



## PRESS RELEASE

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### CTC Brings Two Favorite Plays to Your Living Room *Tickets are Now on Sale!*

**Minneapolis, Minn.**—Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to present two digital productions this fall that were critically acclaimed from past seasons—***Corduroy* running October 12 through 24, 2020** and ***Last Stop on Market Street* running November 9 through 21, 2020**.

The season begins with the stage production of the classic children's book ***Corduroy***, adapted by **Barry Kornhauser** and directed by CTC's Artistic Director **Peter C. Brosius** running October 12 through 24, 2020. Mr. Kornhauser has written numerous plays premiered by CTC including *Balloonacy*, *Reeling*, *Bert & Ernie*, *Goodnight!* and *Madeline and the Gypsies*. CTC Company Member **Dean Holt** plays Corduroy, CTC Company Member **Reed Sigmund** plays the Night Watchman, **Ileri Okikiolu** plays the role of Lisa, **Lauren Davis** plays Lisa's Mother, and **Mimi Kol-Balfour** and **Keegan Robinson** are the student ensemble. The design team includes Scenic Designer **Torry Bend** (CTC's *Animal Dance*), Southwest Shakespeare Co., Empty Space Theatre Seattle, Oregon Repertory Theater), Music Composer/Sound Designer **Victor Zupanc** (2016 Ivey Award for CTC's *Pinocchio*, Los Angeles Theater Critics Circle Award), Ivey Award winning Costume Designer **Trevor Bowen** (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Ten Thousand Things Theatre, Jungle Theatre) and Lighting Designer **Craig Gottschalk** (CTC's resident lighting and video designer). This virtual performance was recorded during the original world premiere in 2018 which opened to rave reviews such as, "An utterly delightful show" (*Star Tribune*), "Corduroy charms" (*City Pages*), and "Delirious fun" (*Talkin' Broadway*).

The second digitally presented production is ***Last Stop on Market Street***, November 9 through 21, 2020. Based on the Newbery Award-winning book by **Matt de la Peña** with illustrations by **Christian Robinson**, the world premiere was directed by **Henry Godinez**, adapted for the stage by **Cheryl L. West**, and music and lyrics by **Paris Ray Dozier** and **Lamont Dozier**. [Lamont](#), who has penned and produced over 54 #1 hits (such as "[Baby I Need Your Loving](#)," "[How Sweet It Is](#)," "[Reach Out, I'll Be There](#)," and "[You Can't Hurry Love](#)"). The cast includes **Alejandro Vega** as CJ, **Greta Oglesby** as Nana, **Ansa Akyea** as Mr. Dennis, and **Dwight Leslie**, **Autumn Ness**, **Calvin Zimmerman**, and **Kennedy Lucas** playing a variety of roles. The production had its premiere at CTC in 2018 and received such praise as, "Hamilton, Junior" (*Star Tribune*), "Relentlessly upbeat" (*Pioneer Press*), and "A much needed antidote for the deluge of cynicism and me-first operators who seem to be running amok in our civic life." (*Talkin' Broadway*).

"We are thrilled to share these two shows that delighted and inspired our audiences," stated Artistic Director **Peter C. Brosius**. "In these times, we want to find every way to bring the experience of theatre to young people and families. These productions, through inventive physical comedy, extraordinary music, and powerful stories make us laugh and truly understand ourselves and each other in new ways."

Prices for both *Corduroy* and *Last Stop on Market Street* are set at \$25, \$35, and \$45 with patrons choosing the price level at which they wish to support CTC. Tickets to the virtual performances are available now at [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org).

**Children's Theatre Company (CTC)** is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serves a multigenerational audience. It creates theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire

more than 250,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the coveted Tony Award® for regional theatre and is the only theatre in Minnesota to receive three Tony® nominations (for its production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*). CTC is committed to creating world-class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

CTC's engagement and learning programs annually serve more than 93,000 young people and their communities through Theatre Arts Training, student matinees, Neighborhood Bridges, and early childhood arts education programs. ACT One is CTC's comprehensive platform for access, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programs, staff, and board that strives to ensure the theatre is a home for all people, all families, reflective of our community. [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org)

# # #

### **Corduroy**

Based on the *Corduroy* and *A Pocket for Corduroy* books by Don Freeman

Licensed by CBS Consumer Products

Adapted for the stage by Barry Kornhauser

Music composed by Victor Zupanc

Directed for the stage by Peter C. Brosius

A Children's Theatre Company Commissioned World Premiere taped in 2018

Best enjoyed by all ages

### **Creative Team & Production Staff**

Stage Director: Peter Brosius

Playwright: Barry Kornhauser

Scenic Designer: Torry Bend

Costume Designer: Trevor Bowen

Lighting Designer: Craig Gottschalk

Composer/Sound Designer: Victor Zupanc

Stage Manager: Chris Schweiger & Jane Heer

### **Cast**

Dean Holt (Corduroy)

Reed Sigmund (Night Watchman)

Ileri Okikiolu (Lisa)

Lauren Davis (Mother)

Mimi Kol-Balfour (Student Ensemble)

Keegan Robinson (Student Ensemble)

Lynnea Doublette (Understudy)

Dwight Leslie (Understudy)

Stella Ruth Murphy (Understudy)

Miranda Shaughnessy (Understudy)

Brian Sostek (Understudy)

### **Runtime**

90 Minutes

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### ***Last Stop on Market Street***

Based on the Newbery Award-winning book by Matt de la Peña

Illustrated by Christian Robinson  
Adapted for the stage by Cheryl L. West  
Music and lyrics by Paris Ray Dozier and Lamont Dozier  
Directed for the stage by Henry Godinez  
Co-commissioned with the Chicago Children's Theatre  
For curious 5-year-olds and up  
UnitedHealth Group Stage

### **Creative Team & Production Staff**

Stage Director: Henry Godinez  
Choreographer: Ashley Selmer  
Music Director: Sanford Moore  
Scenic Designer: Courtney O'Neill  
Costume Designer: Trevor Bowen  
Lighting Designer: Marcus Doshi  
Sound Designer: Sten Severson

### **Cast**

Ansa Akyea (Mr. Dennis)  
Dwight Leslie (Tatted Man/Blind Man/Mr. Chow)  
Autumn Ness (Madam Butterfly/Grandma Posey)  
Alejandro Vega (CJ)  
Greta Oglesby (Nana)  
Calvin Zimmerman (Dancing Teen/JoJo)  
Kennedy Lucas (Dancing Teen/Ensemble)  
Rowin Breaux (Understudy)  
Alexcia Thompson (Understudy)  
Symphonie Whitted (Understudy)

### **Runtime**

75 Minutes

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## **Corduroy Biographies**

### **Creative Team**

**Barry Kornhauser (Playwright)** On TYA/USA's list of "Most Produced Theatre for Young Audience Playwrights of 2019-20," Barry Kornhauser has been WORKING in this field since 1982. Theatre honors include the Children's Theatre Foundation of America's Orlin Corey Medallion for "significant achievements for the enrichment of children in the United States and Canada through nurturing artistic work in theatre and the arts," the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE) Charlotte Chorpenning Cup honoring "a body of distinguished work by a nationally known writer of outstanding plays for children," Ivey Playwriting Award (CTC's *Reeling*), Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Play (*Cyrano*), Bonderman Playwriting Prize (*Worlds Apart*), and three AATE Distinguished Play Awards (*This Is Not A Pipe Dream* and two CTC commissioned works - *Balloonacy* and *Corduroy*). Other nationally honored plays of his include *Better Angels*; *Inner Grace*; *Sowing The Wind*; *The Devil's Arithmetic*, *Warped!*; and an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* for young audiences. *Thunder & Potatoes*, which he wrote and directed, had a month-long run at the Smithsonian Institute's Discovery Theatre.

Barry's youth theatre program for teens living with disabilities and other life challenges was honored at the White House in 2008 as one of the nation's top arts-education initiatives, and for which he received the AATE's 2011 Youth Theatre Director of the Year honor. More recently, Barry was named *Artist of the Year* at

the 2017 Pennsylvania Governor's Awards. Prior to that, he received the state's first Educational Theatre Award "for outstanding service by an individual for the advancement of theater education in the Commonwealth," and was also given Pennsylvania's "Best Practices in Arts Education" Award (for *All It Takes...*, and HIV/AIDS prevention T.I.E. project he both wrote and directed, which toured the Commonwealth's middle schools free of charge for four years).

The author of more than 30 plays all told, Barry's works have been commissioned and produced by a handful of Tony Award-winning theatres such as CTC, Alliance, Denver Center Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, and the Shakespeare Theatre. For this latter stage, Barry was one of three playwrights (along with David Ives and former USA Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky) to be commissioned to create new "American" adaptations of lesser-known classic dramas. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts invited Barry to write a piece (*Of Mice and Manhattan*) based on newly discovered children's songs by Broadway legend Frank Loesser; to author its report on the first *International Convening of Thought Leaders in Theater, Dance, Disability, Education and Inclusion* hosted there in 2012; to bring a South African play he adapted and directed (*Amazwi Omoya*) to the One Theatre World event held there; and a new original work of his (*Power Play*) to its New Visions/New Voices Festival, one of a number of national festivals that have featured his plays, as have USA stages from New York City to Chicago to Seattle to Honolulu, and worldwide as far afield as Australia and Myanmar. Articles about his work have appeared in various national publications including *American Theatre*, but as a longtime public radio listener, one of Barry's greatest kicks was being interviewed by Robert Siegel on NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Over the years, Barry has conducted theatre residencies everywhere from a one-room Amish schoolhouse to universities across the county. He has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, TYA/USA, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour.

Currently, Barry works for the Millersville University Office of Visual & Performing Arts, where his energies are focused on integrating arts into the school's curriculum and bringing arts and arts-learning opportunities to marginalized, underserved and under-represented community members, including individuals living with disabilities, refugees and immigrants, and economically challenged families. Prior to this, he served over 30 years as Playwright-In-Residence, TYA Director, and sundry other positions at the National Historic Landmark Fulton Theatre. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Barry has sat on the TYA/USA board, various panels of the NEA, the Heinz Endowment, and three state arts councils, while continuing to take part in numerous community and campus working groups. He is a proud member of the Dramatists' Guild of America. His wonderful family – wife Carol and children Max (with wife Sena), Sam, and Ariel (with husband Dan) – complete his real-life "cast of *characters*."

**Peter C. Brosius (Director)** Since 1997, Peter has directed the world premieres of *Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches the Musical*; *The Last Firefly*; *Seedfolks*; *The Scarecrow and His Servant*; *The Snowy Day and other stories by Ezra Jack Keats*; *Animal Dance*; *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*; *Reeling*; *Anon(ymous)*; *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*; *Balloonacy*; among many others, all of which were commissioned and workshopped through

CTC's new play development efforts. His production of *Seedfolks* has been seen across the U.S.A. and was recently invited to the ASSITEJ Festival in Cape Town South Africa. It will be at the New Victory Theatre in NYC this spring. He has directed across the country including South Coast Repertory, Arizona Theatre Company, South Street Theatre on Theatre Row, Off Broadway for Pan Asian Repertory, as well as *Finding Nemo the Musical* for the Disney Company. His awards and honors include TCG's Alan Schneider Director Award, the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award, Drama-Logue, College of American Fellows of the American Theatre, Sara Spencer Award for Artistic Achievement and a 2013 Ivey Award for Best Director. Previously, he was the Artistic Director of the Improvisational Theatre Project at The Mark Taper Forum, a resident director at the Sundance Theatre Institute, and was Artistic Director of the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. He has served on the boards of Theatre Communications Group, The Playwrights Center and ASSITEJ/USA. Peter is married to writer Rosanna Staffa and is the father of Daria and Gabriel.

**Torry Bend (Scenic Designer)**

Torry Bend is a scenic designer and puppet artist. She has designed for dance, puppetry, and theater around the country including, Playmakers Repertory Theater, La Mama, Detroit Public Theatre, Southwest Shakespeare Company, and The Getty Villa. She is also a creator and director of puppetry. *Dreaming* is scheduled to have a New York premiere at La Mama in fall of '21. *The Paper Hat Game*, received the UNIMA citation of excellence, the highest honor in North American puppetry, was a New York Times Critic's pick and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. Bend co-directed *The Forgotten* with Riverbed Theater Company and will be touring the piece in Taiwan in 2021. Bend's work has received support from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Henson Foundation, Jerome Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Bend is an associate professor at Duke University.

**Trevor Bowen (Costume Designer)** Credits include: *Spamtown, U.S.A.; Three Little Birds; I Come From Arizona;* and *Last Stop On Market Street;* (Children's Theatre Company); *One Room* (Arena Dances); *Redwood; Ride The Cyclone; Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill; Fly By Night;* and *Bars and Measures* (Jungle Theater); *True West* and *BLKS* (Steppenwolf); *Ragtime* and *Sweat* (Asolo Rep); *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* (Kennedy Center); *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Black Beauty* (Seattle Children's Theater); *The Fix* and *Fellow Travelers* (MN Opera); and *Scapegoat* and *Jimmy and Lorraine: A Musing* (Pillsbury House Theater). [www.trevorbowendesign.com](http://www.trevorbowendesign.com)

**Craig Gottschalk (Lighting Designer)** Other CTC credits include lighting designs for *Animal Dance; Snowflake* and CTC's Theatre Arts Training intensives *HAIR; Spring Awakening; bare; Dear Edwina; The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; Blood Brothers;* associate designer for CTC's regional tour of *Seedfolks*. Other regional credits include: *Blues in the Night; Always Patsy Cline; Bombitty of Errors; Nobody Lonesome for Me* and *Route 66* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels; Zanna Don't; Jerry Springer the Opera;* and *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Minneapolis Musical Theatre); and *King Lear* (Minnesota Shakespeare Project). Craig has also added video content to CTC shows such as: *The Wiz; Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Cinderella;* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

**Victor Zupanc (Composer, Sound Designer)** Since 1989, Victor has been the resident Music Director/Composer at Children's Theatre Company composing music and conducting orchestras for many of your favorite productions. He has worked on over 300 plays at countless theaters including The La Jolla Playhouse, Guthrie Theater, Playwrights Horizon, SITI Company, The Acting Company, New Victory Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Missouri Rep, San Diego Rep, and The Berkeley Rep. He has received numerous awards including a 2016 Ivey Award. His music has been heard in China, Japan, Europe, South America, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. He also scored numerous films including the critically acclaimed movie *The Operator* and his theme music has been heard on NPR. Victor has composed many pieces for choirs, orchestras, and various music ensembles and his music is performed often around the country and abroad. [www.victorzupanc.com](http://www.victorzupanc.com)

**Chris Schweiger (Stage Manager)** Chris has been working at CTC for 18 years, and most recently stage managed *Spamtown, USA!* Chris has worked with other companies in Minneapolis including The Ordway, Mixed Blood, Guthrie Theater, Ragamala Dance, Theater Latté Da, and Illusion Theatre. Chris has also worked with Perseverance Theatre Company in Alaska, Arena Stage in Washington, DC, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Old Globe in San Diego, New Victory Theater in New York City, the Alpine Theatre Project in Whitefish, Montana, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the Moab Music Festival in Utah. She received her B.S. in Theatre from Northwestern University and was a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Mongolia.

**Jane Heer (Stage Manager)** Jane has many fond memories of working on *Corduroy* and is so excited to share the virtual version with friends and family, especially those who missed it or weren't yet born the first time around (Hi Eliza!) CTC credits include *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical; The Snowy Day and other stories by Ezra Jack Keats;* and *The Jungle Book*. Other stage management credits include *Junk* (Milwaukee

Rep); *A Christmas Carol*; *Twelfth Night*; and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Guthrie Theater); *The Book of Will* and *King Lear* (American Players Theatre).

#### **Chandler Jordan Hull (Assistant Stage Manager)**

Chandler is excited to be back with CTC as an Assistant Stage Manager, having previously assistant stage-managed *The Last Firefly*. She has worked in stage management at Theater Latté Da, SteppingStone Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Saint Paul Academy and ValleyFair. When she's not helping make magic on stage, she enjoys rock climbing, snuggling her dog Henry and cooking with her partner Melissa. Up next: Assistant Stage Manager for *Underneath the Lintel* with Theater Latté Da. Enjoy the show!

#### **Shelby Reddig (Stage Management Intern)**

Shelby has enjoyed stage-managing with CTC through their Theatre Arts Training program for *Bat Boy: The Musical* and *HAIR*. She has worked with several artists and arts organizations around the Twin Cities, including the Jungle Theater, WLDRNSS Theatre, Stokley Williams (Ordway Center for the Performing Arts), Red Eye Theatre and the Southern Theater.

#### **Ava Egertson (Assistant Director)**

Ava is overjoyed to be working with Children's Theatre Company. She has performed in CTC's Theatre Arts Training Senior Intensives of *Bat Boy: The Musical* and *HAIR*, along with performing at Youth Performance Company and Broken Ivy Theatre Company, a youth-centered theatre company she started in fall 2017. Ava is a current senior at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in the Theatre Track.

**Alex Goebel (Assistant Director)** Alex was proud to make this world premiere his first show with CTC. Since graduating from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, he has worked between the Twin Cities and Duluth as a director and educator. Alex has a background in teaching children's theatre, writing educational theatre materials, and directing kids and teens in a variety of theatrical work. Most recently he worked as a Teaching Artist for the Guthrie Theater Education Program. He would like to thank the creative team for this incredible opportunity, and his husband and family for their love and support.

#### **Kathy Maxwell (Assistant Lighting Director)**

Kathy has assisted for numerous CTC productions including: *The Wiz*; *Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches the Musical*; *The Scarecrow and His Servant*; *Busytown the Musical*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Akeelah and the Bee*; and *The Jungle Book*. She has designed and assisted for lights and video for several Twin Cities' arts organizations including Penumbra Theatre, History Theatre, Theatre Latté Da, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and Guthrie Theater. She received her M.F.A. in Theatrical Design from The University of Minnesota and her B.A. in Theatre and Dance from the University of Texas. Select design credits include *Dutchman*; *The Owl Answers*; *Complicated Fun* and *Sunset Baby*.

## **Cast**

**Dean Holt (Corduroy)** Dean is a member of CTC's Acting Company (1994 – present), appearing in more than 100 memorable productions in his time at CTC. He is a two-time Ivey Award winner (*Reeling* and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*) and the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award from St. John's University for outstanding work in his field.

**Reed Sigmund (The Night Watchman)** Now celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> season with CTC, Reed has appeared in numerous shows, including: *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *Cinderella*; and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Other credits include *Once* at Theater Latté Da. Away from the stage, Reed enjoys eating bread, and wandering the countryside with Autumn, Sawyer, and Sullivan.

**Ileri Okikiolu (Lisa)** Ileri made her Children's Theatre Company debut with *Corduroy*. Having only participated in her high school's theatre program, she can't wait to explore the world of professional theatre. She hopes to pursue a career in theatre after high school. She would like to thank all of her friends, and directors for supporting her almost- unconventional love for theatre!

**Lauren Davis (Mother)** Lauren hails from Maryland and is proud to be a part of the *Corduroy* cast. Other theater credits include *Akeelah and the Bee*; *Shrek the Musical*; *The Scarecrow and His Servant*; *Cinderella*; and *Charlotte's Web* (Childrens Theatre Company); *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* (The Kennedy Center); *Love's Labour's Lost*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *The Taming of the Shrew*; and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); *Oliver!* (Theater Latté Da); *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* (Pillsbury House Theatre/Guthrie Theater); *Greensboro Four* and *American Song Book* (The Smithsonian). Television credits include *America's Most Wanted* (Lifetime). She holds an M.F.A. from the Catholic University of America and a theater degree from Frostburg State. She looks forward to her upcoming project with The Kennedy Center and can't wait to relive all of the magic that made *Corduroy* so special. She would like to thank God and her family for their love and support!

**Meredith "Mimi" Kol-Balfour (Mannequin)** Mimi has performed in numerous productions at CTC, most recently in *The Abominables*. She has also worked at Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Youth Performance Company, and many community/school theatre projects. She is a SciGirls host with Twin Cities Public Television and the host for *Behind the Book*, a national television series on PBS Kids. Mimi is a dancer with Pavielle Versalles and a freshman at Barnard College of Columbia University. Thanks to her friends, family and incredible staff, cast, and crew of CTC for lifting up her voice and supporting her artistic and academic dreams.

**Keegan Robinson (Mannequin)** Keegan is a theatre-maker and activist from the Twin Cities. He is currently a student at the University of Minnesota where he is majoring in both Theatre Arts and Anthropology. Outside of the arts, he has recently been working with the organization [Overstory Alliance](http://overstoryalliance.org) ([overstoryalliance.org](http://overstoryalliance.org)) creating a library of open-source educational materials concerning the ecological, energetic, economic, and social roots of today's injustices. He has also been involved in the campaign to stop Line 3 to protect Minnesota's waters and Indigenous treaty rights. He'd like to thank CTC and everyone reading this for supporting children's theatre. Children are the future!

**Dwight Leslie (Understudy Corduroy, The Night Watchman)** Children's Theatre Company: *Cinderella*; *Matilda the Musical*; *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *Last Stop on Market Street*; *The Wiz*; *Corduroy*. Ordway: *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Mamma Mia!*. Enlightened Theatrics: *Hair*. New Theatre in the Square: *Next to Normal*. Matt Davenport Productions: *World of Wonder*. McLeod Summer Playhouse: *Joseph and ... Dreamcoat*; *Rock of Ages*. Gainesville Theatre Alliance: *Godspell*; *Mary Poppins*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Once on This Island*.

**Stella Ruth Murphy (Understudy Lisa)** Born in the Twin Cities, Stella was raised in a family that enjoys storytelling and singing around the piano. At the age of seven, she joined the Minneapolis Youth Chorus, enrolled in acting classes at Children's Theatre Company and took up the violin. In the fall of 2017, she was thrilled to play Annie Who in CTC's production of *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. She was equally honored to be cast in the understudy role of Lisa in this world premiere of *Corduroy*. Stella spent her whole academic life at Yinghua Academy until this year where she is now a freshmen at Breck." She is fond of traveling, biking and spending time with family and friends.

**Lynnea Doublette (Understudy Mother)** Lynnea (she/her) has enjoyed roles in *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax* and *Corduroy* at Children's Theatre Company. She has performed with several organizations, including Guthrie Theater, History Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Illusion Theatre, and Stages Theatre Company. She holds an M.Sc. from Saint Thomas University.



**Miranda Shaughnessy {Understudy Ensemble}** Miranda was born in Minneapolis. She has had a diverse training background studying Ballet at Ashley Ballet Arts Academy and danced competitively at Platinum Dance Center until she moved to Saint Paul. Miranda joined the Junior Line at Larkin Dance Center. As a competitive Dancer, Miranda has won many awards: Breakout Artist at NuVo, Core performer at Radix, Titles at KAR, Starquest and recently she won the Title of Senior All-American with DXDance. After several years at Larkin, Miranda moved on to pursue a career that includes dance, acting, modeling and commercial work.

She made her CTC debut in the world premiere of *Corduroy*. Miranda has been onstage as the recurring lead character of Marie in *HoliDaydream*. She is a seven-year Minnesota Dance Collaborative (MDC) Company Member and her work with them includes countless theatrical and community performances. Miranda has choreographed for MDC in *HoliDaydream*; *Vivify-A Still Life in Motion*; and *The Ambassador Review* (in collaboration with Legacy and The Minnsky Theatre). She has danced with acclaimed companies like ShapeShift (WeDay and the Sparkle Conference) and this year became a Collide Theatrical Apprentice. Working with Collide has given her the opportunity to train with a professional company as well as perform on the Cowles Center stage in their 2020 production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

She has taught at studios around the Twin Cities: Jamm Dance Company, Fusion, Dance Revue, Collide Academy and more. She is a private coach with Acting in Motion and is currently training with Stacey Tookey through The Bridge. She was a Pro-Reveler at Revel Dance Convention and assists Art of Movement and DX Dance Conventions.

Miranda has done television (ABC's *Myth and Monsters* and *In an Instant*), film (*To Say Goodbye/The Protectors*), commercial work and voice over. This year, she travelled to work as a dance model for Pas de Deux Photography.

**Brian Sostek (Understudy Corduroy, The Night Watchman)** Brian's exploits have ranged from acting in some of Hollywood's most quickly cancelled sitcoms to touring internationally with percussive dance-theater company Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum. Over three decades, he has parlayed his background in various dance forms, his lifelong experience with comedy, and his fascination with verbal and physical play into a successful and constantly expanding career in the performing arts. He has created and performed work for numerous companies including CTC, Guthrie Theater, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, as well as Sossy Mechanics, which he founded with wife Megan McClellan and with whom he won a 2015 Ivey Award for Playwriting and Choreography. Since 2016, Brian has been applying the skills he has developed as writer, choreographer, director, and performer to teach researchers and doctors at the University of Minnesota how to communicate more effectively.

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## ***Last Stop on Market Street* Biographies**

### **Creative Team**

**Cheryl L. West (Playwright)** Cheryl's plays have been seen on Broadway (*Play On!*), Off-Broadway and in England as well as numerous regional theatres including: CTC, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Rep Theatre, Arena Stage, Old Globe Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, Indiana Rep Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Bay Street Theatre Festival, Syracuse Stage, Cleveland Play House, South Coast Rep Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and off-Broadway's Manhattan Theatre Club, The Atlantic Theatre, Second Stage, and Primary Stages. Her plays include: *Shout Sister, Shout!*; *The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963*; *Fannie*; *Last Stop on Market Street*; *Akeelah and the Bee*; *Pullman Porter Blues*; *Motherhood Out Loud* (co-author); *Addie, American Girl Story* (21-city tour); and *Jar the Floor*. She has written TV and film projects at Disney, Paramount, MTV Films, Showtime, TNT, HBO, CBS and is the Webby-



nominated writer for the original web series *Diary of a Single Mom*. Ms. West is currently working on commissions for Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Seattle Rep Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Children's Theater, CTC, Seattle Children's Theatre, and UC Santa Barbara's LAUNCH PAD Program.

**Lamont Dozier (Composer)** Lamont has written and produced over 54 #1 hits for The Supremes, Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, and a host of others crediting Lamont as one of the primary Architects of the Motown Sound. A BMI ICON Award winner, Lamont was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and The Songwriter's Hall of Fame, where he also received the 2009 Johnny Mercer Award. As a solo artist, he has earned platinum albums and also written songs for Alison Moyet, Simply Red, Boy George, Eric Clapton and Phil Collins, earning a Grammy Award, Brit Award, Ivor Novello Award, Golden Globe Award, and Oscar nomination for the song "Two Hearts". Lamont's 1970's solo album songs are some of the most sampled music to date by rap and hip-hop artists including Notorious B.I.G., Tupac Shakur, Lil Wayne, Dr. Dre, The Alchemist, Common, Three 6 Mafia, T.I., Meek Mills, Kendrick Lamar, soul icons Mary J. Blige and Usher, and alternative rockers, Linkin Park. Musical theatre has always been a passion of Lamont's. His first score was *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* which opened at the Chicago Children's Theatre in 2014 to rave reviews shared with his collaborator and son, Paris Ray Dozier.

### **Paris Ray Dozier (Composer)**

Paris is a composer/lyricist from Encino, CA. Credits include: Hollywood Records, Disney (Singer/Songwriter, Producer); UPN's *B In Tune TV* (Musical Theme Writer, Co-Host); *Saturday Night Live's The Kicker* (Composer). He and his father, Lamont, also collaborated on the musical *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*.

**Henry Godinez (Director)** Henry also stage directed *Last Stop on Market Street* for Chicago Children's Theatre. He is the Resident Artistic Associate at the Goodman Theatre, where he curated the Latino Theatre Festival and fostered a co-production of *Pedro Paramo* with Teatro Buendia of Cuba. Also at Goodman, he has directed *Feathers and Teeth*; *The Sins of Sor Juana*; *Boleros for the Disenchanted* (also world premiere at Yale Repertory Theatre); Regina Taylor's *Millennium Mambo* (also as *Urban Zulu Mambo* Signature Theatre, NYC); *Straight as a Line*; *The Cook*; *Mariela in the Desert*; *Electricidad*; *Zoot Suit*; and *Cloud Tectonics*. Other directing most recently includes the Goodman/Dallas Theater Center co-production of *American Mariachi*. Other directing work includes Teatro Vista (co-founder and former artistic director), Signature Theatre in NYC, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens, and Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Born in Havana, Cuba, Godinez is a professor at Northwestern University and serves the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

**Ashley Selmer (Choreographer)** Ashley is the Founder and Creative Director of SHAPESHIFT, a hip-hop/contemporary storytelling dance company based in Minneapolis. She is trained in Jazz, contemporary, ballet, hip-hop and African. Ashley's credits include SHAPESHIFT productions: *Grey Skies Blue*, *XI:XI*, *XI:XI: The Awakening*; Associate Choreographer *In The Heights*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ordway Center for Performing Arts); Ensemble *West Side Story*, 2nd Assistant Director *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (Ordway Center for Performing Arts); Ensemble *The Amen Corner* (Guthrie/Penumbra Theater); Film/TV credits include: Commercial, MN Zoo, African Penguin Exhibit.

Ashley's additional credits include performer for J Lo's Direct TV Now Campaign Super Bowl LII, Official Prince Tribute Concert Xcel Energy Center (Tori Kelly), The Target National Sales Concert (Willow Smith), Team iLuminate in Las Vegas at the Bellagio (America's Got Talent), and more.

In the studio, Selmer draws from life's real and imaginary experiences to craft stories that emote feelings and reflect diversity & inclusion. She emphasizes technique but prefers utilizing each dancer's unique and beautiful movements as tools for telling, moving, and interwoven narratives. She encourages SHAPESHIFT dancers to openly share their personal experiences, and together they design choreography that captures common elements that make us the same, in so many ways, despite our socioeconomic or racial differences.

**Sanford Moore (Music Director)** Sanford is perhaps most noted as the founder, director, and arranger for the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble Moore by Four. He has traveled extensively with his ensemble in the US, Europe, and Japan and has shared the stage with such notable jazz artists as Bobby McFerrin, Harry Connick, Jr., the late Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughn, Dizzy Gillespie, and Carmen McRae.

In addition to his work with Moore by Four, Mr. Moore is sought after as a musical director, arranger, and composer. He is currently Musical Director for Penumbra Theater, musical directing *Girl Shakes Loos*; *By the Way*; *Meet Vera Stark*; *Ballad of Emmet Till*; *The Amen Corner*; *Black Pearl Sings*; *Black Nativity*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *Get Ready*; and *Dinah Was*. Other musical directing credits include, *Smokey Joe's Café* (The Ordway); *The Wiz*; *Last Stop on Market Street*; and *Three Little Birds* (CTC); *Disgraced* (Composer); *Parchman Hour*; *To Kill a Mocking Bird*; *Choir Boy*; and *Crowns* (Guthrie Theater); *Thunder Knocking at the Door* (Ten Thousand Things); *Two Queens, One Castle*; *Black Belts*; and *I, II & III* (Mixed Blood Theater); *Nina Simone: Four Women* (Park Square Theater); co-creator of the musical revue *Always and Forever* (Illusion Theater); and co-creator of *When a Man Loves a Diva* (The Lab Theater). Other projects include composer for *Warriors of Light* (Threads Dance Company), and Minister of Music for Kingdom Life Church in North Minneapolis.

### **Courtney O'Neill (Scenic Designer)**

Courtney's first design for CTC was with *Corduroy*. Her designs have been seen at Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Children's Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and more. She still has a trophy from a LEGO® building contest when she was in 4th grade.

**Trevor Bowen (Costume Designer)** Credits include: *Spamtown, U.S.A.*; *Three Little Birds*; *I Come From Arizona*; and *Corduroy*; (Children's Theatre Company); *One Room* (Arena Dances); *Redwood*; *Ride The Cyclone*; *Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill*; *Fly By Night*; and *Bars and Measures* (Jungle Theater); *True West* and *BLKS* (Steppenwolf); *Ragtime* and *Sweat* (Asolo Rep); *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* (Kennedy Center); *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Black Beauty* (Seattle Children's Theater); *The Fix* and *Fellow Travelers* (MN Opera); and *Scapegoat* and *Jimmy and Lorraine: A Musing* (Pillsbury House Theater). [www.trevorbowendesign.com](http://www.trevorbowendesign.com)

### **Marcus Doshi (Lighting Designer)**

Marcus Doshi is an international theatre maker who designs lighting and sets for theatre, opera, and dance, and collaborates with artists and architects on a wide array of non-performance-based work. He is a frequent collaborator with NYC's Theatre for a New Audience and Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company. He is also a tenured Associate Professor of Theatre at Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL, where he teaches design in the MFA programs. Projects with Theatre for a New Audience include *A Winter's Tale*; *The Skin of Our Teeth*; *The Father*; *A Doll's House*; *King Lear* (2014 Henry Hewes Design Award nomination); *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Macbeth*; *Measure for Measure*; *Othello* (2009 Lucille Nortel Award for Outstanding Lighting Design nomination) all directed by Arin Arbus, *The Broken Heart* directed by Selina Cartmell, and *Hamlet* (2009 Drama Desk for Best Lighting Design of a Play nomination and 2009 Henry Hewes Design Award nomination) directed by David Esbjornsen. Elsewhere in New York, *Linda Vista* on Broadway at Second Stage's Helen Hayes Theatre, directed by Dexter Bullard; *Pass Over* directed by Danya Taymor at Lincoln Center Theatre, *Party People* directed by Liesl Tommy at The Public Theatre (2017 AUDELCO 'Viv' Award Nomination); *Les Mamelles de Tiresias* and *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* in double bill at Juilliard; *The Petrol Station* with Sulayman Al Bassam at the Gallatin School; *A Boy and His Soul* at the Vineyard Theatre; *Things of Dry Hours* for New York Theatre Workshop; the world premiere of *Queens Boulevard (The Musical)*, *The First Breeze of Summer* (2008 AUDELCO 'Viv' for Best Lighting Design); and *My Children! My Africa!* at the Signature Theatre; *The Glass Cage* and *What the Public Wants* at the Mint; the American Premiere of *Terrorism* for The New Group & The Play Company; *Charade* and *[underscore]*, choreographed by Jonah Bokaer; The Obie Award winning productions of *Molly's Dream* for Soho Rep and *Menopausal Gentleman* at the Ohio Theatre; the Civilians' *[I Am] Nobody's Lunch* (International Tour) and *Patriot Acts: An American Vaudeville; Impermanent*

*Collection, Without, Mass Particle Number One, It's My Party* and *Reusable Parts/Endless Love* with Moving Theatre, among many others. Full bio at: [marcusdoshi.com](http://marcusdoshi.com).

**Sten Severson (Sound Designer)** Selected credits: *The Wiz* (CTC/Penumbra Theatre); *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*; *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* (CTC); Tony®-nominated *HAIR* (Broadway, West End, National Tour); Drama Desk-nominated *The Merchant of Venice* (Broadway); AUDELCO Award-winning *The Total Bent* (Public Theater); *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Old Globe); and *Into the Woods* (Delacorte Theater).

**Chris Schweiger (Stage Manager)** Chris has been working at CTC for 18 years, and most recently stage managed *Spamtown, USA!* Chris has worked with other companies in Minneapolis including The Ordway, Mixed Blood, Guthrie Theater, Ragamala Dance, Theater Latté Da, and Illusion Theatre. Chris has also worked with Perseverance Theatre Company in Alaska, Arena Stage in Washington, DC, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Old Globe in San Diego, New Victory Theater in New York City, the Alpine Theatre Project in Whitefish, Montana, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the Moab Music Festival in Utah. She received her B.S. in Theatre from Northwestern University and was a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Mongolia.

**Kathryn Sam Houkom (Assistant Stage Manager)** Kathryn Sam Houkom (she/her) Assistant Stage Manager – has stage managed over twenty productions in seventeen seasons at Children's Theatre Company. She has worked for the Guthrie Theater, the Ordway, the Minnesota Orchestra, Mixed Blood Theatre, and Park Square. Sam is a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association.

**Corey Bozeman (Assistant Choreographer)** Corey, a Minneapolis native, started dancing at age 15. His dance training includes many styles and he has studied with top industry choreographers. Corey is on the creative team of SHAPESHIFT (a hip-hop storytelling dance company) and a dance instructor who has received many national choreography titles.

**Craig Gottschalk (Associate Lighting Designer)** Design credits include *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *The Wiz*; *Cinderella*; *The Wizard of Oz*. Other CTC credits include lighting designs for *The Best Summer Ever*; *Corduroy*; and *Animal Dance*. Regional credits include *Mary Poppins* (Artistry, MN); *Blues in the Night*; *Always Patsy Cline*; *Bombitty of Errors*; and *Route 66* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater).

#### **Dustin Morache (Assistant Lighting Designer)**

Dustin was a freelance sound and lighting designer in Seattle for eight years. He has been in the Twin Cities for two years now and is excited for his first show at Children's Theatre Company! He is currently getting his M.F.A. from the University of Minnesota. Love to Marie.

#### **H. Adam Harris (Acting Coach)**

H. Adam is an actor, director, teaching artist, and cultural equity consultant. Last season, he was a puppeteer and voice of the title role in *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax* (Children's Theatre Company, The Old Globe). H. Adam is a frequent performer on various stages, and he loves working at the intersection of theatre, education, and social justice.

## **Cast**

**Alejandro Vega (CJ)** Alejandro has been performing in the Twin Cities since 2015. He has been seen on the CTC stage in *Peter Pan the Musical*; *Wizard of Oz*; *The Abominables*; *Last Stop on Market Street*; and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. He has also performed with the Minnesota Orchestra in *Home for the Holidays*, and with the Minnesota Opera in *The Shining* (Danny Torrance) and *Dead Man Walking*. Alejandro has played roles in Theater Latté Da's *Oliver!*, *Gypsy*, *Five Points* (John Diamond Jr. ) and NEXT Festival. Other credits include: *Damn Kids These Days* in the Minnesota Fringe Festival and *The Passage or What Comes from Searching in the Dark* (Albert Grissom) with 7th House Theater/Guthrie Theater.

While performing during the 2020 pandemic has been on pause, Alejandro has continued to work on his performance and music skills online with his voice teacher Thaxter Cunio, his guitar teacher Mike Menard, CTC's Institute, and Minnesota Opera's High School vocal artist summer program. Alejandro is now in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Hopkins High School in Minnetonka. He is the 2020-2021 recipient of the Willie B. Hale Vocal Scholarship at MacPhail Center for Music. Alejandro is excited for the streaming return of *Last Stop on Market Street* so that more people can see this fun show with important, timely messages. He especially enjoyed the collaborative process with the creative team and cast on this new work.

**Greta Oglesby (Nana)** Greta made a big splash in the theatre community when she played the lead in Tony Kushner's *Caroline or Change* at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. Her performance was variously described as "ravishing," "indelible," "powerful," "magnificent," "heartbreaking," "brilliant," and "the best performance on a Twin Cities stage this year." Oglesby won the Ivey award for that performance. She has enjoyed roles at CTC in *Last Stop on Market Street*; *The Wiz*; *Akeelah and the Bee*; and more. Greta's resume includes five seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Crowns*, *Burial at Thebes*, *Sunshine Boys*, and *Appomattox* at the Guthrie. *Gem of the Ocean* and *Amen Corner* at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, and several plum roles at Penumbra Theatre, including *Piano Lesson*; *Ballad of Emmet Till*; and *Black Nativity*.

Greta has recently published a book entitled "Mama N Nem...Handprints On My Life" (Kirkhouse).

**Ansa Akyea (Mr. Dennis)** Ansa (AEA, SAGAFTRA) is a professional actor, and teaching artist, who works throughout the country. Ansa was last seen in "The Lorax" (storyteller, mayor, inspector). His stage work, and numerous tv/film credits include the television series "In an Instant" (ABC); the films *The House of Tomorrow*, *Memorial Day*, *kid west*, and others. His stage credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater), *Jackie & Me* (Children's Theatre Company), *How to Use a Knife* (Mixed Blood Theatre), *Othello* (Ten Thousand Things), *The Jackie Wilson Story* (Black Ensemble Theater), and many others. He is a recipient of the McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship and the Many Voices Mentorship from Playwrights' Center, as well as *City Pages* Best Actor Award. Mr. Akyea is a proud M.F.A. graduate of The University of Iowa's Acting program (2000).

**Dwight Leslie (Tatted Man/Blind Man/Mr. Chow)** Children's Theatre Company: *Cinderella*; *Matilda the Musical*; *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *Last Stop on Market Street*; *The Wiz*; *Corduroy*. Ordway: *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Mamma Mia!*. Enlightened Theatrics: *Hair*. New Theatre in the Square: *Next to Normal*. Matt Davenport Productions: *World of Wonder*. McLeod Summer Playhouse: *Joseph and ... Dreamcoat*; *Rock of Ages*. Gainesville Theatre Alliance: *Godspell*; *Mary Poppins*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Once on This Island*.

**Autumn Ness (Madam Butterfly/Grandma Posey)** Autumn has been a member of the CTC Acting Company for 20 seasons! Some favorite roles include: The Stepmother in *Cinderella*; Mrs. Wormwood in *Matilda the Musical*; Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*; Bagheera in *The Jungle Book*; Mom in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*; Solo Performer in *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*; Mrs. Cobb in *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*; Lily St. Regis in *Annie*; Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*; White Witch in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; and Mrs. Piggie Wiggle in *The Magic Mrs. Piggie Wiggle*. Her super-hero team includes her husband Reed, her two sons, and one pug. Autumn is a recipient of the 2018 Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship to develop programming for children on the Autism Spectrum, and received the 2020 MRAC Next Step Fund Award.

**Calvin Zimmerman (Dancing Teen/JoJo)** Calvin has enjoyed performing in *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* (Stages Theatre Company), *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Children's Theatre Company), and *A Raisin In The Sun* (Park Square Theatre).

**Kennedy Lucas (Dancing Teen/Ensemble)** Kennedy has enjoyed roles in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* (Stagedoor Manor); *The Nightingale*; *Beauty & The Beast*; and *Magic Treehouse: Night In New Orleans*

(Stages Theatre Company). She has also performed in *Sneetches* (Children's Theatre Company); *Hairspray* (Artistry Theater); and *Wizard of Oz*; *Aladdin*; and *My Son Pinocchio* (Lundstrum Performing Arts).

**Symphonie Whitted (U/S to Dancing Teens)** Symphonie has enjoyed roles in *Fidgety Fairy Tales* (Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health); *Shrek Jr.* (Children's Theatre Company); *Annie Jr.* (Children's Theatre Company); *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Children's Theatre Company); *Hairspray Jr.* (Youth Performance Company); *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* (Children's Theatre Company); *Last Stop on Market Street* (Children's Theatre Company); *Carrie* (Children's Theatre Company); *Cinderella* (Children's Theatre Company); *Ruby Bridges* (Youth Performance Company); *CovidTown* (Children's Theatre Company); *Pre-Professional Institute* (Children's Theatre Company).

**Alexcia Thompson (Understudy Nana, Madam Butterfly, Grandma Posey, Ensemble)** Alexcia was a 2018 – 2019 Performing Apprentice at Children's Theatre Company. She holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Howard University. Alexcia has enjoyed roles in *Ain't Misbehavin* (Howard University); *Next to Normal* (Bayou Theatre Company); *The Tempest* (Sweet Tea Shakespeare); *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (Children's Theatre Company); and *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Yellowtree Theatre).

**Rowin M. Breaux (Understudy Mr. Dennis, Tatted Man, Vernon, Mr. Chow)** Rowin Breaux has been involved with the Children's Theatre Company since the 2018—2019 Season during which he was one of the Performing Apprentices. While there he understudied multiple shows including; *Last Stop on Market Street* and *The Hobbit*, and you may have seen him in other CTC shows such as *Cinderella*, *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. Rowin will next perform via the airwaves with a radio play production with the Vashon Repertory Theatre in Tacoma, Washington. Be safe!