

chicago
children's
theatre

Go Dog Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!



Illustrations by P.D. Eastman
From the book *Go, Dog. Go!*

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**ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY ALLISON GREGORY AND STEVEN DIETZ WITH
COMPOSITIONS BY MICHAEL KOERNER AND SPANISH
TRANSLATIONS BY ANA MARIA CAMPOY
BASED ON THE CLASSIC BOOK "GO DOG GO!" BY P.D. EASTMAN**

DIRECTED BY STEVEN DIETZ***

JACQUELINE RUSSELL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Director & Co-adaptor **Steven Dietz*****

Co-adaptor & Original Choreographer **Allison Gregory**

Translator **Ana Maria Campoy**

Music Director & Opening Accordionist **Rob Witmer**

Choreographer **Sonya Madrigal**

Chicago Props Designer and Scenic Assistant **Lonnae Hickman**

Original Scenic Design **Michael Sommers**

Costume Design **Jazmin Aurora Medina**

Lighting Design **Jason Lynch****

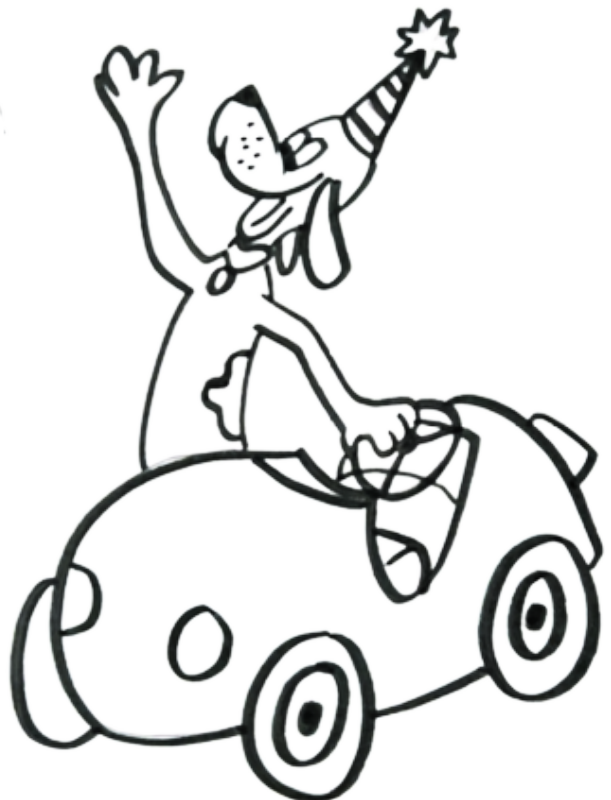
SONG LIST

"RED DOG, BLUE DOG, GREEN DOG, YELLOW DOG"

"BOW WOW ROUND"

"GO DOG GO!" VE PERRO ¡VE!

"DO YOU LIKE MY HAT?"



CAST

Hattie (thru 5/3/25) **Melanie Brezill***

Red Dog **Tony Carter***

MC Dog **Jean Claudio***

Green Dog **Jalbelly Guzmán**

Accordion Player (3/24/25 – 5/18/25) **Nathan Hunter**

Blue Dog **Maria Clara Ospina**

Yellow Dog **Shawn Pfautsch***

Accordion Player (thru 3/23/25) **Rob Witmer**

UNDERSTUDIES

MC Dog **Tony Carter***

Red Dog **Colum Goebelbecker**

Yellow Dog **Jeff Gougis**

Musician **Meghan Kessel**

Blue Dog **Madison Jaffe-Richter**

Green Dog **Chloe Rodriques**

Hattie **Carter Sherman**



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

STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Stage Manager **Harper Crewse***

Assistant Stage Manager **Anastar Alvarez***

Assistant Stage Manager **Gianni Carcagno**

Assistant Stage Manager/Run Crew Cover **Molly Fryda**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Props Designer **Molly May**

Associate Lighting Designer **Karen Wallace**



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

CCT PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production **Will Bishop**

Production Supervisor **Spencer Meeks**

Scenic Supervisor **Chas Mathieu**

Scenic Construction and Props **Seattle Children's Theatre Scene Shop**

Additional Scenic Construction **Lookingglass Theatre Scene Shop**

Costume Supervisor **Janelle Manno**

Assistant Costume Supervisor **Janelle Smith**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Rachel Katz**

Crafts Artisan **Madeline Felauer**

Stitchers **Annika Halonen, Rachel Katz,**

Madeline Felauer, Erinn Grendahl

Lighting Supervisor **Nick Chamernik**

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

Spot Op Cover **Lena Aubrey**

Chicago Sound Designer/Sound Supervisor/A1 **Matt Reich**

Assistant Sound Supervisor /A2/Deck Crew **Hannah Kwak**

CAST



Jean Claudio* (MC Dog, he/they/el/elle) Lizard Chicago: Lizard in The Lizard y el Sol (Corduroy) CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE: Corduroy in Corduroy, El Referee in Lucha Teotl, (Goodman Theatre); The Dream King (Teatro Vista); Memorabilia (La Vuelta Ensemble); Midnight Circus; Corduroy in Corduroy (Emerald City Theatre); Papa/Clown in Luna (Filament Theatre). TOURING/FESTIVALS: La Bestia(Nouveau Sud Circus Project, NC); Memorabilia (Miniball Festival, PA). EDUCATION: Professional Circus Training Program, The Actors Gymnasium; Circus/clown training, Circo Soq & Cabuia Teatro (Argentina)



Tony Carter* (Red Dog, he/him/el) Is thrilled to return to Chicago Children's Theatre, and especially grateful to get to do so in SPANISH, a language near and dear to his heart. Previously at CCT: Dr Mesmer in Mesmerized. Chicago credits include: Lumiere in Beauty and the Beast, American in Paris, Joseph and the Dreamcoat, and Saturday Night Fever (Drury Lane Theatre); Oliver in As You Like it, and Kowalski in Madagascar (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); Hilaire in Can Can (Porchlight); Oliver (Marriott Theatre); Demetrius in Midsummer Night's Dream and Lucentio in Shrew'd (First Folio Theatre); and Angie the Ox in Guys & Dolls (Music Theatre Works). Regional credits include: Utah Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Rep, Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Pickleville Playhouse, Utah Festival Opera, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. Tony is represented by Gray Talent Group. You can follow him on instagram @tonyscarter.



Melanie Brezill* (Hattie, she/her) is thrilled to return to Chicago Children's Theatre! Previous CCT credits include: The Last Stop on Market Street, My Wonderful Birthday Suit, and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Broadway and National Tour: The Book of Mormon, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Mamma Mia! Select Regional Credits: Jaja's African Hair Braiding (Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre) The Comedy of Errors at Shepperton, As You Like It (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); Stokely: The Unfinished Revolution, for colored girls..., Man in the Ring, Caroline, or Change (Court Theatre); Beautiful, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (Marriott Theatre); Nina Simone: Four Women (Northlight Theatre); Little Shop of Horrors, Aida (Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre), Crowns, A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre) TV/Film: Reporting for Christmas, Empire. Melanie is the creator of The Grandmother Project and Pearls & Pocketbooks series on Youtube. Instagram: @shinegirlshine, @thegrandmotherproject



Shawn Pfautsch* (Yellow Dog, he/him) is excited to return to Chicago Children's Theatre where he has specialized in playing animals (A Year With Frog and Toad - 2013 & 2017, Frederick - 2014 & 2018) and Ben Franklins (Mesmerized - 2023). CCT audiences may have also heard Shawn in their podcast feeds in the Walkie Talkie series, where he created four episodes with his wife, Jessica Ridenour - The Green Heron, Saving Solstice, The Night Heron, and Welcome to Me: a Montrose Point Walkie Talkie. He was also the producer of the 2022-2023 Walkie Talkie season.

A Chicago resident for 25 years, Shawn has been seen on stages all around the country - New York, California, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Florida, Texas, Kentucky, Maryland and Michigan. In Chicago, he's been on stages such as: The Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Steppenwolf, The Hypocrites, The House Theatre, Signal Ensemble, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Most recently, Shawn spent most of 2024 playing Papageno in The Matchbox Magic Flute, directed by Mary Zimmerman at The Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC) and Berkeley Repertory Theatre.



Maria Clara Ospina (Blue Dog, she/her) is an actress/painter born in Medellin, Colombia. She now resides in Chicago where she continues to cultivate her purpose in life: to CREATE! Over the past three years, she has been a part of over 15 productions all around the city; ranging in a wide variety of theatrical styles. She was previously seen as Carmela, in Carmela Full of Wishes and is now excited to be a part of "Go Dog Go, Ve Perro Ve!" a show that unites her passion for Theatre for the Youth, puppets, and ensemble work. Since 2022, Maria Clara is proud to be a part of Chicago Children's Theatre team as an artistic

community engagement associate. In the past year, Maria Clara has once again fallen in love with her passion for painting and visual arts. She is beyond proud of her newest adventure: Happy Art Club Chicago! Ig: @mariaclaraospina_



Jalbelly Guzmán (Green Dog, She/Her) is absolutely thrilled to be making her Chicago Children's Theatre Debut with this wonderful company! Her credits include; CHICAGO: A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre 23' & 24'); Pro-Am, (First Floor Theater); Romeo & Juliet, (Teatro Vista); Killed a Man (Joking), (First Floor Theater & The Sound); Virgins, (Jackalope Theatre Co.); Measure for Measure, (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Laced, (About Face Theatre). REGIONAL: West Side Story (Encore Musical Theatre Company). TV: Emperor of Ocean Park. Jalbelly is especially passionate about Latine

art and representation, and is so grateful to bring a bilingual story to the children of our wonderful city. Special thanks go out to her wonderfully supportive friends and family, her husband Tito, their two sweet kitties, Guira and Tambora, and the people of the Dominican Republic that she so proudly represents.



Nathan Hunter (Accordionist, he/him) is an avid pianist, accordionist, and vocalist who grew up in Washington, DC and Louisville, KY and has been performing music since childhood. He has been a part of various bands and ensembles across the country, and he and his family moved to Chicago at the beginning of 2020. Nathan's typical performance styles range from classical to eclectic Americana, and he is currently a member of a neighborhood jug band and a piano and accordion teacher at the Old Town School of Folk Music. In addition to pursuing the music he loves, Nathan also runs a justice-oriented environmental law practice. Nathan adores music, puppetry, and the arts, and he is beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of his first production at the Chicago Children's Theater.

UNDERSTUDIES



Jeffrey Gougis Jr (Yellow Dog Understudy, he/him) is a performer, singer and actor in Chicago. Jeff is super excited to step into his first show at Chicago Children's Theatre. He has been a performer all his life; whether it was puppeteering for young audiences at the DuSable Museum, teaching and performing at the 99th Street Summer Theatre Festival or singing with the University of Illinois's Black Chorus. Jeff has a passion and love for the arts, especially music. While in grad school, he performed as a part of Durham University's Northern Lights Acapella Group placing 3rd in the UK ICCA final and performing in a sold-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Jeff is currently working on his first EP and is excited to explore more opportunities in musical theater.



Colum Goebelbecker (Red Dog Understudy, he/him) is an actor, singer, mover, musician, teaching artist, and applied theater practitioner based in Chicago. He moved back home after studying at The University of Southern California in their MFA Acting program. Before LA, he acted in plays and musicals in DC after graduating with a degree in government and theater from Georgetown University. This past winter, he was proud to make his Chicago debut in Griffin Theater's *The House Without A Christmas Tree*. Recent highlights include *Posthumus Leonatus* from *Cymbeline* at the Royal Academy of Dramatic

Art, *chabod* from *Ichabod: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at Creative Cauldron, *Edvard* from *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* at Rorschach Theatre, and the *Emcee* from *Cabaret* at Georgetown. He would like to thank his friends and family for all their support and love. Colum is grateful to be represented by Gray Talent Group.

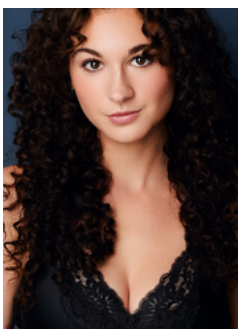
Email: columgoebelbecker@gmail.com Instagram: @colum__



Madison Jaffe-Richter (Blue Understudy, she/her) couldn't be more excited to be working with Chicago Children's Theater on this amazing show! Recent credits include *Legally Blonde* (Music Theatre Works), *First Date* (Oil Lamp Theater), *Les Miserables* (Uptown Music Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (The Beautiful City Project), *Baby* (Citadel Theatre), *James and the Giant Peach* (AlphaBet Soup Productions), and *The Addams Family* (Uptown Music Theatre) Madison is proudly represented by Talent X Alexander. Huge thank you to Lauren! Love to Mom, Dad, Zo, Em, and Dibs.



Chloe Rodriques (Green Dog Understudy, she/her) is a passionate actor and mover from the California Bay Area. She recently received her BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul. She is thrilled to return to children's theatre after playing Laura in the World premiere of *Las Wayys* (written by Ricardo Gamboa). She wants to thank her Talent x Alexander team, her mom, dad, and friends for their boundless support.



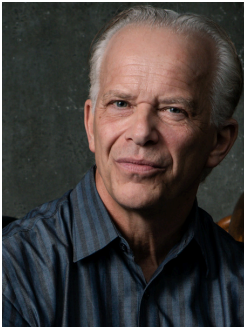
Carter Sherman (Hattie Understudy, she/her) is a two-time Jeff-nominated actor best known for *The Lord of the Rings: A Musical Tale* (Ensemble; U/S Arwen and Rosie, Swing); *Nell Gwynn* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* at Impostors Theater Company; *A Christmas Carol* at Metropolis Performing Arts Center; *Heathers* (Veronica) at Surging Films and Theatrics; *Pride and Prejudice* at Edge of the Wood Theater. Love and thanks to Megan, mom, Caleb, the dynamos, Lauren, and the rest of her team at Talent X Alexander. Carter is also an impassioned intimacy choreographer, dedicated to oimproving rehearsal-room safety across the industry. carterrosesherman.com



Meghan Kessel (Musician Understudy, she/her) is thrilled to be joining Chicago Children's Theatre! A New Orleans native, she holds a degree of Music Education from Loyola University N.O. Since moving to Chicago she has found a passion for children's theatre that marries her two loves of performing and teaching. Some of her recent roles include *Mary Magdalene* in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (BrightSide Theatre), *White Rabbit* in *Alice in Wonderland* (AlphaBet Soup Productions), *Little Red* in *Little Red Riding Hood* (Chicago Kids' Company), and *Christmas Past* in *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis). When not onstage Meghan serves as a

music director at various companies and teaches piano at Old Town School of Folk Music. She would like to thank her family, friends, and fiancé Kyle for all of their love and support!

CREATIVE TEAM



Steven Dietz (Director, Co-Adaptor) Previously at CCT: GO DOG GO! (with Allison Gregory); HONUS & ME, and JACKIE & ME (both from Dan Gutman). For the '24-25 season, Dietz was once again named one of the "20 Most Produced Playwrights in America" by American Theatre Magazine. Recent premieres include new adaptations of GASLIGHT by Patrick Hamilton, and MURDER ON THE LINKS by Agatha Christie. He has directed productions of new work at Seattle Repertory Theatre, ACT Theatre, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Denver Center Theatre Company, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Merrimack Repertory

Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, among many others. He co-adapted his play SHOOTING STAR into the movie "What Happens Later" – starring Meg Ryan and David Duchovny. Chicago productions include HOW A BOY FALLS (Northlight), LAST OF THE BOYS (Steppenwolf), ON CLOVER ROAD and YANKEE TAVERN (American Blues), BLOOMSDAY and FICTION (Remy Bumppo), PARAGON SPRINGS (Timeline), and MAD BEAT HIP & GONE (Promethean). Awards include the Steinberg New Play Citation for BLOOMSDAY; the Kennedy Center New American Plays Award for both FICTION and STILL LIFE WITH IRIS; and the Edgar Award® for Best Mystery Play for SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE. Having previously taught in the MFA Playwriting/Directing program at UT/Austin, Dietz continues to teach master classes across the country. Born and raised in Denver, Dietz and his wife, playwright Allison Gregory, divide their time between Austin and Seattle.



Allison Gregory (Co-Adaptor, Original Choreographer) Allison Gregory's plays have been produced nationally and internationally by a fusion of professional theatres, academic stages, and non-traditional spaces. She has received support and commissions/grants/development from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Kennedy Center, South Coast Repertory, Indiana Repertory Theatre, The Playwright's Center, the Skirball-Kenis Foundation, The New Harmony Project, and The National New Play Network (NNPN). Her work includes NOT MEDEA and WILD HORSES,

which were O'Neill Finalists and received multiple Rolling World Premieres through NNPN; and MOTHERLAND, a reimagining of Brecht's MOTHER COURAGE for a diverse world. Allison's plays for young audiences include GO DOG. GO!, adapted from the P.D. Eastman book and co-written with Steven Dietz; RED RIDING HOOD; PETER AND THE WOLF; RONIA, THE ROBBER'S DAUGHTER, adapted from the book by Astrid Lindgren; and four plays adapted from the beloved JUNIE B. JONES book series by Barbara Park. Allison has been recognized by TYA USA as "One of the 10 Most Produced TYA Playwrights" in America. Her plays are published by Dramatic Publishing, Playscripts, Smith & Krauss, Rain City Press, and Concord Theatricals. Allison's favorite human is her horse, Bling. <http://allisongregoryplays.com/>



Ana María Campoy (Translator, she/her/ella) is a Chicana theatre artist and advocate based in Seattle. Theatre work includes: Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Key City Public Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Pork Filled Productions, Village Theatre, The 5th Avenue Theatre, New Mexico Shakespeare Festival, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival's FUERTE. She served as Associate Artist with Seattle Shakespeare Company (2021-2023) and ArtsWest (2020-2021). One of her most cherished acting roles includes Catherine in a bilingual adaptation of David Auburn's *Proof*, which she also produced and translated alongside

director Arlene Martínez-Vásquez, and is now under consideration for publication. She has toured nationally in Living Voices's solo show, *La Causa*. She developed multiple bilingual scripts for Seattle Shakespeare's touring productions such as: *Romeo y Julieta*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*, the latter two she also directed. Her most recent project was directing Alvaro Saar Rios's *Quetzali* and the *Comic Book Queen vs. the Alebrije of Darkness: Live in the School Cafeteria* for the Lexington Children's Theatre as part of the TYPA BIPOC Superhero Project. Up next: Directing *Carmelita: A Vindication for the Unwritten, Or How to Write Yourself Back Into History* at Key City Public Theatre in April 2025. Outside the arts, she founded and organizes with the volunteer collective *WashMasks Mutual Aid*, focusing on farmworker justice and mutual aid in Washington state (@washmasks). Love to Jesse and Luna.



Rob Witmer (Music Director, Accordionist) is a composer, musician, and sound designer from Seattle, WA. Rob performed in the original production of *Go, Dog. Go!* at Seattle Children's Theater, as well as productions at Metro Theater Company and Childsplay. His work as a composer and designer include: *The Best Summer Ever*, *Red Riding Hood*, *Black Beauty* (Seattle Children's Theatre); *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Dracula* (ACT Theatre); *Romeo & Juliet*, *Comedy of Errors* (Seattle Shakespeare Company); *The Ghost of Splinter Cove* (Children's Theatre of Charlotte); *Murder on the Links* (Laguna Playhouse); *X: The*

Life and Times of Malcolm X (Seattle Opera); and *Greenwood* (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater). His sound designs have also been heard at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Spectrum Dance Theater, Village Theatre, and Teatro ZinZanni. Rob plays with several bands, including The Love Markets and the Toucans steel drum band.



Lonnae Hickman (Chicago Props Designer and Scenic Assistant, she/her) is a graduate of DePaul University with a double major in Theatre Arts and American Studies. She's honed her skills in prop design, puppetry, and immersive forms of theatre, working with companies such as Albany Park Project, Teatro Vista, Definition Theatre, and Steppenwolf. She also teaches and mentors in prop design at University of Chicago - Illinois.



Jazmin (hahz-meen) Aurora Medina (Costume Designer, she/her/ella) is a queer, xicana interdisciplinary artist based in the Midwest, but is a frequent adventurer with her design work! With a focus in costume design, Jazmin believes in the magical power of empathetic, transformative storytelling through her practice. She is thrilled to be returning to CCT after Carmela Full of Wishes in 2022! Previous design credits also include The Snow Queen (Seattle Children's Theatre), The Lizard y El Sol (Goodman Theatre) and assistant to recent Emmy winning artist Machine Dazzle for Midnight

in the Garden of Good & Evil (Goodman Theatre) and many more. Jazmin also previously received the honor of being selected as one of thirty-four US 'young emerging costume designers' for the 2019 Prague Quadrennial for Eurydice (UW-Waukesha). Jazmin wouldn't be here without the constant support of her family, friends and community, and would like to continually honor them through her work. Check jazminaurora.com



Jason Lynch (Lighting Designer, he/him) is a Chicago-based lighting designer for theatre, dance, opera, and other live performance art and returns to Chicago Children's Theatre, where previous design credits include Carmela Full of Wishes, The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show (2023 & 2019) and The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963. Additional Chicago credits include work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Congo Square Theatre Company, Court Theatre, Definition Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Timeline Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, among others. Regional credits include Alley

Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, City Theatre Company, Dallas Theater Center, Denver Center Theatre Company, George Street Playhouse, Geva Theatre Center, Goodspeed Musicals, Huntington Theatre Company, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, and Trinity Repertory Company. He is honored to have his recent work on the Goodman Theatre's real-time, online 'Live' series and an immersive 360° production of The Wild Party at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts featured in American Theatre Magazine. Jason was also the recipient of the 2022 Equity Jeff Award for his work on Choir Boy at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the 2019 Michael Maggio Emerging Designer



Sonya Madrigal (Choreographer, Hattie 5/4/25 - 5/18/25, she/her/ella) is thrilled to be working with CCT for the first time for this bilingual world premier of Go Dog Go/Ve Perro Ve as a choreographer. A first-generation Mexican-American from Chicago, she earned a BFA in Acting from UIC and began her choreography journey in Mexican Folk dancing, expanding to jazz, ballroom, a blend of Latin rhythms, ballet, and more. Notable choreography includes Goodman's Zulema and American Mariachi, Teatro Vista's Art with an Accent.. Acting highlights include Bernarda! (Teatro Vista), Villette

(Lookingglass), Pequeños Territorios (Goodman), and Day of Absence (CongoSquare) Oedipus Rex and The Adventures of Augie March (Court Theater). Regional credits feature Henry V (Riverside Theater). Directing credits include: Fefu and Her Friends (Snails on a bike). Up next Sonya will be directing the world premier of Poor Queenie with Subtext Theater. Sonya is proudly an artistic collective member with Teatro Vista and is represented by Stewart Talent. Major shout out to her favorite dance partner, her hubby Miguel, for practicing with her when she needed it. All the gratitude to her hermanas, mama y papa for all the love and support! Esto es por ustedes!

STAGE MANAGEMENT



Harper Crewse (Stage Manager, any pronouns) returns to Chicago Children's Theatre for their fifth project! Harper stage manages and production manages for theatre, dance, circus, and music. You may have seen their theatre work at 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 (3-time Emmy Award Winning Trial In The Delta). They are the resident PSM for The Actor's Gym, a circus school and performing company in Evanston, and the resident production stage manager for Barrington Dance Ensemble. Other ballet credits include Madison Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. Their work in the music industry includes the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, Constellation, Chicago Opera Theater, and Lollapalooza. Other events include the Chicago International Puppet Theatre Festival, Printers Row Lit Fest, Night Out In the Parks tours, and many galas. Harper is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the labor union representing American stage managers and actors in the theatre. @crewseship. BFA, Depaul University.



Anastar Alvarez (Assistant 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 to CCT where they have previously worked on Wake Up! Brother Bear, Carmela Full of Wishes, The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Mesmerized, and A Year with Frog and Toad. They have had the privilege to have worked with other companies such as The Sound, Free Street Theater, Concrete Content, The Fly Honey Show, The Chicago International Puppet Festival, and First Floor Theater where they are the Co-Director of Production. They are committed to creating equitable, safe, and inviting collaboration space.



Gianni Carcagno (Non-Equity Assistant Stage Manager, They/She) is excited to work with Chicago Children's Theater for the first time! Recent credits include: Leroy & Lucy, POTUS, No Man's Land (Steppenwolf), Twelfth Night, Short Shakes! Romeo & Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Boulevard of Bold Dreams, Trouble in Mind, Campaigns Inc., The Chinese Lady (TimeLine), and The Choir of Man (Apollo). Gianni has a BA in Theatre and Sociology from Loyola University Chicago.

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 (Director of Production he/him/his) has overseen the creation of dozens of shows at CCT since 2016. He is the director and a co-creator of CCT's holiday tradition, The Beatrix Potter Holiday Party, and has designed scenery, props, costumes and puppets for CCT productions in Chicago, online, and on tour across the country. He co-curated Potential Energy, a gallery exhibit of puppets, at Co-Prosperity in Bridgeport and the Cultural Center Galleries downtown. He teaches technical theatre at University of Illinois - Chicago, and is a recent member of the Merritt Awards committee, recognizing excellence in Chicago theatrical design and collaboration. When not making theatre, he's probably playing tabletop role playing games, cooking and baking vegan food, brewing beer, or spending time with the pets, Fawkes the chihuahua and Goblin the cat.

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.

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

chicago
children's
theatre

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF PLAY

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A high-angle photograph of five diverse children sitting around a light-colored wooden table, engaged in an art project. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. On the table are various art supplies: a watercolor palette, a cup of water, a box of colored pencils, and several pieces of paper with colorful drawings. One child is holding a red marker, and another is holding a paintbrush. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

CLASSES | CPS SCHOOL'S OUT DAY CAMP
SUMMER CAMP | RESIDENCIES | RED KITE

CHICAGOCHILDRENTHEATRE.ORG/FAMILY-PROGRAMS

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

**chicago
children's
theatre**

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 out of focus.

CLASSES | CAMPS | PRODUCTIONS

CHICAGOCHILDRENTHEATRE.ORG/RED-KITE-PROJECT

RALLA KLEPAK FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

chicago children's theatre

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Co-Founder & Artistic Director

Todd Leland

Co-Founder & Board Chair

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chicago children's theatre

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Guest Services Manager

Sivan Spector

Education and
Community Programs Manager

Dani Brown

Guest Services
Associate Manager

Anthony Whitson-Martini

Education and
School Partnerships Manager

Spencer Meeks

Production Supervisor

Maria Clara Ospina

Community Engagement
Associate

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