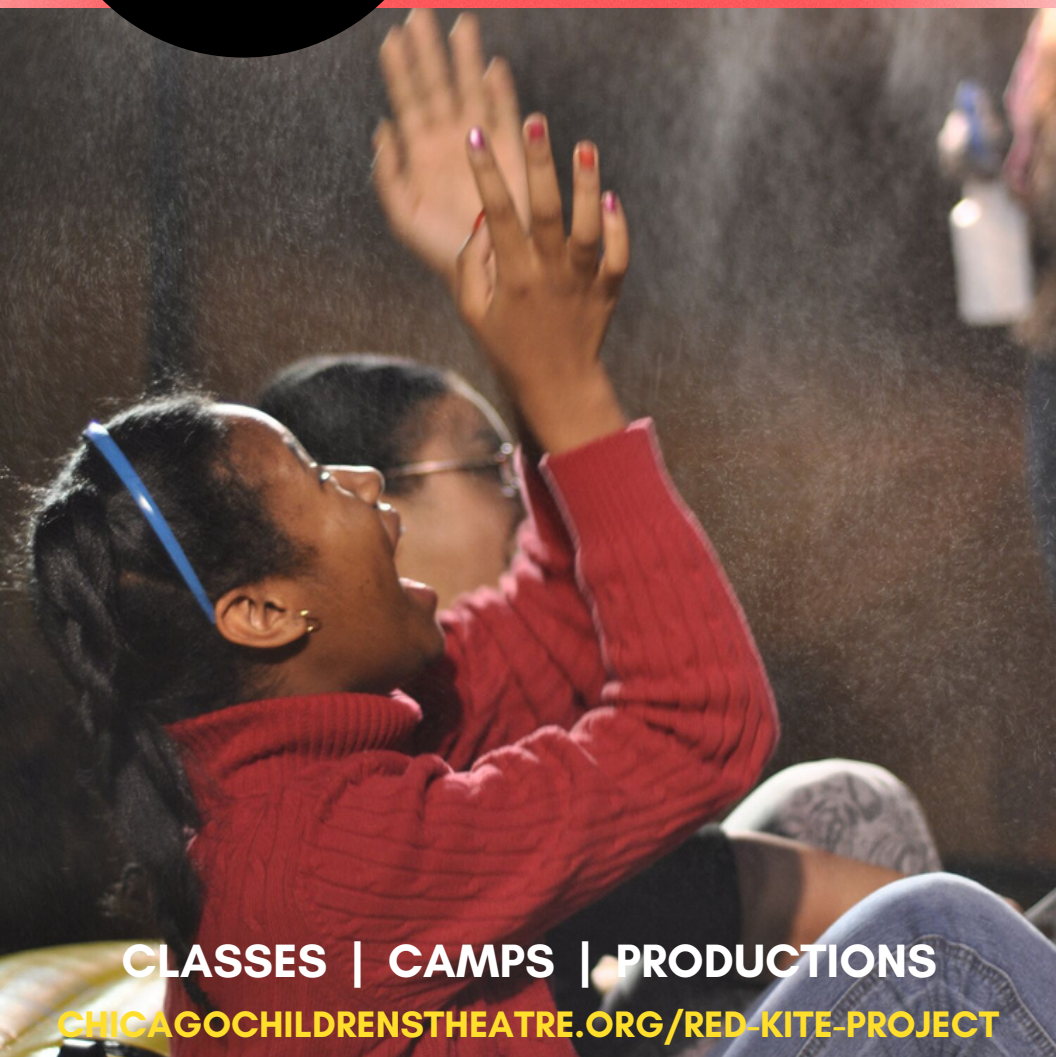
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# THE RED KITE PROJECT

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN ON THE  
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The Red Kite Project is presented by  
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# Beatrix Potter Fun Facts & Discussion Topics

Beatrix Potter based her characters on animals she kept as pets. The “real” Peter was a rabbit named Peter Piper. Beatrix Potter loved her pet rabbit Peter, and he went everywhere with her for nine years. She even took Peter for walks on a leash! In her schoolroom at home she had rabbits, hedgehogs, frogs, mice, and even a bat! **What’s your favorite animal?**

Beatrix Potter originally wrote "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" as an illustrated letter to her friend’s son Noel, who was ill at the time, and needed some cheering up! It had lots of pictures of rabbits. **What’s your favorite thing to draw?**

Beatrix Potter published her first book, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," all on her own when she was 36 years old. **What’s your favorite book?**

Beatrix Potter was an artist and a scientist, drawing and studying the world around her. She wrote a scientific paper on fungi (mushrooms), proposing her own theory on how they reproduce, which was presented on her behalf at the Linnean Society, which at the time did not allow women at their meetings. Mushrooms are delicious. **What’s your favorite food?**

In 1903, Potter designed and created the very first Peter Rabbit doll. She sewed the doll using cotton fabric and used brush bristles for whiskers. **Do you like to make things?**

In the show you are about to see, Ray Rehberg, our composer, plays 3 instruments. **Do you play an instrument? If not, what would you like to play?**

When Beatrix Potter was a little girl, games like jump rope, marbles, yo-yos, follow the leader, and tug of war were popular. **Do you have a favorite game or sport you like to play?**

Beatrix Potter was an award-winning sheep farmer and in 1943 was the first woman elected President of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders’ Association. A sheep could be a nice pet. **What kind of pet would you like if you could have any creature, real or imaginary?**



# Jokes!

**What kind of books do rabbits like to read?** Stories with hoppy endings!

**What do you get when you cross a frog and a bunny?** A ribbit!

**What kind of music do bunnies like?** Hip Hop!

**What do you call a rabbit who tells jokes?** A funny bunny!

**How do you know carrots are good for your eyes?** Because you never see rabbits wearing glasses!





# chicago children's theatre

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## STAFF

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### **Jacqueline Russell**

Artistic Director

### **Will Bishop**

Director of Production

### **Ben Kaye**

Guest Services Manager

### **Matt Merrill**

Director of Development

### **Andrew Chien**

Theatre Manager

### **Ben Koucherik**

General Manager

### **Sivan Spector**

Education and  
Community Programs  
Manager

### **Meagan Dilworth**

Education and  
School Partnerships  
Manager

### **Sam Mauceri**

Director of Education  
and Access Programs

### **Jay Kelly**

Public Relations Consultant

### **Sophia Medawar**

Development Associate

### **Stephanie Muñoz**

Marketing  
Apprentice

### **Maria Clara Ospina**

Artistic and Production  
Apprentice

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## BEATRIX POTTER BOX OFFICE

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**Andrew Chien**

**Ben Kaye**

**Obi Ehn**

**Stephanie Muñoz**

**Jeff Gougis**

**Natalie Schlueter**

# chicago children's theatre

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## FOUNDERS

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**Jacqueline Russell**

Co-Founder & Artistic Director

**Todd Leland**

Co-Founder & Board Chair

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## BOARD OFFICERS

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**Armando Chacon**

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**David Saltiel**

Vice-Chair

**Jack Lavin**

Vice-Chair

**Anne Ray**

Secretary

**Ariel Knowles**

Treasurer

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## BOARD MEMBERS

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**Sharone Ley**

**David Chung**

**Mark Melendes**

**Brian Crouch**

**Eric Neveux**

**Deborah Decker**

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