



chicago
children's
theatre



MALO

IMAGINES THE WORLD



ARTWORK © 2021 BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

JACQUELINE RUSSELL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Book **Terry Guest**

Music **Christian Magby**

Lyrics **Christian Albright**

From the book by **Matt de la Peña**

Illustrated by **Christian Robinson**

Published by **G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers**

Director **Mikael Burke*****

Choreographer **Breon Arzell*****

Music Director & Sound Design **Christie Chiles Twillie**

Orchestrations **Christian Magby & Devante Singletary**

Scenic & Props Design **Eleanor Kahn****

Costume Design **Izumi Inaba****

Lighting Design **Eric Watkins****

Casting Director **Catherine Miller**



* Denotes member of Actors' Equity - Professional Union for Actors and Stage Managers

** Denotes member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE

*** Denotes member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society



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PHOTO OF IAN THIGPEN BY AMY NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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YEARS**

**Thank you to the Joyce Foundation
for making this production possible!**

**Milo Imagines the World is Co-commissioned by
Chicago Children's Theatre, Children's Theatre
Company of Minneapolis and The Rose Theatre**

SONG LIST

- 1.** Plainsville [Ensemble]
- 2.** Another Sunday [Milo, Adrienne & Ensemble]
- 3.** With My Mind [Milo & Ensemble]
- 4.** How I Lost My Bird Debbie Downer [Jim]
- 5.** Anything's Better Than This [Milo & Adrienne]
- 6.** My Expression (Get Up, Get Out) [Breakdancer, Milo & Ensemble]
- 7.** This Boy's A King [Milo, Kevin & Ensemble]
- 8.** Reflection [Milo & Ensemble]
- 9.** Runnin [Milo, Adrienne & Ensemble]
- 10.** At the Station [Milo & Adrienne]
- 11.** Reflection: Reprise [Milo & Adrienne]
- 12.** Another Sunday: Reprise [Milo, Adrienne & Ensemble]

CAST

Milo Ian Thigpen

Adrienne Livia Robin*

Mom/Ensemble Bri Buckley*

Ensemble De'Jah Jervai

Ensemble Juwon Tyrel Perry*

Ensemble Jake Ziman

UNDERSTUDIES

Milo Swing Rohan Rhys Degala

Adrienne/Ensemble Understudy Diana Marilyn Alvarez

Ensemble Understudy Dasean Brown

Ensemble Understudy August Forman

Mom/ Ensemble Understudy Kendal Wilson



*Denotes member of Actor's Equity-Professional Union for Actors and Stage Managers

STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Production Stage Manager **Harper Crewse***

Production Stage Manager (Rehearsal) **Shannon Golden***

Assistant Stage Manager **Alivia Arizaga***

Assistant Stage Manager **Casey Fort**

Assistant Stage Manager Cover **Dare Wedgeworth**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Music Director **Wes Dziedzic**

Associate Costume Designer **Jeanette Rodriguez**

Young Performer Supervisor **Jack Chylinski**

Young Performer Asst. Supervisor **Casey Fort**

PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES PROVIDED BY SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB



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CCT PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production **Will Bishop**

Production Supervisor **Spencer Meeks**

Scenic Supervisor **Chas Mathieu**

Scenic Construction **Lookingglass Theatre Scenic**

Costume Supervisor **Janelle Manno**

Assistant Costume Supervisor **Janelle Smith**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Rachel Katz**

Crafts Artisan **Madeline Felauer**

Costume Technicians **Alicia Carbajal, Madeline Felauer,**

Erinn Grendahl, Annika Halonen, Katrina Smith

Hair Design **Ray Sanchez**

Lighting Supervisor **Nick Chamernik**

Assistant Lighting Supervisor/Board Op **Brenden Marble**

Co-Sound Supervisor **Forrest Gregor**

Co-Sound Supervisor/A1 **Matt Reich**

Assistant Sound Supervisor / A2 **Hannah Kwak**

CAST



Ian Thigpen (Milo) is an Atlanta-based singer and actor. He is thrilled to be returning to Chicago for this world premiere of *Milo Imagines the World*. Some recent credits include Jennie T. Anderson Theatre: *John & Jen* (Young John); *Caroline, Or Change* (Joe Thibodeaux); *The Secret Garden* (Ensemble). You can also catch him in the animated film *Big Bruh* on Tubi, and in the short film *Colored Tags*, most recently showing in the Atlanta Bronze Lens festival.

He enjoys reading, traveling, and playing video games with his brother and friends. Ian is grateful to his family, teachers, and the staff at Chicago Children's Theatre for their support and for making this possible!



Livia Robin* (She/Her, Adrienne) is an accomplished actress whose dedication to her craft shines through in every performance. Her most recent credits include portraying Sarah's friend and understudying Sarah in the production of *Ragtime*. From a young age, Livia's passion for theatre was nurtured through extensive vocal and acting training. Her journey began at the Toledo School for the Arts in Ohio, where she honed her skills and deepened her love for the stage. She continued her education at Chicago College of Performing Arts, before

completing her BFA in Musical Theatre at Columbia College Chicago. Livia is grateful to Chicago Children's Theatre for providing her with such an opportunity and is especially thankful to her family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout her career.



Brianna Buckley* (She/They, Mom and Ensemble) ecstatically makes her Chicago Children's Theatre debut. She is a teaching artist and performer who prides herself on new works. Past performances include: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Goodman Theatre), *Clyde's* (Denver Center Performing Arts), *The Ripple, the wave that carried me home* (Goodman co/ Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Cullud Wattah* (Victory Gardens Theater), *At the Wedding* (TheatreSquared) among many others. Television credits: *The Chi* (ShowTime) and *Night Sky* (Amazon Prime). Represented by Gray Talent Group. SAG.



De'Jah Jerrai (She/Her, Ensemble) De'Jah Jervai is a multidisciplinary performer and teaching artist from Chicago. Recent regional credits include: *The Salon* (Black Ensemble Theatre), *The Wiz* (Children's Theatre of Madison), *The Real Housewives of Motown* (Black Ensemble Theatre), *Kinky Boots* (Paramount Theatre), and *Manic Pixie Dream Girls Aren't Black* (American Musical Theatre Project). De'Jah is a proud alumna of theater programs at ChiArts, Columbia College Chicago, and The National YoungArts Foundation. She is a faculty member teaching youth voice and theater at the Old Town School of Folk Music. She completed her apprenticeship in Theater Education at CTC and is thrilled to return to perform! De'Jah is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent in Chicago. Visit her on social media @dejah_onstage.



Juwon Tyrel Perry* (He/Him, Ensemble) is a dynamic and versatile multidisciplinary with a passion for storytelling through various mediums. His southern roots make way for a range of musical influences that help him blend gospel, blues, rock, and jazz with the perfect splash of theatricality into one individual sound that is so uniquely him. Juwon has left an indelible mark numerous renowned theaters across the country including the Tony Award -winning Court Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Paramount Theatre, North Carolina Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Writers Theatre and many more. Instagram: @juwontyrelperry. Jeremiah 29:11.



Jake Ziman (He/Him, Ensemble) is thrilled to make his CCT Debut with this heartwarming show. Some Chicago credits include Paramount's *Next To Normal* (Gabe), Uptown Music Theatre's *Les Miserables* (Marius), and Mercury Theatre's *Big River*. You can see him in the film, *Albany Road*, coming to theaters on November 15th. @jake_ziman.

UNDERSTUDIES



Rohan Rhys Degala (They/Them, Milo Swing) is excited to make their Chicago Children's Theatre debut in the world premiere of *Milo Imagines the World*. Their recent performances include *Carousel* (Music Theater Works), *Ragtime* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), and *Little Red Robin Hood* (Metropolis School). Rohan continues to develop their craft at the Metropolis School of Performing Arts and Actors Training Center. Outside of theater, they enjoy cosplay, gaming, *Dungeons and Dragons*, and volunteering with local nonprofits. Rohan is deeply grateful to their agent at Talent X Alexander, Christine Greer at Voice Life Studios, and their family for their unwavering support. Instagram: @RohanRhys1.



Diana Marilyn Alvarez (She/They, Adrienne Ensemble Understudy) is delighted to be making her Chicago Children's Theatre debut! She is a proud New Jersey native and recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago's Musical Theatre program. Chicago credits include: *The Brass Teapot* (Steppenwolf LookOut Series/Kokandy Productions), *That's What She Sang*, *Disney Deep Dive*, *Bright Lights*, *Big City* (The Beautiful City Project), and *CAVA* (TV/Social Commercial). Up next: *New Faces Sing Broadway Now* with Porchlight Music Theatre! Diana is so grateful to share *Milo Imagines the World* with such talented artists on stage and lovely audiences in the house. She would like to extend a special thank you to her sweet boyfriend Callan, her wonderful family and friends, and her rockstar team at DDO Artists Agency for their endless love and support! @dianamarilynvalvarez / dianamarilynvalvarez.com.



Dasean Brown (They/He, Ensemble Understudy) is absolutely excited to be working with Chicago Children's Theatre ! He's been singing and performing for as long as he can remember back in Texas before moving to Chicago to pursue his passion. Some recent credits include *The Time Machine: A Tribute to the 80's* (Black Ensemble Theater), *Hit The Wall* (New Wave Theatre Company), And *Spunk!* (Chicago College of Performing Arts). They would like to thank their family (Blood and Chosen) for endless love and support and for the opportunity to create beautiful art. Instagram: @itsdaseanbrown.



August Forman (He/Him, Ensemble Understudy) is an actor, playwright, and educator based in Chicago. Theatrical Credits Include: Rachel Bloom: *Death Let me do My Show* (Steppenwolf); *Romeo and Juliet* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Into the Woods* (Kokandy); *Hand to God*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Paramount Theatre); *Grease* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Victory Gardens Theater and TheatreSquared); *Light Falls* (Steep Theatre); *Rutherford and Sons* (TimeLine Theatre); *Elizabeth Rex and The Fair Maid of the West* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Plot Points* and *A Kind of Weather* (Diversionary Theatre); *Once Upon a Mattress* (Theo Ubiq); *Twelfth Night* (Midsommer Flight); *The Lady Demands Satisfaction* (Babes with Blades); and *Girl in the Red Corner* (Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Supporting Actor - Broken Nose Theatre). Voice Over Credits Include: *The Owl House* (Disney). August is represented by Gray Talent Group.



Kendal Wilson (She/Her, Mom/Ensemble Understudy) is a recent graduate from Columbia College Chicago this past spring, with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre Performance. Most recently she has been seen in Shattered Globe Theatre's production of *London Road* as Terry, directed by Elizabeth Margolious, which wrapped on June 11th of 2023. Originally from the state of Ohio, she is glad to be welcomed into the Chicago theater scene and is excited to be working with the Chicago Children's Theatre.

CREATIVE TEAM



Terry Guest (He/Him, Book) is a 3 time Jeff Award winning playwright, actor, director and teaching artist. His play *The Magnolia Ballet* had its National New Play Network (NNPN) rolling world premiere in 2022 and has since gone on to win two Jeff Awards, the NNPN Best New American Play Award, and was featured on NPR. Terry went on to direct his play *Marie Antionette and the Magical Negroes* at the Story theater which won three Jeff Awards (including Best Director and Best New Play for Terry). Other works include: *At The Wake of a Dead Drag Queen*, *OAK*, *Nightbirds* (Goodman New Stages Residency), and *A Ghost in Satin* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). As an actor Terry has worked at regional theaters

including Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Alliance Theatre, About Face Theatre and Actors Express. He is a Governing Ensemble member at The Story Theatre, a Hermitage Fellow and a teaching artist at Jackalope, Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre and Chicago Children's Theatre.



Christian Magby (He/Him, Music) is excited to premiere this piece here at Chicago Children's Theatre. Other credits as a composer include his musicals *Mother of God* and *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* (Alliance Theatre) which both received world premieres in 2022. He recently had a principal role in Danny Strong's Berkeley Rep production of *Galileo*. Recent theatre credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (City Springs Theatre), *Christmas in Connecticut* (Pioneer Theater Company) and *Passing Strange* (Theatrical Outfit). He also worked as an actor/music director: Alliance Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Horizon Theatre Company, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, ZACH Theatre, among others. Film/TV credits include the Oscar

nominated feature *One Night in Miami*, two seasons on CW's *The Flash* and a recurring on CW's *Legacies*. Proud alum of SCAD and the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. "To God be the Glory" IG: @christianmagby.



Christian Albright (He/Him Lyrics) Is thrilled to be working with the Chicago Children's Theatre on *Milo Imagines the World*. It was an enormously fun experience and it was such a joy to share the room with other talented artist and creative minds. He is grateful to be working on another production with his creative partner and best friend Christian Magby.

Credits include, Lyricist for the *Incredible Book Eating Boy* (Alliance Theatre.) Co-Lyricist for *Into the Burrow* (Alliance Theatre.) Book-writer and Co-Lyricist for *Mother of God* the musical (Southwest Performing Arts Center.) Lyricist for the Seattle Film Festival Selectee, *The BoomBox Saints*.

Christian continues to write songs for numerous artist throughout Atlanta and for theatres across the country as well as develop musicals and screenplays with other literary professionals. Christian is very thankful for the support from his family and friends, and dedicates everything he does to his late mother, his inspiration and light, Rory Johnson. IG: @christianjalbright.



Matt de la Peña (Book Author) is the New York Times Bestselling, Newbery Medal-winning author of seven young adult novels (including *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here*, and *Superman: Dawnbreaker*) and six picture books (including *Milo Imagines the World* and *Last Stop on Market Street*). In 2016 he was awarded the NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award. Matt received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific where he attended school on a full basketball scholarship. In 2019 Matt was given an honorary doctorate from UOP. de la Peña currently lives in Southern California. He teaches creative writing and visits schools and colleges throughout the country.



Christian Robinson (Book Illustrator) is passionate about telling stories with pictures. Born in Hollywood, California in 1986, he grew up in a small one-bedroom apartment with his brother, two cousins, aunt, and grandmother. Drawing became a way to make space for himself in a world crowded with loving others. "We didn't have a lot growing up, but I at least always had a pencil, paper. I couldn't control the circumstances around me, but I could at least, you know, decide what I wanted on that piece of paper, what sort of world I wanted to create."



Mikael Burke (He/Him, Director) is a Chicago-based director, deviser, and educator. A Princess Grace Award-winner in Theatre and Jeff Award-winning director, his recent credits include: *King James* by Rajiv Joseph (Forward Theatre); *Oak* by Terry Guest (Urbanite Theatre, World Premiere); *Othello* by William Shakespeare (Theatreworks Colorado Springs); *Short Shakes! Romeo & Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Notes from the Field* by Anna Deveare Smith (TimeLine Theatre, Chicago Premiere); *The Salvagers* by Harrison David Rivers (Yale Repertory Theatre, World Premiere); *Tambo & Bones* by Dave Harris (Refracted Theatre Company, Chicago Premiere, winner of 8 Jeff Awards); *Blues from an Alabama Sky*

by Pearl Cleage (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company); *The Magnolia Ballet* by Terry Guest (About Face Theatre, Chicago Premiere, winner of 2 Jeff Awards); *Clyde's* by Lynn Nottage (Theaterworks Hartford). Mikael is also an adjunct faculty member at DePaul University and Roosevelt University. MFA, The Theatre School at DePaul University | mklburke.com



Breon Arzell (He/Him, Choreographer) is a dedicated teaching artist from Detroit, specializing in hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, lyrical and body percussion, and serves as mentor to several universities, studios and theaters. Chicago: *Dance Like Black People are Watching*, *Black by Popular Demand* (Second City), *How Blood Go* (Congo Square Theatre), *Kill Move Paradise** (TimeLine Theatre), *American Psycho**, *The Wiz & Head Over Heels** (Kokandy Productions), *The Total Bent** (Haven Theatre), *Marie Christine*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *The Hairy Ape** and more. Regional: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Indiana Rep), *Dreamgirls* (Goodspeed Musicals & McCarter Theatre) *RENT* & *The Color Purple* (MUNY), *FELA!* & *Miss You Like*

Hell (Olney Theatre), *Once on This Island* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Acoustic Rooster* (Kennedy Center). TV: *South Side*, *The 4400*. Listed among the '50 Players for Chicago' (2018, 2020, 2023), and recipient of 7 Jeff Awards*. @breonarzell // www.breonarzell.com



Christie Chiles Twillie (She/Her, Music Director/Sound Designer) is a Pianist, Music Director, Sound Designer, Composer/Orchestrator. Among the 40+ musicals she has Music Directed are: *HAIR* (Asolo), *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Newsies*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *Raisin*, *A Jolly Holliday* (Skylight), *Dreamgirls* (Paramount, Goodspeed, McCarter), the Chicago premier of *Minnie's Boys* (Porchlight), *Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into The Woods* (Devonshire), *Jelly's Last Jam* (Cape Fear) and the upcoming productions of *Manic Pixie Dream Girls Aren't Black* (AMTP), *A Year with Frog & Toad* with Chicago Children's Theatre and *The Color Purple* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival).. Christie's Sound Designs and original

compositions have been heard in CCT, FirstStage Milwaukee and Seattle Children's Theatre (*Carmella Full of Wishes*), Timeline (*Notes from the Field*), GEVA (*We Are Continuous; Vietgone*), TheatreWorks Hartford (*Clyde's*), Northlight (*Fireflies*), Forward Theatre (*Niceties*), UArts (*Shapeshifters*). Christie was awarded a Footlights Best Musical Direction Award - Professional Production (*Five Guys Named Moe*), a Rachel Rockwell Fierce Women Behind The Table award for Music Direction by Porchlight Music Theatre, a BTAA nomination for Best Music Direction for her Original Score for *Yellowman*, and she was a Chicago Broadway World Finalist for Best Music Direction (*Big Fish*). Christie is a member of the American Federation of Musicians; Theatre Musicians Association; MUSE (Musicians United for Social Equity), RISE and she is a Board Member for MAESTRA. www.christiechilestwillie.com



Eleanor Kahn (Scenic and Props Designer) is an interdisciplinary artist with a focus in scenic and installation design. Career highlights include: scenic design for *Iron & Wine* on the national Outside Problems tour; creative director + designer for an immersive lobby activation at the Harris Theater; designer for multiple activations throughout Millennium Park; and scenic and/or details designer for an extensive number of theatrical productions, including international work. Eleanor has an MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University. Her full portfolio can be viewed at www.eleanorkahn.com. Kahn is a proud member of USA 829



Izumi Inaba (She/Her, Costume Designer) is delighted to be back at Chicago Children's Theatre. Previous credits include *Last Stop On Market Street*, *Frederick*, and *The Watsons Go To Birmingham*. Recent credits include *Constellations* (American Players Theatre), *The Full Monty* (Paramount Theatre), *Noises Off* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), and *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (Denver Center Performing Arts). Izumi is a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, and represented by Gersh Agency.



Eric Watkins (He/Him, Lighting Designer) has been lighting shows in Chicago for a decade, and has worked with theatres such as: Raven, Timeline, Chicago Shakespeare, Steep, Rivendell, Remy Bumppo, About Face, First Floor, Definition, Northlight, The Gift, Jackalope, and Lifeline among many others. Recent highlights include *Tambo and Bones* at Refracted Theatre Company (Jeff Award for best lighting) and *Dial M For Murder* at Northlight. Outside Chicago, Eric lights regional theatre and grand opera at institutions like: Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Arizona Opera, Indiana Rep, Theatreworks Hartford, Theatreworks Colorado Springs, Lithuanian National Opera, and Phoenix Theatre just to name a

few. Upcoming projects include *La Boheme* at Opera San Jose, and *Barber of Seville* at Minnesota Opera. He received his MFA from Boston University and is a proud member of USA 829 - the theatrical design union. ericwatkinsdesign.com



Jeanette Rodriguez (Assistant Costume Design) Chicago: *The Thanksgiving Play*, *POTUS* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Antigone*, *Gospel at Colonus* (Court Theatre); *Port of Entry* (Albany Park Theater Project); *Verböten*, *The Nutcracker* (The House Theatre of Chicago).



Wes Dziedzic (Assistant Music Director) is a versatile pianist and vocalist with experience in both the jazz and classical worlds. Hailing from the Chicago area, he is an adaptable artist, performer and educator. Wes earned a degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas, where he performed in nationally recognized ensembles such as the One O'Clock Lab Band and the UNT Jazz Singers. Since relocating back to Chicago in 2021, Wes has performed with highly regarded local jazz artists such as Katie Ernst and Matt Ulery at prestigious local venues like the Green Mill and the Whistler. In addition, Wes is a collaborative pianist for Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly known as Chicago Children's Choir). Wes is also

a capable theatre musician, serving as Associate Music Director for *Dreamgirls* at Goodspeed Opera House (2023) and McCarter Theater Center in, as well as playing Keyboard 2 in the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival production of *Color Purple* (2024). As a uniquely multifaceted musician, Wes's ultimate goal is to use his talents to serve the music - and his community - to the best of his ability.

STAGE MANAGEMENT



Shannon Golden (They/Them, Stage Manager) is thrilled to be returning to Chicago Children's Theatre where they have previously worked on *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Mesmerized*, *Frederick*, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*. Other stage management credits include: *Lord of the Rings A Musical Tale*, *The Hero Within*, *Measure for Measure*, *I Banquo*, *Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors*, *Q Brothers Christmas Carol*, *Fight Night*, *Shakespeare in the Parks A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Frankenstein*, *Act(s) of God*, *Plantation!*, *Hard Times*, *Moby Dick*, *Thaddeus and Slocuum: A Vaudeville Adventure* (Lookingglass Theatre Company); *The King of the Yees*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Carlyle*, *Soups Stews and Casseroles: 1976*, *Feathers and Teeth* (Goodman Theatre); *The Mutilated*, *Simpatico* (A Red Orchid Theatre). All the love to Mac and Ravioli!



Harper Crewse (Any pronoun, Assistant Stage Manager) is happy to return to CCT, where they have previously worked on *Mesmerized* and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Other theatre credits include Writers Theatre (*The Band's Visit*, *Monsieur Chopin*, *Once*, *Into the Woods*), Teatro Vista (*La Havana Madrid*), Mercury Theatre (*MotherFreakingHood!*), Lookingglass (*Alice*), Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*Emma*), and Collaboraction (*Trial In The Delta*). Harper is the resident stage manager at the Actor's Gym. Outside of theatre, they stage manage for ballet, working with Madison Ballet, Barrington Dance Ensemble, and Joffrey Ballet; work on the production management team for the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra; and support other events such as the Printers Row Literary Festival and Lollapalooza. Harper is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and holds a BFA from DePaul University. All the love to my family and my cats Poppy and Georgie.



Alivia Arizaga (She/Her, Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working with Chicago Children's Theater. She is a stage manager from Houston that is fueled by a passion for creativity, storytelling, and leadership. She has recently worked with Steppenwolf Theatre Co. (*Little Bear Ridge Road*), Free Street Theater (*Rest/Reposo* and *There is a Future/Tenemos un Futuro*), and Birch House Immersive (*The Last Days of Eden Creek*).

CCT'S CREATIVE TEAM



Jacqueline Russell (Co-Founder and Artistic Director Chicago Children's Theatre) served as the 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 is in the New City's "Players Hall of Fame" of "People Who Really Perform for Chicago." Jacqueline is originally from Houston, Texas, and is a graduate of New York University. She has a grown up daughter, Shiri, a turtle named Leonard, two cats— Nucci Noodles and Lottie— and Lulu the dog.



Will Bishop (He/him, Director of Production) has overseen the production of CCT's shows since 2016. He is also the director and co-creator of CCT's holiday tradition, *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Party*, and has designed scenery, props, costumes and puppets for dozens of CCT shows - online during the pandemic, in Chicago, and on tour across the country and the world. He recently started teaching technical theatre at University of Illinois - Chicago. When not making theatre, he's probably playing tabletop RPGs, baking, cooking and brewing, or hanging out with his chihuahua, Fawkes, and cat, Goblin.

ABOUT CCT

Chicago Children's Theatre was founded in 2005 with a big idea: Chicago is the greatest theater city in the world, and it deserves a great children's theater. Today, Chicago Children's Theatre is the city's largest professional theater company devoted exclusively to children and families, with emphasis on access and inclusion.

Led by Artistic Director Jacqueline Russell and Co-Founder Todd Leland, Chicago Children's Theatre has built its national reputation on new work, producing 23 world premieres and over 1,000,000 community members served.

In January 2017, the company celebrated the opening of its new, permanent home located in a former police station at 100 S. Racine Avenue in Chicago's West Loop community.

CCT provides tens of thousands of free and reduced-price tickets to under-resourced schools each season in partnership with Chicago Public Schools. CCT also continues to grow its education programs emphasizing student authorship, youth empowerment, and community leadership.

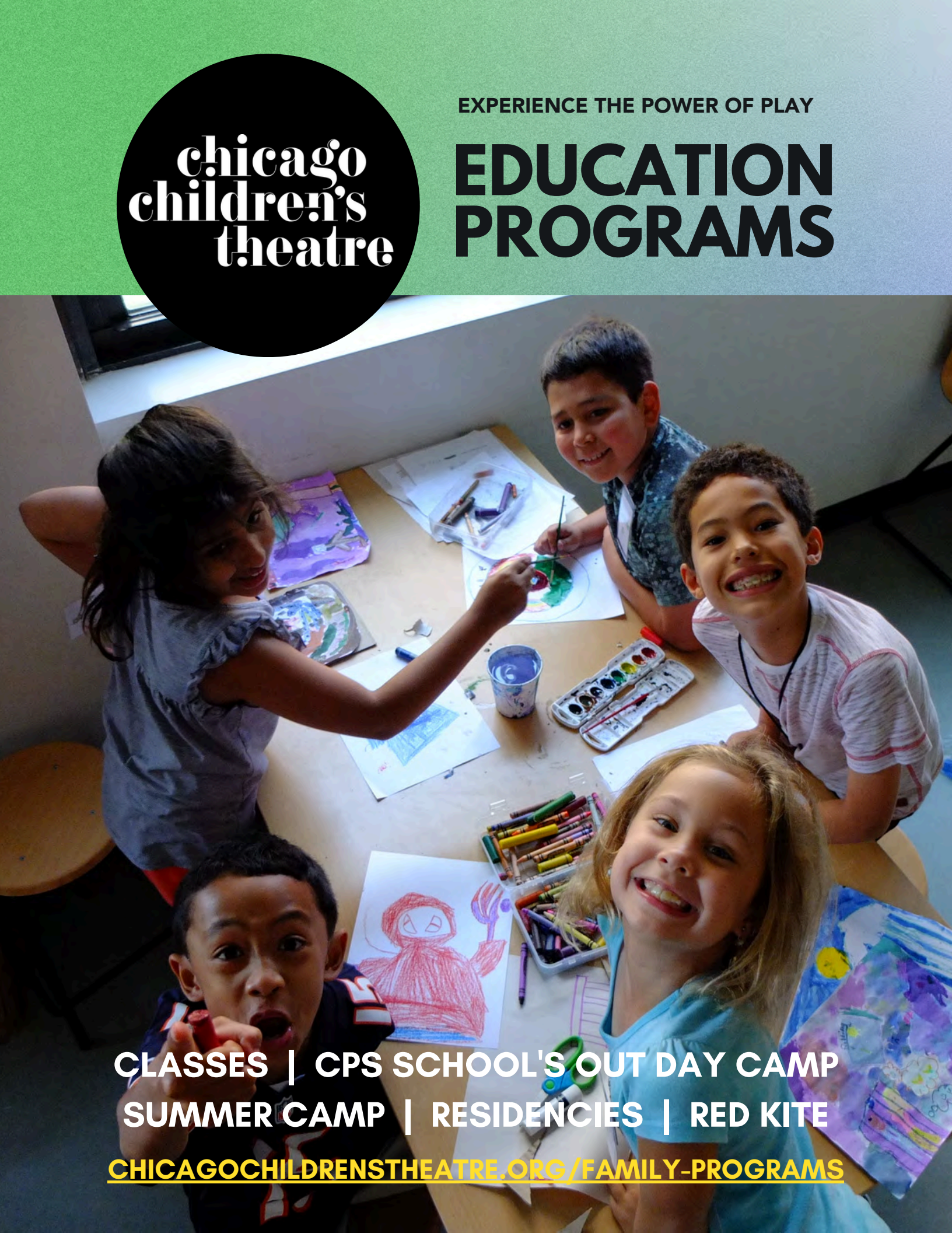
In 2019, Chicago Children's Theatre won the National TYA Artistic Innovation Award from Theatre for Young Audiences/USA. In addition, Chicago Children's Theatre has garnered seven NEA Art Works grants, and in 2017, became the first theater for young audiences in the U.S. to win a National Theatre Award from the American Theatre Wing, creators of the Tony Awards.



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

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INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN ON THE
AUTISM SPECTRUM AND THEIR FAMILIES

THE RED KITE PROJECT

A photograph of a young girl with dark hair and glasses, wearing a red sweater, reaching her hands up towards the ceiling. The background is dark and textured.

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CHICAGOCHILDRENTHEATRE.ORG/RED-KITE-PROJECT

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