

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Children's Theatre Company Announces the Cast of 'Annie'

*Finally! Live on stage! At long last! It's HERE!!!!*

**Minneapolis, Minn.**—Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to announce the cast for the much-anticipated production of **Annie**. Directed by **Peter Rothstein**, *Annie* runs November 7, 2021 through January 9, 2022, opening the first live CTC theatrical season post-pandemic. This electrifying production stars **Audrey Mojica** and **Lola Ronning** sharing the role of Annie, **JoeNathan Thomas** as Oliver Warbucks, **Janely Rodriguez** and Grace Farrell, and **Emily Gunyou Halaas** as Miss Hannigan. Company members **Autumn Ness** will play Lily St. Regis, **Reed Sigmund** will play Rooster, and **Dean Holt** and **Gerald Drake** along with **Gabrielle Dominique**, **Marc Gill** and **Rue Norman** play a variety of roles. The Orphans will be played by **Madelyn Davis**, **Elsa Dungan-Hawks**, **Mari Peterson-Hilleque**, **Anja Arora**, **Chloe Lou Erickson**, **Adelyn Frost**, and **Mabel Weismann**. The two Rugsrats include **Sam Mandell** and **Audrey Powell**. The Ensemble includes **Jaya Bird**, **Evan Decker**, **Natalie Pietig**, **Tic Treitler**, and **Nicola Wahl**. The dog Sandy will be played by **Bailey** and **Sunny** of Broadway's **Bill Berloni's Theatrical Animals**. Most of the cast and creative team are the same as assembled for the 2020 production. Full bios for the cast and creative team are listed below.

Times are tough, spirits are low, and the world is in dire need of hope. Enter, stage left: a delightful underdog—a good-natured, yet mischievously feisty, young girl. She takes on the world and, with an equal share of moxie and music, unlocks hearts and changes lives through kindness, love, and spirit. Like Annie and Daddy Warbucks sing, “The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow!”

“*Annie* is, without question, one of the truly great American musicals,” states Director **Peter Rothstein**. “It is set in the Great Depression and the young hero of the story offers a profound voice of hope, determination, and optimism. The musical is also a celebration of non-traditional and chosen families. I hope audiences young and old are captivated by her spunk, her charm, and her wisdom.”

CTC recently announced new vaccine and safety protocols for public performances. In a commitment to ensure the safety of our young people and families, CTC will be requiring all guests ages 12-and-a-half and older to present either proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to attending a performance, or on-site class, camp, or special event. Complete details can be found at: <https://childrenstheatre.org/plan-your-visit/covid-19-update/>.

The winner of seven Tony® Awards, this show is one of the world's best-loved musicals, about a mischievous and feisty orphan who unlocks hearts and changes lives through kindness, love, and spirit. It is a spirited and inspiring story that reminds audiences that hope is always possible, there is always “Tomorrow.”

“It is thrilling that after 18 long months, we are bringing this delightful and powerful tale finally, finally, finally, to the stage,” states **CTC Artistic Director Peter C. Brosius**. “We have been waiting for this moment

and all of the artists, staff, and board at Children's Theatre are deeply moved and hugely grateful that we can reopen with this production. We all need this joy, this energy, and this belief in the future."

*Annie* runs November 7, 2021 through January 9, 2022 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Tickets can be purchased at [childrenstheatre.org/annie](http://childrenstheatre.org/annie) or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$88. *Annie* is proudly sponsored by Polaris.

### **Annie**

Book by Thomas Meehan

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Directed by Peter Rothstein

Choreography by Kelli Foster Warder

Music Direction by Victor Zupanc

November 7, 2021-January 9, 2022

UnitedHealth Group Stage

All Ages

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

Scenic Designer | **Vicki Smith**

Costume Designer | **Richard O. Hamson**

Lighting Designer | **Paul Whitaker**

Associate Sound Designer | **Sten Severson**

Animal Trainer | **William Berloni**

Animal Handler | **Tyler Garstka**

Stage Manager | **Jenny R. Friend**

Assistant Stage Manager/Stage Manager | **Kathryn Sam Houkom**

Associate Sound Designer | **Katharine Horowitz**

Assistant Choreographer | **C. Ryan Shipley**

Assistant Costume Designer | **Barb Portinga**

Assistant Lighting Designer | **Kathy Maxwell**

Howard University Stage Management Fellow | **Cortney Gilliam**

### **Cast**

Annie | **Audrey Mojica, Lola Ronning**

Oliver Warbucks | **JoeNathan Thomas**

Grace Farrell | **Janely Rodriguez**

Miss Hannigan | **Emily Gunyou Halaas**

Drake, Apple Seller, Ensemble | **Gerald Drake**

Lt. Ward, Bundles McCloskey, Mr. Pugh, Fred McCracken/Wacky, President Roosevelt, Ensemble | **Dean Holt**

### **Holt**

Lily St. Regis, Ensemble | **Autumn Ness**

Rooster, Ensemble | **Reed Sigmund**

Boylan Sisters | **Gabrielle Dominique, Rue Norman, Natalie Pietig**

Sophie, Cecille, Ensemble | **Gabrielle Dominique**

Chauffeur, Producer, Ensemble | **Marc Gill**

Mrs. Greer, Ensemble | **Rue Norman**

Orphans | **Anja Arora, Madelyn Davis, Elsa Dungan-Hawks, Chloe Lou Erickson, Adelyn Frost, Mari**

**Peterson-Hilleque, Mabel Weismann**

Bert Healy, Rugrat | **Sam Mandell**

Rugrat | **Audrey Powell**

Ensemble | **Jaya Bird, Evan Decker, Natalie Pietig, Tic Treitler, Nicola Wahl**

Sandy | **Bailey, Sunny**

### **UNDERSTUDIES**

Miss Hannigan, Lily St. Regis, Sophie, Cecille, Ensemble | **Becca Hart**

Boylan Sisters | **Becca Hart, Nicola Wahl**

Grace Farrell | **Gabrielle Dominique**

Oliver Warbucks, Lt. Ward, Bundles McCloskey, Mr. Pugh, Fred McCracken/Wacky, President Roosevelt,

Chauffeur, Producer, Ensemble | **C. Ryan Shipley**

Rooster, Drake, Apple Seller, Ensemble | **Marc Gill**

Orphans | **Emily Huggett, Sidney Whiteside**

Bert Healy | **Tic Treidler**

### **ORCHESTRA**

Conductor/Keyboard | **Victor Zupanc**

Woodwinds | **Mark Henderson**

Trumpet | **Elaine Burt**

Bass | **Greg Angel**

Trombone | **Wade Clark**

Percussion | **Steve Kimball**

**Runtime: 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission.**

### **Tickets:**

The Ticket Office is accessible by phone two hours prior to most performances. These posted hours are subject to change.

**Email:** [tickets@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:tickets@childrenstheatre.org) (inquiries only, no ticket processing)

**Phone:** 612.874.0400

**Website:** <https://childrenstheatre.org>

Subscription packages are available. Please see website for complete details: [childrenstheatre.org/open](https://childrenstheatre.org/open)  
Lap passes available for children newborn to three years for \$5

**ASL Interpreted Performances: Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7pm and Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 5pm**

**Audio Described Performance: Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7pm**

**Sensory Friendly Performance: Friday, January 7, 2022 at 7pm**

### **Performance Dates:**

Sunday, November 7, 7pm (Preview)

Tuesday, November 9, 7pm (Preview)

Wednesday, November 10, 7pm (Preview)

Thursday, November 11, 7pm (Preview)

Friday, November 12, 7pm (Opening Night)

Saturday, November 13, 1pm and 5pm (Opening Weekend)

Sunday, November 14, 1pm and 5pm (Opening Weekend)

Thursday, November 18, 7pm

Friday, November 19, 7pm

Saturday, November 20, 11am and 3pm

Sunday, November 21, 1pm and 5pm

Wednesday, November 24, 7pm

Friday, November 19, 2pm and 7pm  
Saturday, November 27, 11am and 3pm  
Sunday, November 28, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, December 2, 7pm  
Friday, December 3, 7pm  
Saturday, December 4, 11am and 3pm  
Sunday, December 5, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, December 9, 7pm  
Friday, December 10, 7pm (ASL/AD)  
Saturday, December 11, 1pm and 5pm  
Sunday, December 12, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, December 16, 7pm  
Friday, December 17, 7pm  
Saturday, December 18, 11am and 3pm  
Sunday, December 19, 1pm and 5pm (ASL)

Tuesday, December 21, 7pm  
Wednesday, December 22, 2pm and 7pm  
Thursday, December 23, 1pm and 5pm  
Sunday, December 26, 1pm and 5pm

Monday, December 27, 2pm  
Tuesday, December 28, 2pm and 7pm  
Wednesday, December 29, 2pm and 7pm  
Thursday, December 30, 2pm and 7pm  
Friday, December 31, 2pm  
Sunday, January 2, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, January 6, 7pm  
Friday, January 7, 7pm (Sensory Friendly Performance)  
Saturday, January 8, 11am and 3pm  
Sunday, January 9, 1pm and 5pm (Closing)

## **BIOS**

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

#### **Director**

**Peter Rothstein** is delighted to return to CTC, where he directed *Shrek the Musical*; *Peter Pan*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*; and *Disney's High School Musical*. Other local directing credits include the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Opera, Illusion Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Minnesota Orchestra, and Theater Latté Da, where he serves as Founding Artistic Director. [Peter-Rothstein.com](http://Peter-Rothstein.com)

#### **Musical Director**

**Victor Zupanc** (he/him) is credited with over 300 productions as Composer, Musical Director, and Sound Designer throughout the country and around the world, winning many awards and honors. Victor often composes for orchestras, choirs, films, and for NPR. This is Victor's 32<sup>nd</sup> season as Music Director/Composer at CTC. [victorzupanc.com](http://victorzupanc.com)

### **Choreographer**

**Kelli Foster Warder** is the Associate Artistic Director/Director of Impact at Theater Latté Da. Selected choreography credits include *Bernada Alba*; *Chicago*; *Once*; *Five Points*; *Ragtime* (Theater Latté Da); *Ordway Cabaret* (The Ordway); *Home for the Holidays* (Minnesota Orchestra); *Annie*; *Ragtime* (The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theater); *Ragtime* (Asolo Rep); and *Immortal Longings* (ZACH Theatre).

### **Scenic Designer**

**Vicki Smith** has designed at CTC for *The Wiz*; *Jackie and Me*; *Annie*; *Iron Ring*; *Afternoon of the Elves*; *Crow and Weasel*; and *The Miser*. She has designed for many theatres, including Denver Center Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Penumbra, Guthrie Theater, Milwaukee Rep, and Cleveland Playhouse.

### **Costume Designer**

**Richard O. Hamson** is the Resident Designer for Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. Local credits: Theater Latté Da, Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Illusion Theater, The Ordway, and History Theatre. He is very excited to be back at CTC after his amazing experiences designing for *Annie*; *Disney's Mulan, JR.*; *Disney's High School Musical*; and *Shrek The Musical*.

### **Lighting Designer**

#### **Paul Whitaker**

CTC: *I Come From Arizona*; *The Snowy Day and other stories by Ezra Jack Keats*; *Seedfolks*; *Shrek the Musical*; *Annie*; *Alice in Wonderland*; and *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, among others. He is a graduate of Macalester College and the Yale School of Drama. Paul is a Senior Lighting Designer/Theatre Consultant for Schuler Shook.

### **Sound Designer**

**Sten Severson's** (he/him) selected credits: *The Wiz* (CTC/Penumbra); *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).

### **Animal Trainer**

**William Berloni** is a 2011 Tony® Honoree for Excellence in Theatre. Starting with *Annie* in 1977, he has been involved in 27 Broadway shows, hundreds Off-Broadway, regional theatre, tours, television, and movies. Animal Director for *Because of Winn Dixie the Musical*. Star of *From Wags to Riches with Bill Berloni*. Author of *Broadway Tails*. Follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. [www.theatricalanimals.com](http://www.theatricalanimals.com)

### **Animal Handler**

**Tyler Garstka** (he/him) has worked with Bill Berloni on numerous productions over the last six years. *Finding Neverland* (First National Tour); more productions of *Annie* than he can count (National Tours and The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre); and *Peter Pan and Wendy* (Shakespeare Theatre Company). He holds a B.F.A. from Arkansas State University.

### **Stage Manager**

**Jenny R. Friend** (she/her) For 16 years, CTC has given her the gift of seeing the world with wonder through a child's eyes. Her fantastic family knows that tomorrow always brings hope. Juneau, Reuben, and Helga have taught her that sometimes a girl just needs her dog to get through the day.

### **Assistant Stage Manager/Stage Manager**

**Kathryn Sam Houkom** (she/her) has been on the stage management team at CTC for over 20 productions since 2004. Sam has also stage managed for Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, The

Ordway, Park Square Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, and The Kennedy Center.

#### **Associate Sound Designer**

**Katharine Horowitz** (she/her) has assisted on sound for *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds*; *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*; *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax*; and *The Wiz*. She has designed critically acclaimed shows for Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater, History Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Creede Repertory Theatre, and others. Katharine is a 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center.

#### **Assistant Choreographer, Dance Captain, Understudy for Daddy Warbucks and Ensemble**

**C. Ryan Shipley** (he/him) is making his CTC debut! His credits include *A New Brain*; *Mary Poppins*; *Singin' in the Rain* (Artistry); *Tenderly*; *Holidays with Bing* (Old Log Theatre); and *Ordway Cabaret: Gotta Dance!* (The Ordway). He is also a teaching artist, choreographer, and director.

#### **Assistant Costume Designer**

**Barb Portinga** (she/her) has been making her living in costumes for decades. She has designed shows throughout the Midwest, such as Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Door Shakespeare, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Mixed Blood, and History Theatre. This is her seventh show with CTC. She is a founding member of The Costume Collective, llc.

#### **Assistant Lighting Designer**

**Kathy Maxwell** has designed video and lights for several organizations, including Penumbra, Mixed Blood Theatre, Open Eye Figure Theatre, CTC, History Theatre, The Ordway, and Guthrie Theater. Recent credits: *This Bitter Earth*; *Benevolence*; *Mamma Mia*; and *Ride the Cyclone*. She received her M.F.A. in theatrical design from University of Minnesota and her B.A. in theatre/dance from University of Texas.

#### **Howard University Stage Management Fellow**

**Cortney Gilliam (she/her)** is a spring 2020 graduate of Howard University with a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts Administration. She has worked with Sundance Institute at the Summer Theatre Labs and interned for the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas, TX. She is currently a fellow at Children's Theatre Company.

#### **CAST**

##### **Annie**

**Audrey Mojica** couldn't be more thrilled to be back on stage at CTC! She has previously appeared as Cindy-Lou Who in *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* and as Matilda in *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*. She has also enjoyed roles at Blue Water Theatre Company, Steppingstone Theatre, Youth Performance Company, The Ordway, and Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts.

##### **Annie**

**Lola Ronning** (she/her) has performed in *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie Theater, and in Children's Theatre Company's TAT summer intensives, including *COVIDtown* (Stephanie); *Mary Poppins* (Jane Banks); and *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Orpheus). She appreciates the guidance of all her directors and choreographers, and the support of her family.

##### **Oliver Warbucks**

**JoeNathan Thomas** is back at CTC, having performed previously in *Once on this Island* and *Galileo*. JoeNathan has performed at The Ordway, Guthrie Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, and History

Theatre, to name a few. Recently, he performed in *The Cradle Will Rock* (Frank Theatre) and *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Artistry).

#### **Grace Farrell**

**Janely Rodriguez** (she/her) is a Miami native and Brenau University graduate. She has enjoyed roles in *Cinderella* (ensemble/understudy) and *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds* (understudy) as a CTC Performing Apprentice. She has also had the pleasure of working for Birmingham Children's Theatre and Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. Janely is very excited to continue her journey with Children's Theatre Company.

#### **Miss Hannigan**

**Emily Gunyou Halaas** was a 1999–2000 Performing Apprentice at Children's Theatre Company in *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*; *Green Eggs and Ham/The Old Man Who Loved Cheese*; and *Pinocchio*. She has performed with La Jolla Playhouse, Hartford Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and with many Twin Cities' theatres, including Guthrie Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Jungle Theater, and Park Square Theatre.

#### **Drake, Apple Seller, Ensemble**

**Gerald Drake** has been a member of CTC's Acting Company for 51 years. Among his favorite roles are the Stepmother in early productions of *Cinderella*; Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*; Fagan in *Oliver Twist*; Mr. Toad in *Wind in the Willows*; Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*; and Afar the Angel in *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*.

#### **Lt. Ward, Bundles McCloskey, Mr. Pugh, Fred McCracken/Wacky, President Roosevelt, Ensemble**

**Dean Holt** 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.

#### **Lily St. Regis, Ensemble**

**Autumn Ness** (she/her) is celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> season as a member of the CTC Acting Company! Some favorite shows include *Cinderella*; *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*; *The Jungle Book*; *Shrek the Musical*; and *Romeo and Juliet*. Autumn is a recipient of the 2018 Fox Foundation Fellowship and the 2020 Next Step Fund.

#### **Rooster, Ensemble**

**Reed Sigmund** is loudly celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> season as a member of the Acting Company, where he's appeared in shows such as *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *The Wizard of Oz*; and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Recently, he's also been seen onstage at Jungle Theater and Theater Latté Da.

#### **Boylan Sister, Sophie, Cecille, Ensemble**

**Gabrielle Dominique** is thrilled to be back at CTC! She was last seen in *I Come From Arizona* (understudy for Ms. Chan). Recent credits include: *Ride the Cyclone* (Jungle Theater); *Guys & Dolls* (Guthrie); *West Side Story* (Guthrie, Ordway); and *Mamma Mia!* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres). She holds a B.A. in Dance and Theater from St. Olaf College.

#### **Chauffeur, Producer, Ensemble**

**Marc Gill** (he/him) is a semi-recent transfer from Memphis. While in the Mid-South, Marc enjoyed roles in *Rent*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; and *Sister Act* (Playhouse on the Square); and *Chicago* and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Theatre Memphis). Marc has also worked with wonderful Minnesota-based companies including Sidekick Theatre, Minnsky Theatre, CTC, What's Next Productions, and GTC Dramatics.

#### **Mrs. Greer, Ensemble**

**Rue Norman** is delighted to be making her CTC debut as this season's Performing Apprentice. Rue has been

featured at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, and TheatreX. She is nationally recognized by the Kennedy Center for “Outstanding Performance in a Play” as Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* at UNW Theatre. Norman holds a B.F.A. from the University of Northwestern (Saint Paul).

#### **Orphan**

**Elsa Dungan-Hawks** is excited to make her CTC debut in *Annie*. She previously appeared as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater); and in *Beauty and the Beast JR.* and *Suessical JR.* (Lundstrum Performing Arts). Elsa has trained at Lundstrum Performing Arts and New York Film Academy.

#### **Orphan**

**Madelyn Davis** is proud to make her CTC debut. Madelyn has previously performed in *Shrek*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Annie*; *We Will Rock You*; *Joseph...Dreamcoat*; and *Elf The Musical JR.* with Ashland Productions. She was also a touring member of Fidgety Fairytales for the Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health.

#### **Orphan**

**Mari Peterson-Hilleque** (she/her) is excited to be back at CTC, previously appearing in *Dr. Seuss’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*. Other theatre credits include *Ruby: The Story of Ruby Bridges* (Youth Performance Company); *Annie JR.*; *Nate the Great* (Steppingstone Theatre); *Annie* (The Ordway); and Fidgety Fairytales (MN Association for Children’s Mental Health). Mari is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Hope Academy in Minneapolis.

#### **Orphan**

**Anja Arora** is delighted to be performing in *Annie* at CTC! She has previously performed in *COVIDtown the Musical* (CTC Summer Intensive); *The Most Magnificent Thing*; *Inch by Inch*; *Down on the Farm* (Stages Theatre Company); *The Music Man* (Bluewater Theater Company); and Minnetonka Schools productions. She is grateful to her family for supporting her!

#### **Orphan**

**Chloe Lou Erickson** is ecstatic to return to CTC in *Annie*! Theatre credits include *Roald Dahl’s Matilda The Musical* (CTC); *The Sound of Music* (The Ordway); and *Annie* (Prior Lake Players). Chloe is passionate about theatre, dance, singing, creative writing, hockey, and tennis!

#### **Orphan**

**Adelyn Frost** (she/her) is excited to make her CTC debut in *Annie*. She has enjoyed acting since age four. Recent shows include *Annie* and *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* (SteppingStone Theatre); and *Beauty and the Beast* (Black Dirt Theater). She would like to thank her family for their love and support!

#### **Orphan**

**Mabel Weismann** (she/her) is excited to be in one of her all-time favorite shows and back at CTC since playing Cindy Lou Who in *Dr. Seuss’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* and Manny in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*. She has also performed at Twin Cities theatres, including The Ordway, Guthrie Theater, Artistry, and Theater Latté Da.

#### **Rugrat**

**Audrey Powell** (she/her) is excited to make her CTC debut. Audrey has danced at Jeté Dance Centre in Rogers for 11 years, taken class in Disneyland with cast members, and studied cirque arts with Cirque du Soleil performers in Las Vegas. Audrey is a seventh grader in St. Michael-Albertville.

#### **Bert Healy/Rugrat**

**Sam Mandell** (he/him) is thrilled to be making his CTC debut. He has enjoyed roles in *Elf The Musical JR.*



(Stages Theatre Company); *Chaplin: The Musical*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Mary Poppins*; *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Minnetonka Theater); *James and the Giant Peach*; and *Mary Poppins* (CTC Junior Intensive).

#### **Ensemble**

**Jaya Bird** (she/her) is thrilled to be making her CTC debut. She has most recently performed in *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!* (Lakeshore Players Theatre) and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (Highland Park Senior High). She has also performed in *The Little Mermaid*; *Annie*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *Beauty and the Beast* (Steppingstone Theatre).

#### **Ensemble**

**Evan Decker** (he/him) is thrilled to make his CTC debut! Favorite past productions include *Elf The Musical* (Stages Theatre Company); *Junie B. Jones*; *The Little Mermaid* (Stepping Stone Theatre Company); and *A Christmas Story* (RLC Theatre Company). Evan hopes you all enjoy the show!

#### **Ensemble**

**Natalie Pietig** (she/her) is so excited to be making her CTC debut! Previous theatre credits include *Shrek*; *Cinderella*; *Guys and Dolls*; and *Beauty and the Beast* (Ashland Productions). She was also part of the *Schoolhouse Rock Live-Twin Cities Tour* at Lakeshore Players Theater this past summer.

#### **Ensemble**

**Tic Treitler** (he/they/she) is excited to debut in *Annie* at Children's Theatre Company. Tic has worked with many local theatres, including Emerging Professionals Ensemble, Shakespearean Youth Theatre, and Youth Performance Company. Tic performs as a contortionist, aerialist, and hand-balance artist at Circus Juventas. They are studying musical theatre at SPCPA.

#### **Ensemble**

**Nicola Wahl** (she/her) is delighted to be returning to CTC. Recent credits include *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* (CTC); *Beyond The Rainbow* (History Theatre); and *Fidgety Fairy Tales* (MACMH). Nicola has trained with Lundstrum Performing Arts and CTC's Theater Arts Training. She wishes to thank her voice teachers, Badiene Magaziner and Samantha Laumann.

#### **Sandy**

**Bailey** was rescued by Bill Berloni from Puppy Love Rescue in Louisiana. He is a Poodle mixed with something large. Theatre credits: Porthos in *Finding Neverland*; Nana in *Peter Pan National Tour* (Shakespeare Theatre); and Winn Dixie Understudy in *Because of Winn Dixie the Musical* (Goodspeed Musicals). This marks his debut as Sandy.

#### **Sandy**

**Sunny** was adopted by Bill Berloni in spring 2012 for the revival of *Annie* on Broadway from the Houston, TX the day before she was to be put to sleep. She became the subject of an NBC special entitled *Annie's Search For Sandy* and *From Wags To Riches* on the Discovery Channel. She stayed with the show on Broadway until 2014 and the national tour for two years.

#### **UNDERSTUDIES**

##### **Miss Hannigan, Lily St. Regis, Sophie, Cecille, Ensemble**

**Becca Hart** gleefully returns to CTC after her debut in *The Hobbit*. Other local theatre work includes *Ride the Cyclone*; *Small Mouth Sounds*; *The Wolves*; *Miss Bennet* (Jungle Theater); *Bridges of Madison County*; *Mary Poppins*; *Carousel*; *Phantom of the Opera*; *Candide*; *Music Man* (Artistry); *Urinetown* (Lyric Arts Theater); *The Arsonists* (Frank Theatre); and *Idiot's Delight* (Park Square Theatre/Girl Friday Productions). Hart graduated from St. Olaf College. When not performing, she's drawing cartoons!

## **Orphans**

**Emily Huggett** has enjoyed roles in *Three Snow Bears*; *Inch by Inch*; *The Dot*; *All the World*; and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Stages Theatre Company); and *Frozen, JR.* (Blue Water Theatre Company). An eighth grader at South View Middle School in Edina, Emily loves singing, dancing, baking, and playing with her dogs.

## **Orphans**

**Sidney Whiteside** is thrilled to be back at CTC, previously appearing in *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*. A freshman at Minnetonka High School, Sidney loves being on stage! A few favorite productions include *A Christmas Carol* (Guthrie Theater); *Peter Pan* (Minnetonka Theatre); and *Mary Poppins* (CTC's Junior Intensive). Sidney has been dancing since age three and currently trains at Lundstrum Performing Arts.

**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 for 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)

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