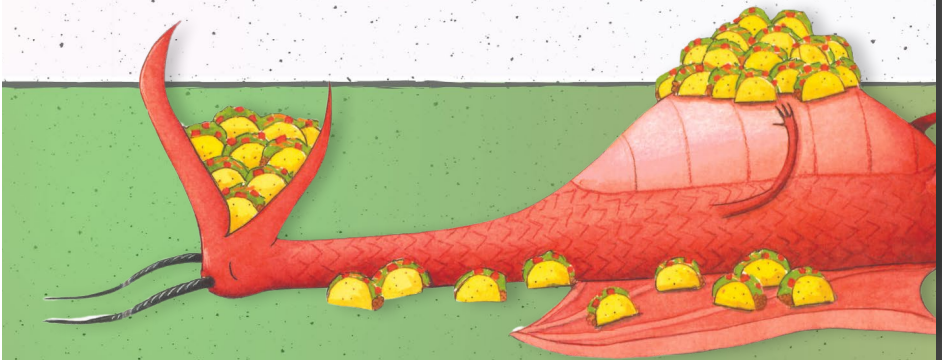




Written by Ernie Nolan
Based on the Books by Adam Rubin



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**CHATTANOOGA
THEATRE CENTRE**

presents

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

written by
ERNIE NOLAN

based on the books by
ADAM RUBIN

director & set designer
ANNIE COLLINS

choreographer
MARY ELIZA HENDRICKS

costume designer
LIOMAR MERCEDES SOSA

sound & light designer
SCOTT DUNLAP

technical director
ADAM MIECIELICA

sound engineer
WESLEY LEON

stage manager
CHRISTIANA RUSSELL

Guacamole Cast
assistant stage manager
WESTON WHITMIRE

Queso Cast
assistant stage manager
NOA HAMMOND

“**DRAGONS LOVE TACOS**” is produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences.

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GUACAMOLE CAST

in order of appearance

Boy	BEN WILLIAMS
Leroy, The Dog.....	FINLEY AUNE
Mom	CLAIRE HOUT
A Suit	OLIVIA WILLIAMS
A Suit	GAVIN HALL
Red Dragon	TA'LEA ROBINSON
White Dragon	DALTON WILLIAMS
Blue Dragon	AARIAN MCCRARY
Yellow Dragon	MELINA STAFFORD

QUESO CAST

in order of appearance

Boy	CLARK TRUETT
Leroy, The Dog.....	ANNELISE HAGAN
Mom	PHOEBE GILLIGAN
A Suit	ZOEY FESPERMAN
A Suit	MAX TRUETT
Red Dragon	EMINA FODERINGHAM
White Dragon.....	ISA BAEZ
Blue Dragon	ZOIE SNYDER
Yellow Dragon	ROMAN MEDINA

*The Guacamole Cast will perform on February 23rd, 25th, and March 2nd.
The Queso Cast will perform on February 24th, March 1st, and March 3rd.*



**CHATTANOOGA
THEATRE CENTRE**

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MEET THE CAST



FINLEY AUNE (Leroy, The Dog, Guacamole Cast) is a fourth grade student at Boyd Buchanan School. She has participated in CTC acting classes and Summer Academy since she was 4-years-old. Finley has also been involved with Summer Theatre Camp at her school in 2022 and 2023 where she played the role of Annie in *Annie* and Zazu in *The Lion King*. Previously, Finley appeared in the CTC Mainstage production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as Gladys Herdman. When not onstage, she enjoys dancing, drawing, acting, art, and spending time with her friends. She would like to give special thanks to her parents for taking her to classes, auditions, and rehearsals as well as her teachers and friends at CTC and Boyd Buchanan School.



ISA BAEZ (White Dragon, Queso Cast) is a Senior at Beacon Academy and has nurtured a love of theatre since she was in fifth grade. She began taking acting classes at CTC in middle school and attended CTC Summer Academy where she was cast as the Evil Lizard Overlord in the final Musical Theatre Academy production. Isa has appeared in several CTC Youth Theatre productions and is a member of the teen affinity group Theatre Quest. When not onstage, Isa enjoys writing, singing, and is a third-degree black belt in taekwondo. She would like to thank Chuck Tuttle, Lindsey Wills, Mary Eliza Hendricks, Scott Dunlap, Michael Huseman, Annie Collins, Katie Compassi, John Echols, Shellyta Chatman, Chris Williams, Lee Larson, Layla Rice, Becky Burgess, and Zoey Chatman for their support.



ZOEV FESPERMAN (Suit, Queso Cast) is a 18-year-old twelfth grade student. Most recently, she appeared in *Miss Nelson is Missing* and the *X Play* at CTC. She has also appeared in *Robyn Hood*, *Irish Courage Christmas*, *Peter Pan*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Little Princess* at Mars Theatre. Zoey enjoys acting, cosplaying, listening to K-Pop, spending time with friends, and playing piano. Zoey would like to give a special shout-out to her mom, sister, Chuck Tuttle, and especially Mary Eliza Hendricks.



EMINA FODERINGHAM (Red Dragon, Queso Cast) is a 14-year-old student at Chattanooga High Center for Creative Arts. She is a Musical Theatre major at her school and has previously appeared in CCA's productions of *Suessical, Jr.*, *James and Giant Peach*, and *Honk* as the cat. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family and wants to give them a special shout-out for their support as she makes her CTC debut.



PHOEBE GILLIGAN (Mom, Queso Cast) is a 14-year-old homeschooler. Her previous credits include roles such as Sister Clara/Young Strega in Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona*, Lavita in *Miss Nelson is Missing at CTC*, Baby Dragon in *The Baby Dragon Manifesto* with Playful Evolving Monsters, and Little Blue Fish in *The Rainbow Fish* with PEM and The Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, reading, puppetry, hiking, biking, baking, piano, and playing with her sister. She would like to thank Ms. Annie for giving her the opportunity to be involved in *Dragons Love Tacos*, everyone who has made this show possible, and her amazing family.



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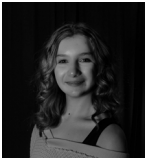
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ANNELISE HAGAN (Leroy, The Dog, Queso Cast) is a fifth grade student at Normal Park Upper School. She is excited to be on the CTC stage for the first time after participating in CTC's Musical Theatre Academy last summer. Previously, Annelise appeared in *Shrek Jr.* as Young Fiona. She enjoys rock climbing, playing piano, sewing, and painting. Annelise would like to give a shout-out to her *Dragons Love Tacos* cast and crew for all their hard work. She would also like to thank her parents for always being there for her.



GAVIN HALL (Suit, Guacamole Cast) made his CTC debut last fall as Mayor in Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona* in the Circle Theatre. Previously, he has performed as Baby Shrek in *Shrek, the Musical*, Alexi in *Anastasia*, Captain in *Oliver!*, Grimsby in *The Little Mermaid*, Tommy Djilas in *The Music Man*, the Chairman/Ensemble in *Mary Poppins*, and Sniper/ Teddy Roosevelt in *Newsies*. Gavin attends Ringgold High School as a Sophomore and is thankful to his family and CTC for such a warm welcome.



CLAIRE HOUT (Mom, Guacamole Cast) is a seventh grade student at the Chattanooga High Center for Creative Arts. She is making her CTC debut, but her previous credits include roles in *The Lion King*, *The Addams Family*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. Claire enjoys swimming, playing volleyball, singing, dancing, drawing, and learning french horn. "I would like to thank my family, including my godmother," says Claire. "They have been there for every step of the way and have supported me on every path I go down."



AARIAN MCCRARY (Blue Dragon, Guacamole Cast) is making her CTC debut but has previously appeared onstage and in film. Most recently she appeared as herself in *Duck Soup: A Family Trap Muzikal*. She enjoys boxing, sketching, soccer, and playing video games. Aarian has aspirations of becoming a professional actress. She would like to thank the *Dragons Love Tacos* cast for being so supportive and welcoming. Finally, Aarian

would like to thank her Dad for introducing her to acting and allowing her to do amazing things.



ROMAN MEDINA (Yellow Dragon, Queso Cast) is a 15-year-old student at CCA. This is his fourth time appearing on the CTC stage. He loves theatre and is the president of the 4-H Archery Club. In his spare time, he enjoys sketching, singing, and watching anime. After being a part of the 100th Season's opener, *Peter Pan, The Musical*, with his siblings, he hopes he can be in another show with his brother Nico and sister Meadow. "I love working on a wide variety of roles," says Roman. "I am especially excited about this role because I am a lot like Yellow Dragon, a silly person who loves to have fun!"



TA'LEA ROBINSON (Red Dragon, Guacamole Cast) is a Junior at Brainerd High School making her acting debut in *Dragons Love Tacos*. Her hobbies include singing, acting, and drawing. Ta'Lea would like to thank her parents, Que and Star Howard, for their encouragement and for pushing her to be a great person. She is also thankful for their support as she steps into the CTC Family.



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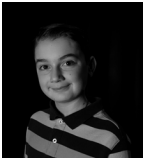


ZOIE SNYDER (Blue Dragon, Queso Cast) is a Musical Theatre major at CCA. She previously performed in *Honk! Jr*, *Lion King Kids*, *Aladdin Jr.*, and *Kid Congress*. When Zoie isn't performing, she enjoys playing with her four dogs and bearded dragon. She also likes to bake, nap, and spend time with friends. A favorite hobby of Zoie's is creating jewelry and stickers with her dad! She loves girls' night with her mom and grandma and enjoys

visiting big cities with her family.



MELINA STAFFORD (Yellow Dragon, Guacamole Cast) is a Junior at Silverdale Academy where she has performed in five productions. While in middle school, she wrote and directed two plays. In total, Melina has participated in ten productions, including *Dragons Love Tacos*. When not performing, she enjoys playing instruments, singing, baking, and running on the track team. She would like to thank her friends, family, and God.



CLARK TRUETT (Boy, Queso Cast) is a sixth grade student at Hilger Higher Learning. He recently played Papa Bambo in Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona*. When not at rehearsal, he is learning to play piano and enjoys illustrating, reading, and making movies. Clark hopes to go to school to become a professional graphic designer or illustrator. He would like to dedicate his performance to his brother, Hollis.



MAX TRUETT (Suit, Queso Cast) is an eighth grade student at Hilger Higher Learning. He began his acting journey in 2022 by performing in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Most recently, Max played the Mayor in Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona*. In his spare time, he enjoys making movies, writing comic books, learning guitar, and building Legos. Max's goal is to

one day become a director of stage and screen. He would like to dedicate this performance to his sister, Lorelei.



BEN WILLIAMS (Boy, Guacamole Cast) is very happy to be back in a CTC production alongside his brother and sister. This is Ben's fourth show at Chattanooga Theatre Centre. He has previously appeared in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Bambi* (as Bambi), *Peter Pan, the Musical*, and now *Dragons Love Tacos*. Ben would like to thank his family for their support in his creative interests.



DALTON WILLIAMS (White Dragon, Guacamole Cast) has enjoyed being back at CTC acting in his third show. He would like to thank Annie Collins, Mary Eliza Hendricks, and Christiana Russell for teaching him how to dance!



OLIVIA WILLIAMS (Suit, Guacamole Cast) is excited to return to the Mainstage at Chattanooga Theatre Centre alongside her brothers, Ben and Dalton. Previously, Olivia appeared in the 100th Season opener *Peter Pan, the Musical*, *Bambi*, and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. She would like to thank her parents for their continued support of her creative endeavors.

Beautiful performances broaden all of our horizons

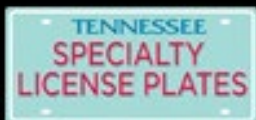
The enduring value of performing arts is the way it pushes us to see the world with new eyes. That's why we're proud to support the Chattanooga Theatre Centre and the performances it brings to life.



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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



ANNIE COLLINS (Director, Set Designer, and CTC Production Manager) has been found on stage and backstage at CTC for over a decade. Growing up, she was an active member of the Youth Theatre and Theatre Quest. In recent years, she's been a Scenic Assistant at CTC and the Scenic Designer for our production of *Alabama Story*. Annie last appeared on the CTC stage as Henrietta Angkatell in *The Hollow*. Some of her favorite roles include Beatrice (*A Servant of Two Masters*), Gretchen (*Boeing, Boeing*), Bad Idea Bear (*Avenue Q*), Emily (*Our Town*), and all the fun roles she's played with the Muse of Fire Project. She is a graduate of UTC with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. When she's not at the theatre, she enjoys reading, theme parks, and the outdoors with her dogs and husband.



MARY ELIZA HENDRICKS (Choreographer and CTC Education Associate) is a Chattanooga native who graduated with a B.A. Theatre Degree from Emory and Henry College in 2021, and has been working as a theatre artist in the Chattanooga area ever since. Her directing credits include: *Love Letters* and *Tin Cat Shoes* with the Mountain Arts Theatre, *A Stroll Down Holiday Lane* at the MACC, and *The Y Play* at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Mary Eliza choreographed *Mamma Mia* and *Newsies* at Signal Mountain Middle High School and was previously a teaching artist intern at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, teaching theatre to all ages. She also fancies herself on stage from time to time. Most recently, she appeared in CTC's *Peter Pan, The Musical* as Tiger Lily. She is excited to continue exploring new and exciting ways to tell stories with you!



LIOMAR MERCEDES SOSA (Costume Designer and CTC Technical Assistant) is an Afro-Latino designer with passions across the whole creative spectrum. He currently studies scenic and costume design as a Senior in the theater department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He previously designed costumes for August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* as well as Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at CTC and construction on *Something Rotten! The Musical*; *Peter Pan, The Musical*; Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona*; and *SCROOGE! The Musical*.



SCOTT DUNLAP (Light and Sound Designer and CTC Director of Productions) is an alumnus of CTC's Youth Theatre program, graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 1996, and was a member of their 1997 Acting Company. This season marks his 26th on staff at CTC, starting as Youth Theatre Designer from 1997 until 2000. He has been onstage in numerous CTC productions, including Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, and the Baker in *Into the Woods*, and most recently Brother Jeremiah in *Something Rotten! The Musical*. His long history of directing often includes designing elements of his own productions. Some of his favorites include *Almost, Maine*, *The Best Man*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Hair*, *Love/Sick, Mr. & Mrs. M*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *A Room with a View*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Xanadu*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* in 2005, 2009, and 2018.



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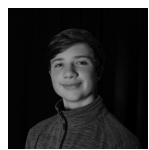
ADAM MIECIELICA (CTC Technical Director) officially joined the CTC team last summer, although he's no stranger to its productions. He received his MFA in Scenic Design and Technical Production from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He has worked professionally designing and working on tech for many theatres across the country including The Santa Fe Opera in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Northern

Stage in White River Junction, Vermont, and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, New Jersey. Adam was Visiting Professor of Scenic Design at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas before teaching at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



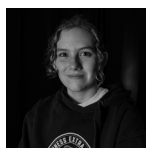
CHRISTIANA RUSSELL (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of the *Dragons Love Tacos* creative team! She previously appeared in Tomie de Paola's *Strega Nona* (*Strega Nona*), *Peter Pan*, *The Musical*, *Mary Poppins* (Jane), *Bambi* (Bambi's Mother), *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Nana), and many more. She has also performed

professionally in Branson, Missouri in Sight and Sound Theatre's production of *Jonah*.



WESTON WHITMIRE (Assistant Stage Manager, Guacamole Cast) is a 14-year-old eighth grade student. He previously appeared in Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona* as Big Anthony and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as Elmer Hopkins. Aside from his theatrical

"obsession," Weston enjoys reading, sketching, and learning about every subject he can. He would like to thank Annie Collins for this amazing opportunity to learn and appreciate more about theatre.



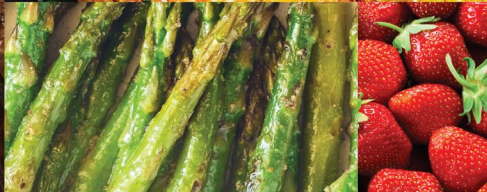
NOA HAMMOND (Assistant Stage Manager, Queso Cast) is a 13-year-old student at Normal Park. She lived in Asia for most of her life and her first involvement in a theater was as a prop hand for her school play, *Shrek*, *the Musical Jr*. Last year, Noa worked as Stage Manager for Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona*. In her free time, she likes to

read, paint, cook, bake, and go on walks. Noa would like to thank her first director, Scott Dunlap, who encouraged her to be a better stage manager in her first show. She would also like to thank her mother for supporting her and Annie Collins for being so kind and introducing her to her "new favorite thing."

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CREW: Tasonjia Colvin, Maddie Dixon, Phoebe Gilligan, Piper Elliott, Meadow Medina, and Lily Obal

COSTUME SHOP: Sandy Franklin, Joyce Hall, Mary Russell, and Cara Williams

SCENE SHOP: Mitch & Jackie Collins, Ronda Foderingham, Jeff Fowers, Gavin Hall, Joyce Hall, Gwynne Jones, Tracie Jullienne, Christo Milholland, Christiana Russell, Mary Russell, Cait Smith, Cara Williams, and Jessica Whitmire

FRONT-OF-HOUSE VOLUNTEERS: Jane Aylward, Sandra Vanden Branden, Laura Brown, Vange Carter, Janet Eskridge, Ronda Foderingham, Judy Gallagher, Bryan Gentry, Patt Gibson, Mark Hagan, Nastassja Hagan, Vincent Hale, Joyce Hall, Melissa Hall, Dana Hardaway, Joyce Hardaway, Michael & Diane Huseman, Becki Jordan, Tracie Jullienne, Phyllis King, Diane McCluskey, Leonard McCrary, Roman Medina, Kathleen Monnig, MaryAnne & Marley Moyer, Marlene Payne, Bill & Sue Reynolds, Kim Reynolds, Jasmine Robinson, Jason & Mary Russell, Ariana Sclarandis, Sandy Smith, Stephanie Smith, Sally Varner, Emma Veneron, Juanita Wade, Jessica Whitmire, and Cara & Kristopher Williams

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MEET THE STAFF



RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG (Executive Director) started his career at The Little Theatre in 1983 as the first full-time Youth Theatre director. He served for more than 18 years as Director of Programs and as Director of Education. Before coming back to the CTC in 2020, he was Vice President of ArtsBuild. Highlights at the CTC include the Youth Theatre representing the U.S. at the International Theatre Camp in Zelenograd, Russia. Rodney also served as Artistic Director of the camp in Narva, Estonia. He has directed over 80 plays at the CTC, including many Youth Theatre productions, *Vintage Hitchcock*, *Boeing, Boeing*, and *Annie*. He has also been seen onstage in *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Newsies*, *A Room with a View*, *Les Misérables*, *The Producers*, and *Anything Goes*. Rodney has been a participant in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Partners in Education program since 2003 and served on the program's Advisory Committee. He served as the coordinator for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child site, also through the Kennedy Center. Rodney has also served as a grant panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission. He serves as Tennessee State Captain for the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Action Summit in Washington, D.C. He is a past president of the Tennessee Theatre Association and served on the executive committee of the Southeastern Theatre Conference. He received his MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Rodney shares his passion for theatre with his son, Jake, who lives in Atlanta.



JEREMY CAMPBELL (Scene Shop Manager) joined the CTC team in 2023. However, he's no stranger to the CTC stage. He has been involved with Chattanooga Theatre Centre as an actor, stage manager, volunteer, and now as a staff member. Jeremy hopes that you enjoy the show and the 100th Season of shows here at CTC.



RACHEL CARROLL (Marketing Manager) is excited to be a part of Chattanooga Theatre Centre's 100-year legacy. As a student, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Lee University and a Master of Public Administration from UTC. After moving to Chattanooga in 2017, she has been an advocate for local arts and participated in the Holmberg Arts Leadership Academy in 2019. Her work in fundraising, communications, and marketing as well as her love for theatre makes her particularly excited to promote the 100th Anniversary. In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Godzilla and Nessie, and her husband Zachary.



MALAKI CUMMINGS (Box Office Assistant) is a full-time student at Chattanooga State studying music. He hopes to work towards a Doctorate degree in Music to achieve a life-long goal of being a Music Professor. His regional credits as a Musical Theatre performer include, "Arpad" in *She Loves Me* and "Chip" in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, both at Priscilla Beach Theatre. He credits his enjoyment working at CTC to the opportunity to work *in* and *with* the community, gain exposure to different skill sets, and the incredible staff!"



JUSTIN GASS (Front-of-House/Event Manager) started working last May in the Box Office, and later became CTC's Front of House/Event Manager. Justin was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN. He participated in several of the Youth Theatre productions on and off stage growing up. Justin studied theatre at Depaul University and was certified in Event Planning at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He has over twenty years of experience in the service industry including management and events. Recently moving back home, Justin is thrilled to be back at the theatre which he always has considered a second home.



LEAH GREEN (Technical Assistant) is so happy to have found such a supportive home at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Since starting in August, after debuting in *Something Rotten*, she has worked on *Strega Nona*, *SCROOGE! The Musical*, and *Peter Pan, The Musical*. She enjoys building and painting the sets, but most of all, she enjoys the amazing experience she gains all while doing that with people she enjoys being with. When Leah isn't at CTC she is a sophomore at Chattanooga State, earning her major in Musical Theatre. Enjoy the show!



JEFF HILL (Business Manager) as a long-time volunteer, Jeff has been involved at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre for nearly four decades. He has appeared in numerous productions. In addition to his on-stage performance experience, he has also volunteered backstage, stage managed shows, coordinated special events, run sound and lights, and worked in the scene shop, costume shop and front-of-house. Jeff attended Mercer University, where he studied music theatre performance and accounting. He also has a freelance event planning company and produces unique cakes, food, and floral designs. He is very delighted to be part of the staff here at the Theatre Centre, a place so near and dear to his heart.



GWYNNE JONES (Box Office Assistant) has had an interest in the arts since she was very young, when she acted in church plays and began sculpting. While her love of animals led her to pursue an Associate of Science Degree with an emphasis on animal care and handling, she could not stay away from the theatre. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from UTC's Theater program where she enjoyed acting and voice acting while also furthering her shop skills such as scenic painting and props. Throughout the community and school productions she has acted in, her favorite roles have included Benvolio (*Romeo & Juliet*), Lucy (*Room with a View*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Female Hyde (*Jekyll and Hyde*), and Miss Skillen (*See How They Run*). When she is not around the theatre, she can be found dabbling in any number of hobbies including recreational soccer, hiking or kayaking with her dog, bug collecting, rescuing spiders, photographing plants, animals, fungus and clouds, miscellaneous crafting and construction, and napping with her cats.

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CRIS KING (Costume Shop Manager) is thrilled to be CTC's Costume Shop Manager! Cris joined the CTC family during the 2021 production of *Vintage Hitchcock* and later volunteered in the costume shop. She joined the team officially just in time to help with *Aladdin Jr.* Cris hails from Birmingham, AL, and moved to Chattanooga with her beautiful fiancée Ramsay in 2019. Together they raise two rowdy black cats, Finn and Poe.

PHYLLIS MESCON (Development Assistant) Born in South Carolina, Phyllis has enjoyed a 33-year career working in leadership positions with a variety of nonprofit organizations in Chattanooga. Her professional life includes a focus on creating innovative strategies specific to development, experience she hopes will help define her role at Chattanooga Theatre Centre. When not working at CTC, Phyllis and her husband, Jed, usually spent their time attempting to manage the mischief of two rescued dogs, Mister X and Arlo, while also meeting the ever-demanding expectations of Moira Rose, Birdie Girl, and Alfie McCoy, their rescued cats. Jed and Phyllis are also proud parents of Caroline, who works in television production in Los Angeles.



KITTY MURAKAMI (Box Office Assistant) moved here from Ocala, Florida, in 2015. She was raised in upstate New York, graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and has lived in great places like Denver and Maui. Her first and only experience with theatre (other than high school plays) started as a costume shop volunteer at Ocala Civic Theatre for two years. After retiring as a pharmacist and moving to

Chattanooga, she continued volunteering at CTC in the costume shop and is currently the Box Office Assistant. "It has been an honor and a privilege as well as a wonderful learning experience to be involved with this organization. CTC is blessed to have such an amazing facility, talented dedicated staff and volunteers, and such supportive patrons."



CHUCK TUTTLE (Director of Education & Innovation) holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Children's Theatre and Creative Drama from the University of Texas at Austin and has over 30 years of experience doing theatre with and for young people. His professional background includes serving as Director of Education at Austin Theatre for Youth in Austin, Texas, and Children's Theatre Workshop in Pleasanton, California. Chuck has taught theatre classes to all ages in acting, playwriting, technical theatre, William Shakespeare, voice, movement, improvisation, and comedy, among others. As an actor, he has taken on the roles of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Joaquin in *El Californio*, Simon in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (which he performed in Hokkaido, Japan). Directing credits include *Waiting for Godot*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Nightingale*, *The Crucible*, *Once on This Island*, *God of Carnage*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, and *Go, Dog, Go!* Chuck has written several stage adaptations, including *Plant, Grow, Pick* for CTC's

2010s: A COLORFUL DECADE FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION

at Chattanooga Theatre Centre

The 2010s here at the Theatre Centre were filled with big musicals and classic dramas, from *Hairspray* to *Mary Poppins* to *The Crucible* to *Newsies*. Not only were the seasons hoppin', but our other programs grew and flourished as well.

During the 2010s, the Summer Academy program, under the direction of Education Director Chuck Tuttle, produced many original musicals based on fairytales, with the help of Michael Huseman, John Echols, and Andrew Chauncey. The 2010s also saw the continuation of the Alphabet Play series. The Alphabet Plays are original shows built around words starting with each letter in the alphabet, performed primarily for first grade audiences. Every Alphabet Play is written by Tuttle and members of our teen interest group, Theatre Quest. We are currently working on the last in the series, The Z Play, which will be performed on April 27, 2024!

While Theatre Quest began in 2000, they stayed busy in the 2010s. Club members wrote, produced, and acted in short play festivals and several variety sketch shows called Coffeehouse Cabarets. They worked as “elves” at the Chattanooga Choo Choo to entertain children at Christmas and produced beautiful work at the Hunter Art Museum during the Hunter Project. This group still meets today on the first Monday of every month at 7:00PM, and of course, they are always looking for new members!

Tuttle spearheaded a new project at CTC called “Theatre for the Very Young” or TVY, a style of theatre designed for 2-6 year olds in 2017. Alongside a group of professional actors, he wrote and developed the show which toured in schools. CTC has recently revived this project and developed another original TVY show, “Dancing Colors” which is touring now.

In the Youth Theatre, Maria Chatten served as resident Director for 10 years until 2013, when Scott Dunlap stepped into the position. During this period, the Youth Theatre program moved away from performing shows almost exclusively in the Circle Theatre, starting with *Bunnicula* which premiered in 2013 on our Mainstage Theatre. In addition to allowing more audience members to see the public performances produced by our Youth Theatre, the move also worked well during school performances where hundreds of students came to experience live theatre, some for the first time.



Newsies, Fall 2018



The P Play, Fall 2016



Coffeehouse Cabaret



Plant, Grow, Pick!



The House at Pooh Corner, produced in the Mainstage Theatre in 2018

Written by: Mary Eliza Hendricks

PLAN, LEAD, & INSPIRE

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