

chicago  
children's  
20<sup>th</sup> theatre

# LEO LIONNI'S FREDERICK

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY

**SUZANNE MAYNARD MILLER**

BASED ON THE CLASSIC BOOK BY LEO LIONNI

SONGS BY SARAH DURKEE & PAUL JACOBS



Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, IL

Leo Lionni's Frederick premiered at Chicago Children's Theatre in Oct. 2014

Frederick, © 1967 by Leo Lionni, © renewed 1995 by Leo Lionni used with permission from the Lionni family.

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# JACQUELINE RUSSELL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Playwright **Suzanne Maynard Miller**

Music and lyrics **Sarah Durkee and Paul Jacobs**

Director and Choreographer **Tommy Rapley\*\*\***

Arranger and Music Director **Matthew Muñiz**

Scenic Design **Collette Pollard\*\***

Costume Design **Mieka van der Ploeg\*\***

Co- Lighting Design **Jason Lynch\*\***

Co- Lighting Design **Josiah Croegaert**

Sound Design **Kevin O'Donnell**

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# CAST

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**Frederick** Brandon Acosta\*

**Nellie** Ellie Duffey

**Sunny** Tina Muñoz Pandya

**Ernest** Shawn Pfautsch\*

**Baby** Leslie Ann Sheppard\*

**Musician** Jeremy Weinstein

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# UNDERSTUDIES

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**Frederick U/S, Ernest Cover** Abraham Deitz-Green

**Nellie U/S, Sunny Cover** CeCe Lampa

**Sunny U/S, Nellie Cover** Rachel Arianna

**Ernest U/S** Travis Shanahan

**Baby U/S** Shea Lee

**Musician U/S** Kevin Reeks



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

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# STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

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Production Stage Manager **Harper Crewse\***

Asst. Stage Manager **Anastar Alvarez\***

Asst. Stage Manager **Gianni Carcagno**

Asst. Stage Manager Cover **Alivia Arizaga**

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

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Musician and Asst. Music Director **Jeremy Weistein**

Asso.Scenic Design **Lucie Green**

Asst. Costume Design **Noël Huntzinger**

Asst. Sound Design **Grover Hollway**

PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES PROVIDED BY SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB



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

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# CCT PRODUCTION STAFF

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Director of Production **Will Bishop**

Associate Production Manager **Spencer Meeks**

Scenic Construction **Lookingglass Theatre Scene Shop**

Crankie Fabrication **Stolatis Fabrication**

Scenic Charge **Rain Foiles**

Crankie Painting **Lucie Green**

Costume Supervisor **Janelle Smith**

Asst. Costume / Wardrobe Supervisor **Rachel Katz**

Stitchers **Emma Rosemary, Beau Peterson-Quinn, Finnegan Chu,**

**Daniel Carter, Nick Cochran, Erika Gordon**

Draper **Madeline Felauer**

Lighting Supervisor **Nick Chamernik**

Asst. Lighting Supervisor **Brenden Marble**

Props Supervisor **Lonnae Hickman**

Asst. Props Artisan **Shokie Tseumah**

Asst. Props Artisan **Molly May**

Scenic Supervisor **Chas Mathieu**

Sound Supervisor / A1 **Matt Reich**

Asst. Sound Supervisor / A2 / Run Crew **Hannah Kwak**

A2 / Run Crew Cover **Aidan Grey Gardner**

Casting Director **Maria Clara Ospina**

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# **SONG LIST**

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**WE GOT WORK TO DO**

**WOW!**

**POCKET FULL OF DUST**

**FREDERICK'S EYES**

**BELLS AND WHISTLES**

**THE THINGS I USED TO THINK**

**NO MOUSE LEFT BEHIND**

**NO ONE FEELS LIKE CHATTING**

**FOUR LITTLE FIELD MICE**

**THERE'S NO RUNNIN' OUT OF JOY**

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# CAST

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**Brandon Acosta** (Frederick, he/him) is thrilled to be making his CCT Debut in FREDERICK! Brandon is a Chicago-based actor and composer. When he is not writing or performing, Brandon works as the Arts Department Coordinator for Spiffy Pictures' DONKEY HODIE. Some of his favorite performance credits include PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, AN ACT OF GOD, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Paramount Theatre), GREASE, TYA SHREK THE MUSICAL (Drury Lane), SPELLING BEE, GUYS AND DOLLS (Music Theater Works),

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS (Young People's Theatre). Brandon is proudly represented by Gray Talent Group. This one is for Brooke – love you forever and ever.



**Ellie Duffey** (Nellie, She/Her) Happy to be at CCT! Recent credits include BERLIN (Court Theatre), MAGIC CITY (Manual Cinema), HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN (Steep Theatre), THE RIVER (Loose Cannon), THREE SISTERS, THE CRUCIBLE (Invictus Theatre). 2025 Joseph Jefferson Equity Nominee for best ensemble for BERLIN. Enjoys folk music and laughter! Love and gratitude to her team of mice, reps, friends, and family!



**Tina Muñoz Pandya** (Sunny, She/hers) is excited to return to the CCT stage after appearing in X-MARKS THE SPOT, THE WORLD INSIDE ME, and RED KITE GREEN MOUNTAIN, as well as working on the last production of FREDERICK in 2018! She is an actor, musician, and teaching artist based in Chicago, where her credits include: DHABA ON DEVON AVENUE (Writers Theatre); THE MATCHBOX MAGIC FLUTE (Goodman Theatre); LONDON ROAD and THE TALL GIRLS (Shattered Globe Theatre); THE SECRETARIES (First Floor Theater); ANNA IN THE TROPICS (Remy Bumpopo Theatre); MR. BURNS (Theater Wit); THE

MOUSETRAP (Court Theatre); PINOCCHIO and THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE WIZARD OF OZ (The House Theatre of Chicago); and OCTAGON (Jackalope Theatre). Regional and touring credits include: THE MATCHBOX MAGIC FLUTE (Shakespeare Theatre DC, Berkeley Rep); AS YOU LIKE IT and THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON (Door Shakespeare); MATT AND BEN (Penobscot Theatre); HOUSE OF JOY (St. Louis Rep); THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR and HENRY IV PT 1 (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); HMS PINAFORE, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, and THE MIKADO (The Hypocrites); and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, JULIUS CAESAR, and A TALE OF TWO CITIES (National Players). You can also hear her on the Chicago-based audio dramas THE VANISHING ACT and FAWX AND STALLION. She is an ensemble member with Shattered Globe Theatre, a proud graduate of the University of Michigan and the School at Steppenwolf, and is represented by Gray Talent Group.



**Shawn Pfautsch\*** (Ernest, he/him) is honored to return for his third time playing Ernest in FREDERICK! CCT audiences may also remember him as: Snail in A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD (2013 & 2017), Ben Franklin in MESMERIZED (2023) and earlier this year as Yellow Dog in GO DOG GO/VE PERRO VE. He was also the producer of the 2022/2023 season of the CCT podcast series "Walkie Talkies" and created and wrote several of the episodes with his wife, Jessica Ridenour.

A Chicago resident for 25 years, Shawn has been seen on stages all around the city such as: Papageno in THE MATCHBOX MAGIC FLUTE (Goodman); THEATRICAL ESSAYS (Steppenwolf); PIRATES OF PENZANCE, THE MIKADO, HMS PINAFORE (The Hypocrites); CYRANO, DEATH & HARRY HOUDINI, THE BOY DETECTIVE FAILS (The House Theatre); OLD WICKED SONGS (Signal Ensemble); and ONCE UPON A SYMPHONY (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). He's also acted in shows around the country at: the Skirball Center (NYC), American Repertory Theatre (Boston), Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC), Olney Repertory Theatre, the Arsht Center of Miami, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota), and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival.

His TV work includes stints on: "Chicago Med" (NBC), "The Mob Doctor" (Fox) and the upcoming season of "Dark Matter" (Apple).



**Leslie Ann Sheppard\*** (Baby, she/her) is excited to return to CCT! Previous CCT credits: A Year with Frog and Toad, The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, MJ's Palmer Square Picnic Adventure, Frederick (2018), Jabari Dreams of Freedom and The Hundred Dresses. Filmmaker, musician, teaching artist, writer, and producer, she's committed to creating art full of joy and hard truths. Last seen in THE DA VINCIN CODE (Drury Lane Theatre) and LONDON ROAD (Jeff Award winner) at Shattered Globe Theatre. Other select Chicago credits: Theater Wit (BWW Chicago/Chicago Reader Best of 2021 nominated),

House Theatre of Chicago, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre (BTAA nomination), Victory Gardens, The Hypocrites, and TimeLine Theatre Company. Regional/international: TheatreSquared, Kennedy Center, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Playhouse, Olney Theatre Center. TV/Film: Chicago Fire, The Birth of Gospel, Mob Doctor, Subordinate. Founder of Padded Corner Studios. Ensemble member of Shattered Globe Theatre. Represented by Gray Talent Group. #BigGratitudeAttitude [leslieannsheppard.com](http://leslieannsheppard.com)



**Jeremy Weinstein** (Music Mouse, He/Him) is a freshly transplanted actor, musician, music director, and educator and could not be more excited to dive into the Chicagoland theatre scene with CCT. Acting and MD credits include: FOOTLOOSE (Totem Pole Playhouse), THE SOUND OF MUSIC (TPP), MAMMA MIA (Circa '21), WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND UNAFRAID (Studio Theatre @ Tierra Del Sol), THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND (Florida Studio Theatre), DIVAS: Time After Time (FST). Follow his journey on Instagram @j\_weinstein\_ or visit [www.jeremy-weinstein.com](http://www.jeremy-weinstein.com).



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# UNDERSTUDIES

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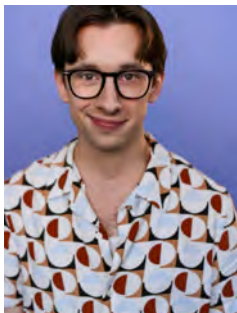
**Abraham Deitz-Green** (Frederick U/S, Ernest Cover) is delighted to be making his Chicago Children's Theatre debut! Originally from New Jersey, Abraham is a performer and educator now based in Chicago. Abraham recently graduated from Northwestern University, where he studied Theatre and Cognitive Science. Regional: HAIRSPRAY (Uptown Music Theatre). Northwestern credits: MANIC PIXIE DREAM GIRLS (AMTP), FEBRUARY HOUSE (Wirtz Center), KINKY BOOTS (Dolphin), GREAT SEA SERPENT (Wirtz Center), VIOLET (Wirtz Center), AS YOU LIKE IT (Wirtz Center), BENGAL TIGER (Wirtz Center), CRAVE (Vertigo Productions). Endless gratitude for his family, Tommy, Matthew, and all the collaborators on this beautiful production!



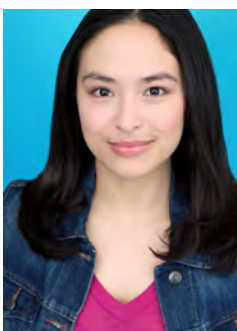
**CeCe Lampa** (Nellie U/S, Sunny Cover, she/they) is thrilled to be making her CCT debut! CeCe is a recent BFA MT Grad of Emerson College and an Elmhurst native. Recent credits include: PIPPIN (Skokie Theatre), FAIRYTALE (RWS Global), THE PROM (McLeod Summer Playhouse), and HEAD OVER HEELS (Emerson Stage). They are beyond grateful to work in a city that feels like home, and they extend this gratitude to the entire cast and team. Thank you to Mom, Dad, and Mason for endless love and support. [cecelampa.com](http://cecelampa.com)



**Rachel Arianna** (Sunny U/S, Nellie Cover, she/her) is a Chicago/NYC based artist who is so excited to be making her Chicago Children's Theatre debut! Some favorite credits include: TV- Saturday Night Live, Sesame Street. Off Broadway- HAPPILY: THE MUSICAL (Actor's Temple), BEND IN THE ROAD (NYMF), NUMBER THE STARS (The Davenport). Regional- MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Alabama Shakespeare Theatre) MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (Seven Angels Theatre). Currently: TWIHARD (Apollo Theatre). She just graduated from Northwestern University (Go cats!). She is also a writer and choreographer. She would like to thank Tommy Rapley and the whole Frederick team, as well as Big Mouth Talent, her friends, and her family for all of their support! @rachelariannaw, [rachelarianna.com](http://rachelarianna.com)



**Travis Shanahan** (Ernest U/S) is overjoyed to be working with CCT for the first time! Theatrical credits include LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, TWELFTH NIGHT, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Midsommer Flight); NEVER BETTER (Theo Ubique); PIPPIN (Towle); THE ART OF BOWING (Haven Chicago); HAY FEVER (City Lit); EB & BELLE, HENCHPEOPLE, ADAPTATION (Theatre Above the Law), and BUDDY! THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY (Metropolis). To Bailey - you are my best guess. Travis is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent and can be found on Instagram @travjshan.



**Shea Lee** (Baby U/S) is delighted to make her CCT debut in Frederick! She is a new ensemble member at Lifeline Theatre this year, where her credits include LEAF, CAT'S CRADLE, and EXTRA YARN, as well as Lifeline's national tour of GIGGLE GIGGLE QUACK. Other favorite credits include: THE CONDUCTORS and BOOKWORMS (both with Kerfuffle Theatre for the Very Young), STARDOG (Astral Stage Collective), MR. KOTOMOTO IS DEFINITELY NOT WHITE (NoMads Art Collective), and THE STORM OF THE CENTURY (Laughing Stock Theatre). Shea is an alumna of Northwestern University, where her focuses included musical theatre, theatre for young audiences, and Asian American studies. She is also a founding member of Laughing Stock Theatre, Chicago's premiere Commedia dell'Arte theatre company. Shea is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

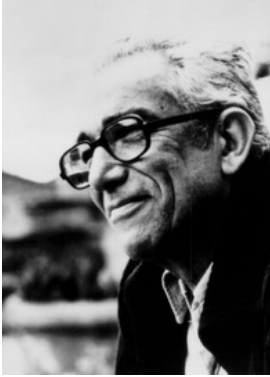


**Kevin Reeks** (Musician U/S) is thrilled to be working on their first show at Chicago Children's Theatre!! Recent credits include: Grease! (Metropolis Performing Arts); Chalo: A Soccer Musical (Goodman Theater); CATS!, Waitress, The 25th...Spelling Bee, Frozen, Peter and the Starcatcher (Paramount Theatre); The Music Man, In the Heights (Marriott Theatre). Many thanks to CCT for the opportunity, my family for their unending support, and my partner Chris for always being my person.

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# CREATIVE TEAM

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**Leo Lionni** (Author) was born in Amsterdam on May 5, 1910. His first recognized successes were in commercial art. He was an art director in advertising and for Time Life, Inc. He received the 1984 American Institute of Graphic Arts Gold Medal. Lionni wrote and illustrated more than 40 highly acclaimed children's books including four Caldecott Honor winners: *Inch by Inch*, *Frederick*, *Swimmy*, and *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*. He played piano, flamenco guitar, the sitar, and the accordion. Lionni died on Oct. 11, 1999, at his home in Tuscany, Italy, at the age of 89.



**SUZANNE MAYNARD MILLER** (She/her, Adaptor) plays include *Young Love*; *Flirting With the Deep End* (Dramatic Publishing); *Beatrice*; *The Handwriting, the Soup and the Hats*; and *Abigail's Atlas*. Her work has been seen in New York City; Los Angeles; Seattle; Providence, N.Y.; New Haven, Conn; and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other current projects include the musical stage adaptation of the popular children's book series *Pete the Cat* (commissioned by The Rose Theater, 2015), and the new play *No Place for a Man*. Previously, Miller developed the musical *Kissing Frogs* at Bridge 2 Broadway (2013).

Miller is on the faculty of the English department at the New York City College of Technology/CUNY. In the past, she has taught writing and theatre courses at Brown University, the Rhode Island School of Design, and Hunter College/CUNY. In addition, Miller has been an artist-in-residence in the Seattle, Providence and New York City public schools and in the adult correctional institution in Rhode Island. After graduating from University of Pennsylvania, Miller went on to receive her MFA in playwriting from Brown University, where she studied with Paula Vogel, Charles Mee, Aishah Rahman and Mac Wellman. Miller was an original company member of Annex Theatre in Seattle and a founding member of the Seattle Playwrights Alliance.



**Paul Jacobs** (Song Writer) A native of New York City, Paul Jacobs started playing classical piano at a very young age, attending the Juilliard School of Music and playing at Carnegie Hall and on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Temporarily forsaking classical piano for rock keyboards and guitar, Jacobs then made his mark in the New York theatre scene, serving as musical director and co-writer of National Lampoon's theatrical hit *Lemmings*, starring Christopher Guest, Chevy Chase, and John Belushi, and writing the music for *The National Lampoon Radio Hour*, featuring Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, Richard Belzer, and Harold Ramis. Jacobs worked as the musical director for

Meat Loaf, composing and producing songs that earned gold and platinum records all over the world. He has written for artists as diverse as Mel Torme, Roger Daltrey, Faith Hill, India Arie, Brian McKnight, Wynonna Judd, Ziggy Marley, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. His work in children's television has earned him two Emmy awards. He is currently the musical director of *Between the Lions*, and he has written, arranged, and produced more than 100 songs for *Sesame Street*. Getting back to his classical roots, Jacobs won the 2000 Van Cliburn Institute Amateur Concerto Competition and performed with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. His classical piano and gospel organ playing are featured on the music-based preschool series *Lomax, the Hound of Music*, and he's presently involved in several musical theatre projects for both adults and kids. Jacobs lives in New York City with his wife, Sarah Durkee, and their two children.



**Sarah Durkee** (Song Writer) Since her days of performing and writing comedy for National Lampoon shows and platinum-earning songs for Meat Loaf, Sarah Durkee has had a successful career writing scripts and songs for children's television for more than 25 years. With composer Paul Jacobs, she's written Emmy-winning songs for *Sesame Street*, performed by artists as diverse as Mel Torme, Kermit the Frog, Brian McKnight, and Trisha Yearwood. Her script writing and songwriting have been regularly featured on *Between the Lions*, *Dora the Explorer*, *Arthur*, *Peep and the Big Wide World*, *Wonder Pets*, and others, and she won her fifth Emmy award in 2009 for her writing for

*Between the Lions*. Her writing for the new claymation series *Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures* is additionally featured on *Sesame Street* and currently in the new preschool music-based series *Lomax, the Hound of Music*. Durkee also co-authored the adult satire *The Book of Sequels* with her fellow Lampoon alumni Chris Cerf, Henry Beard, and Sean Kelly, and she is the author of the young adult novel *The Fruit Bowl Project*, a favorite of writer's workshop teachers in its entertaining exploration of genre and style. Present projects include a musical adaptation of Kate Feiffer's children's book *My Mom Is Trying to Ruin My Life*, and she's thrilled to be getting back to her roots in children's theatre. She's married to composer Paul Jacobs, with whom she's collaborated on two kids.



**Tommy Rapley** (he/him, Director and Choreographer) is thrilled to be returning to Chicago Children's Theatre with *Frederick* after directing *Mesmerized* in 2023. Notable Chicago credits include *The Nutcracker* and *The Great and Terrible Wizard of Oz* (The House Theatre of Chicago), *Big Fish* (Associate Director—The Marriott Theatre), and *Sweet Charity* and Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (The Wirtz Center at Northwestern University). His choreographic work has been seen around Chicago and the United States at: The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Olney Theatre Center, Kansas City Rep., Actors Theatre of Louisville, Writer's Theatre, The Court Theatre, The

Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and The New Vic (NYC). A passionate educator, Tommy is a part of the acting faculty at Northwestern University where he also serves as Associate Chair Studies for the Department of Theatre.



**Matthew Muñiz** (he/him, Arranger and Music Director) is a pianist, composer, game designer and educator, as well a founding member of the Ice Core Collective, a Chicago-based sound collective. He co-created Divination, the tarot-based TTRPG, which was successfully crowdfunded in 2024. Matthew's music has been featured on Chicago artistic projects and on stages for twenty years. His music direction and stage arrangement skills have been met with rave reviews, often featuring the talents of the multi-instrumentalist actors and musicians Chicago's vibrant theatre scene produces. His work has been called "exhilarating" and "glorious," by print publications and not just his mom.

His music has been featured in plays, podcasts, an experimental audio book, in short films and in one feature-length zombie horror flick. Before discovering Chicago theatre, he released a full-length album and played most of the 'cool' stages in Chicago with his former band, The Live Debate!. He created music for The Last Defender, an escape room by Cards Against Humanity and the House Theatre of Chicago, where his music direction and performance credits also include The Nutcracker, Verböten, and Hatfield & McCoy.

When Matthew isn't making games or music, he's enjoying life with his husband, Vincent.





**Collette Pollard** (she/her, Scenic Design) is thrilled to return at Chicago Children's Theatre. Recent and upcoming Chicago credits include *Gypsy*, *Big Fish* and *The Sound of Music* (Marriott Theatre), *Describe the Night*, *Lindiwe*, *HIR*, *The Fundamentals*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Head of Passes*, *1984*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), *FEN*, *Orlando* and *The Illusion* (Court Theatre), *Fannie*, *Roe*, *The Wolves*, (Goodman Theatre), *Smart People* (Writers Theatre), *The Lehman Trilogy* and *A Shayna Maidel* (Timeline Theatre) where she is a company member and artistic associate. Recent and upcoming regional credits include *Little*

*Women* (Seattle Repertory Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre), *Fannie* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Eclipsed* and *The Chinese Lady* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre) and *The Cake* (The Asolo Repertory Theatre). Collette was recently nominated for a Jeff Award for her scenic design for *The Garbologists*, and is a recipient of several Jeff Awards. She is an Associate Professor of Design at the School of Theatre and Music at UIC. Many thanks to the endless support from her family.



**Mieka van der Ploeg** (she/her, Costume Designer) Theatre credits include designs with Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Steppenwolf, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, American Players Theatre, Court Theater, People's Light, Writers Theatre, Lyric Opera Unlimited, Lookingglass Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Second City, Redmoon, The Hypocrites, Chicago Children's Theatre, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, About Face Theatre, Steep Theatre, Theater Wit, Albany Park Theater Project, Manual Cinema,

and the Under the Radar Festival at The Public Theatre. She won a non-Equity Jeff award in 2020 for *First Love* is

*the Revolution*, at Steep Theatre. She is proud to be a member of USA829.



**Josiah Croegaert** (he/him; Co-Lighting Designer) CHICAGO: *JESUS HOPPED THE A-TRAIN*(City Lit), *PRO-AM*(First Floor), *MOTHERS*(The Gift), *BAKED!*(Theo Ubique), *LAST HERMANOS*(Red Orchid) CO-DESIGN: *THE HEARTSELLERS*(Northlight), *FALSETTOS*(Court), *TOPDOWN/UNDERDOG*(Invictus), *SONDHEIM TRIBUTE*(Theo Ubique). Graduate of Columbia College Chicago 2021. [josiahcrodesign.com](http://josiahcrodesign.com)



**Jason Lynch** (Co-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 *Go, Dog. Go! Ve, Perro. ¡Ve!*, *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, Geva Theatre Center, Huntington Theatre Company, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Signature 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 Award, which recognizes emerging theatrical designers within the Chicago area.

He is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE and The Gersh Agency.

[www.jasondlynch.com](http://www.jasondlynch.com), @jasonlynch.design on Instagram.



**KEVIN O'DONNELL** (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be back at CCT, where he previously worked on *The Watsons Go To Birmingham, Frederick* (2018), the inaugural production of *Red Kite*, as well as several digital pieces during the pandemic. Recently in Chicago he composed music for *Circus Quixote* at Lookingglass (Jeff nomination, original music), which will be produced at The McCarter Theatre in 2026. He has received 10 Jeff Awards (20+ nominations), and 2 After Dark Awards ("Outstanding Season"). Recent regional work has been at the Indiana Rep, The Penobscot Theatre (Bangor, ME), The Nashville

Rep, First Stage (Milwaukee), as well as The Southern Rep and The Petite Theatre in New Orleans, where he has been nominated for two Big Easy Awards. Currently based outside of Nashville, he teaches Sound and Media Design at Middle Tennessee State University. He is also a drummer.

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# STAGE MANAGEMENT

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**Harper Crewse** (Production Stage Manager, any pronouns) returns to Chicago Children's Theatre for their sixth project! Harper stage manages and production manages for theatre, dance, circus, and music. You may have seen their theatre work at Lookingglass (ICE CREAM CIRCUS, ALICE), Writers Theatre (THE BAND'S VISIT, MONSIEUR CHOPIN, ONCE, INTO THE WOODS), Teatro Vista (LA HAVANA MADRID), Mercury Theatre (MOTHERFREAKINGHOOD!), Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (EMMA), and Collaboraction (3-time Emmy Award Winning TRIAL IN THE DELTA). They are the resident PSM

for The Actors Gym, a circus school and performing company in Evanston, and the resident production stage manager for Madison Ballet and the Barrington Dance Ensemble. Their work in the music industry includes the Chicago House Music Festival, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, Constellation, Chicago Opera Theater, and Lollapalooza. Other events include Printers Row Lit Fest, numerous Night Out In the Parks tours, and the Chicago International Puppet Theatre Festival. Harper is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the labor union representing American stage managers and actors in the theatre. @crewseship



**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, LITTLE JAMS, THIS ABILITY, CARMELA FULL OF WISHES, BEATRIX POTTER HOLIDAY TEA PARTY, THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW, MESMERIZED, A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD, and GO DOG GO VE PERRO VE. 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, The Grelley Duvall Show, Rough House, and First Floor Theater where they are the Co-Director of Production.



**Gianni Carcagno** (Non-Equity Assistant Stage Manager, They/She) is excited to return to Chicago Children's Theatre after previously working on GO DOG GO! • ¡VE PERRO VE!. Other credits include: LEROY & LUCY, POTUS, NO MAN'S LAND (Steppenwolf), TWELFTH NIGHT, SHORT SHAKES! ROMEO & JULIET (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), and BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS, TROUBLE IN MIND, CAMPAIGNS INC., THE CHINESE LADY (TimeLine). Gianni has a BA in Theatre and Sociology from Loyola University Chicago.



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# CCT'S CREATIVE TEAM

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**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 served over 1 million community members and built a national reputation on new work, producing 24 world premieres including *Go Dog Go! • Ve Perro ¡Ve!*, *Milo Imagines the World*, *Last Stop on Market Street*, *Leo Lionni's Frederick*, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*, and *Jackie and Me*.

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 eight 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.

# 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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**David Saltiel**

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**David Gaito**

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## STAFF

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### **Jacqueline Russell**

Artistic Director

### **Ben Koucherik**

General Manager

### **Matt Merrill**

Director of Development

### **Will Bishop**

Director of Production

### **Sam Mauceri**

Director of Education  
and Access Programs

### **Spencer Meeks**

Associate Production Manager

### **Sivan Spector**

Education and  
Community Programs Manager

### **Maria Clara Ospina**

Community Engagement  
Associate / Casting Director

### **Anthony Whitson-Martini**

Education and  
School Partnerships Manager

### **Catherine Councill**

R.O.A.R. & Curriculum Development  
Associate

### **Jay Kelly**

Public Relations  
Consultant

### **Stephanie Muñoz**

Marketing  
Associate

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## GUEST SERVICES TEAM

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### **Ben Kaye**

Guest Services Manager

### **Spencer Diedrick**

House Manager

### **Kosi Achife**

Guest Services Lead

### **Manuela Alvarez**

Guest Services Associate

### **Julia Ravenscroft**

Guest Services Associate

### **Daniel Roy**

Guest Services Associate

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