



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

MARCH 22 THROUGH APRIL 7, 2024



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**CHATTANOOGA
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presents

Agatha Christie's
**MURDER
ON
THE ORIENT
EXPRESS**

MARCH 22ND THROUGH APRIL 7TH, 2024

based on the novel by
AGATHA CHRISTIE

written by
KEN LUDWIG

director and costume, light,
and sound designer
SCOTT DUNLAP

scenic designer
JEREMY CAMPBELL

technical director
ADAM MIECIELICA

sound engineer
WESLEY LEON

scenic painter
ANNIE COLLINS

stage manager
EVANGELINE CARTER

assistant stage manager
SARAH ZORN

special thanks to **BRAD CANSLER** and **VSW PRINTING**

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS"
*is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on
behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com*

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Founded in 1923, the Chattanooga Theatre Centre is dedicated to enriching the cultural, intellectual, and emotional development of people of all ages by providing high-quality theatrical experiences and creating opportunities to engage in them. To join us in this mission, call 423.267.8534 or visit us at TheatreCentre.com to find out how you can take part.

CAST

listed in order of appearance

Hercule Poirot	JUSTIN FORSYTHE
Head Waiter & Others	MATTHEW LAWRENCE
Colonel James Arbuthnot	BILLY PATE
Mary Debenham	SARAH ADDISON
Mrs. Caroline Hubbard	MAGGE CABRERA-HUDGINS
Hector Macqueen	CALEB ATKINS
Monsieur Bouc	DENNIS PARKER
Princess Natalia Dragomiroff	JOYCE BENSON
Greta Ohlsson	BRENDA HODGES BINDER
Pierre Michel	JEREMY CAMPBELL
Samuel Ratchett	RAJEEV BHATIA
Countess Eléna Andreyani	MONIQUE REASON
Charles Armstrong & Others	KRISTOPHER WILLIAMS
Daisy Armstrong	MEADOW MEDINA
Sonia Armstrong and Others	BEULAH MOSLEY
Suzanne & Others	JENNIFER ABBOTT

SETTING

Aboard the Orient Express as it travels from
Istanbul to Western Europe,
1934

PLEASE NOTE

Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express" includes:
prop weapons, fake gun shots, vapor cigarettes, imitation fog,
and mature themes including death of a child.

The run time for this production is 2 hours and
30 minutes with a 15-minute intermission.

COMING UP NEXT IN THE 100TH SEASON...

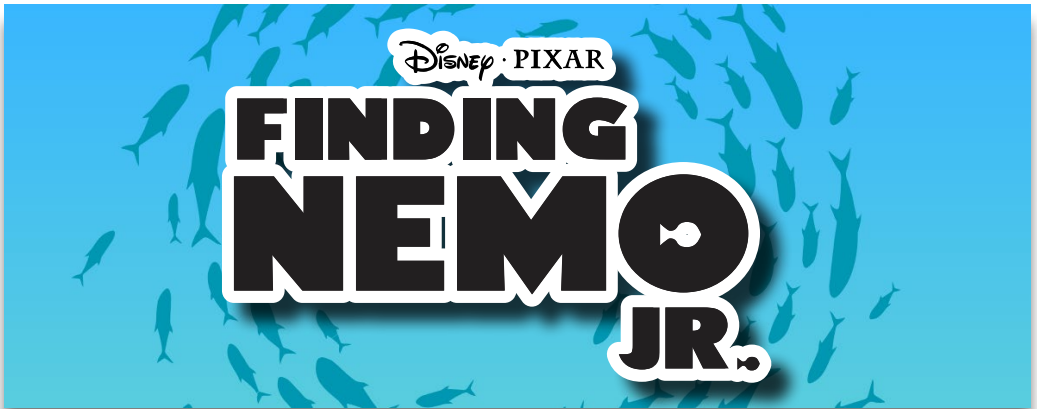


Aint Misbehavin'

APRIL 12 THROUGH MAY 5, 2024

PRESENTED IN THE CIRCLE THEATRE

A musical revue of blues music from the legendary Fats Waller complete with powerhouse voices and mesmerizing dancing, you don't want to miss *Aint Misbehavin'* at Chattanooga Theatre Centre.



Disney • PIXAR

FINDING NEMO JR.

MAY 10 THROUGH MAY 19, 2024

PRESENTED IN THE MAINSTAGE THEATRE

Disney • Pixar's "Finding Nemo, Jr." tells the story of one fish as he searches the ocean to find his missing son. Mixed with puppetry, singing, and dancing from two talented casts of young performers, this Youth Theatre production is sure to be a favorite of fish and friends alike!

MEET THE CAST



JENNIFER ABBOTT (Suzanne and Others) is making her CTC debut in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*! With only high school show choir as background experience, this is her first acting performance ever, and she is thrilled and honored to share the stage with such a talented group. Outside of CTC, Jennifer works as a pharmacist with Walgreens, plays ultimate frisbee, and loves reading fantasy novels while snuggling up with her dog, Finn. She would like to thank her family and friends who encouraged her to take the leap and audition despite her initial hesitation, and especially wants to give thanks to her husband, Bryan Sansbury, for his support, flexibility, and love to let her experience what can only be called a dream come true.



very moment.

SARAH ADDISON (Mary Debenham) is thrilled to return to the CTC stage after performing in the CTC's productions of *The Sound of Music* as Maria, *Something Rotten! The Musical*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Spamalot*, *9 to 5*, and *Xanadu*. After graduating from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with her BFA in Musical Theatre, she spent the last few years working in Entertainment at Dollywood. She would like to dedicate her performance to her dog Ollie who is likely chewing up his bed at this



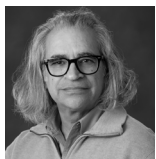
production to life.

CALEB ATKINS (Hector Macqueen) is excited to participate in his second production with the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Caleb previously played Cecco the Pirate in CTC's 100th Season opener, *Peter Pan, The Musical* last year. In his free time, Caleb enjoys playing the ukulele and concertina, jogging around Chattanooga, and writing about his interests in the third person. Caleb would like to thank his fellow castmates, the crew, and especially director Scott Dunlap for bringing this wonderful



great expectations!

JOYCE BENSON (Princess Natalia Dragomiroff) has performed with the Oak Street Playhouse and has taken on several roles in short films with Diva Media Productions. Joyce also lends her talent to local commercials and voiceovers for podcasts. She has a background in vocal musical training which allowed her to perform for a variety of organizations within the Knoxville and Chattanooga areas. Joyce would like to thank her family for their support and a special shout out to her sister Mary



who encouraged her to pursue a career in film and theatre opportunities which she plans to do with

RAJEEV BHATIA (Samuel Ratchett) is returning to the stage after decades away. In the past, he appeared in several Hindi plays in India where he received two acting awards for his performances. This production is Rajeev's first English play, and he's thrilled to enter the American acting scene playing a character from an Agatha Christie murder mystery. Rajeev has worked as a polymer chemist for over 30 years and currently works at Mohawk, the largest producer of flooring products in the world. When not at work, he enjoys painting, playing congas, and cooking. Rajeev always wanted to be an actor and would like to thank his wife Meena for continuously supporting his aspirations.



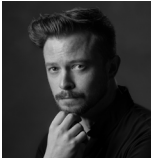
JEREMY CAMPBELL (Pierre Michel) has previously been seen in *The Sound of Music*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Love/Sick*, *The Library*, *A Midsummer Night's Disco*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Room with a View*, and *Hello Dolly*. Jeremy made his CTC debut as Lancelot in *Camelot*. He is currently working with Chattanooga Theatre Centre as the Scene Shop Manager.



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JUSTIN FORSYTHE (Hercule Poirot) This is Justin's debut production with CTC, although he has attended many past shows. His father, Tim, won two Miss Annie awards in the early 2000s for *The Day They Shot John Lennon* and *Oklahoma! Elsewhere*. Justin has portrayed Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* and, most recently, appeared in a production of *Seussical* on Signal Mountain with his daughter, Afton, who played the role of JoJo. He is a graduate of UTC, holding a BS and MA in psychology. Justin is thrilled and grateful to be a part of bringing Agatha Christie's work to life. He would like to thank his family (and Border Collie) for their sacrifice and support.



BRENDA HODGES BINDER (Greta Ohlsson) A three-time Miss Annie Award winner, Brenda is excited to join this amazing cast and crew on the Orient Express. A long-time CTC volunteer, she has worked both backstage and onstage, and has been seen in *Company*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Post-Mortem*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Annie*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*, among others at CTC, in *Pygmalion* and *Yes, Virginia*, *There Is a Santa Claus* at the Oak Street Playhouse, and in *Noises Off* and *Crimes of the Heart* at the Artistic Civic Theatre. She thanks her family for understanding her need to "play," and is especially grateful to all those who are joining her on this journey.



MAGGE CABRERA-HUDGINS (Mrs. Caroline Hubbard) last appeared at the CTC in *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)* in 2022. Previously, she appeared in *The Alabama Story*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Love/Sick*, and *Almost, Maine*. Her favorite CTC directing credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Producers*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Magge studied in NYC and worked with Theatreworks USA, Theatre for the New City, The Ridiculous Theatrical Company, and The Atlantic Theatre. She earned an MFA in Directing from Brooklyn College and is an alumna of the 2000 Lincoln Center Directors Lab. She teaches acting at Center for Creative Arts and is the Hamilton County Department of Education Theatre Chair. Magge is a proud member of the Chattanooga Theatre Centre board of Directors, and she wants to thank the CTC for the art, the community, and all the years of sharing the great stories.



MATTHEW LAWRENCE (Head Waiter and Others) is excited to be in his first speaking role in a stage play ever! He previously appeared in Chattanooga Theatre Centre's 99th Season opener *The Sound of Music* in 2022 as a member of the ensemble and wanted to audition for another show, especially one where he had lines!



MEADOW MEDINA (Daisy Armstrong) is an eleven-year-old homeschooled student. This is her first production onstage at CTC, but she previously worked on *Peter Pan, the Musical* alongside her brothers Roman and Nico as the Tinkerbell operator and *Dragons Love Tacos* with the running crew. Meadow will also be appearing next in the CTC's Youth Theatre production of *Disney • Pixar's Finding Nemo, Jr.* in May as Pearl. She would like to thank director Scott Dunlap for giving her this opportunity, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



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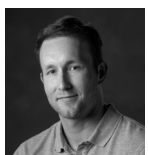
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BEULAH MOSLEY (Sonia Armstrong and Others) is making her CTC debut in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. She previously participated in many productions at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, playing everything from the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* to Squidward in *SpongeBob Squarepants, the Musical* with eleven years of roles in between. Fresh off completing a thru-hike of the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail, she is excited to now call Chattanooga home. She would like to thank the cast, crew, staff, and all the wonderful volunteers at CTC for welcoming her into the amazing theatre community.



DENNIS PARKER (Monsieur Bouc) a voice and Underwriting Manager at WUTC, is happy to perform in his third production at CTC after portraying Jake Laurent in *It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play* in 2020 and Governor Roosevelt in *Newsies* in 2018. Dennis's theatrical journey also led him to collaborations with the Signal Mountain Playhouse, ETC, Oak Street Playhouse, Chattanooga State and his own Mountain Arts Theatre. Among his cherished roles are Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion*, Bernard in *Boeing Boeing*, Dad in *Billy Elliot* and Andy Ladd in *Love Letters*. This latest role as Constantine Bouc has been an immense joy with many smiles that Dennis hopes the audience shares. Dennis would like to send much gratitude to director Scott Dunlap and this remarkable cast and crew, with a heartfelt acknowledgement to Ann Parker for her enduring support as a patient theatre widow. Art is alive in Chattanooga.



BILLY PATE (Colonel James Arbuthnot) is performing in his first play at the CTC after an extended theatrical hiatus. He has performed elsewhere in productions of *Into the Woods* and *Antigone* as well as several Shakespeare competitions. Billy has a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Alabama, and has moved to Chattanooga to pursue his engineering career. He would like to thank the CTC for the opportunity to return to the stage, and he would like to thank the crew and cast for making it such an enjoyable experience.



MONIQUE REASON (Countess Elena Andreyani) has a BA in Performance Arts from Louisiana State University. She made her CTC debut in *Peter Pan, the Musical* earlier this season as Nana, Tick Tock Croc, and Grown Wendy. As a former teacher for gifted actors in Iberville Parish and Artistic Director for Christian Youth Theatre, Lake Charles, she now enjoys her favorite role of all: being a mom to Mark, Calvin, and Archie Reason. She would like to thank her husband, Cody, for his infinite love and support, and Scott Dunlap for this magnificent journey on the Orient Express.



KRISTOPHER WILLIAMS (Charles Armstrong and Others) is making his CTC debut but has previously participated in the Short + Sweet Theatre Festival and One:1 Theatre Festival in Dubai. He works as a warehouse operations manager for DB Schenker and in his free time enjoys roller hockey and working on old cars and motorcycles. He would like to thank his family for allowing him to indulge in his many hobbies and projects.

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



SCOTT DUNLAP (Director; Costume, 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.



JEREMY CAMPBELL (Scenic Designer and Scene Shop Manager) joined the CTC team last year, but 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 this production and the 100th Season of shows here at CTC.



EVANGELINE "VANGE" CARTER (Stage Manager) is incredibly enthused to be back on the tracks with CTC following last year's production of *Pride and Prejudice* that she staged managed as well. Vange enjoys volunteering here at CTC both behind the scenes and at the front-of-house as her schedule allows. By day, she works as a Corporate Trainer for a technology group and spends time with her boyfriend, sisters, children, and grandchildren.



SARAH ZORN (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working backstage with CTC for her fourth show. She has previously worked as a tech for *The Color Purple*, *the Musical* and *The Cake* and as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Something Rotten! the Musical*. She earned her degree in Child and Family Development at Georgia Southern University and it was here that she discovered her passion for the performing arts and gained her minor in theatre. Sarah works as a paralegal and enjoys crafts, reading and baking. She would like to thank her husband, family and her friends for being so supportive of her work and allowing her to pursue her passion for theatre at the CTC.

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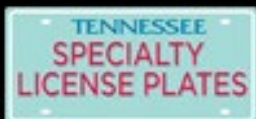
The enduring value of performing arts is the way it pushes us to see the world with new eyes. That's why we're proud to support the Chattanooga Theatre Centre and the performances it brings to life.



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MEET THE 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.



BRADY BRIGHT (Technical Assistant) loves getting to be a part of the process of making shows come to life, taking scenes and designs that are scripted on paper and creating them into real, living stories for audiences to love. He was mentored by Taylor Williams at The Colonnade in Ringgold, Georgia. While there, he helped build a multitude of sets for shows like *Charlie Brown* and *Cinderella*. Here at CTC, Brady enjoys working with and learning from Technical

Director, Adam Miecielica. It is one of his favorite parts of getting to work in the scene shop. He hopes you all become immersed into this world and enjoy the show.



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.



ANNIE COLLINS (Box Office Assistant) 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.



**Thank you to VSW Printing for providing the vinyl
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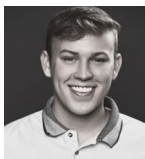


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MALAKI CUMMINGS (Box Office Assistant) is a full-time student at Chattanooga State studying music. He hopes to work towards a Doctorate degree in Music to achieve a life-long goal of being a Music Professor. His regional credits as a Musical Theatre 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 in May of 2022 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 spend 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* and *Dancing Colors* for CTC's Theatre for the Very Young program.

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1930s: SURVIVING AND THRIVING

at Chattanooga Theatre Centre



Photo of the Fire Hall

The Little Theatre, as we were known in the 1930s, was located in an old fire hall in Downtown Chattanooga. Having their own space allowed the theatre to be more flexible with its programming, but it also came with challenges. At this time, the structure of the theatre was such that the only paid positions were the directors. The actors, technical artists, and board members who ran the business were all volunteers, many working full-time jobs in other industries.

Property ownership would not be the only difficulty The Little Theatre would face in its first decade of existence. The effects of the Great Depression were headed for Chattanooga in 1929, and there was no certainty the organization would survive the national economic crisis. At first, The Little Theatre stumbled, limiting the number of shows produced for several years. However, by 1935 they were producing more plays than ever before. As a testament to the need for an artistic space in the community, The Chattanooga Times spared nothing in their affection for the theatre. In July 1932, one reporter at the Times wrote: “Even in the midst of an unusual concentration upon the problems of business . . . Chattanooga has not forgotten the less tangible but important needs of cherishing and developing the sources of art and culture. The Little Theatre is a factor in the things that go to make and keep alive consciousness of being something more than cogs in a bewildering industrial machine.”

In 1933, the theatre produced a marionette show titled *Prisoners of Neptune*. This “dramatic fantasy” was written and directed by Malcolm Chisholm, and produced with the talents of many others in the community.

One particularly facinating quote describing this era appeared in The Chattanooga Times in 1932: “Much of the excellence of Little Theatre plays may be traced to the fact that no bounds have been set upon the places from which casts may be drawn. Lawyers, doctors, clerks, stenographers, mechanics, salesmen, government employees, detectives, housewives, society leaders, bank executives, students- all mingle in the democracy of The Little Theatre.”

MARIONETTES AT LITTLE THEATER HAVE ANCIENT AND ROMANTIC ANCESTRY



*From an article about
“Prisoners of Neptune”*

No doubt, The Little Theatre’s survival and success throughout the Great Depression was due, in large part, to the continued involvement of prominent Chattanoogaans. Because of the emotional and financial support from generous individuals, hardworking volunteers, and our resilient patrons, The Little Theatre would thrive and survive one of the most difficult times in United States history and continue on to become one of the oldest continuously operating community theatres in the country.

Written by The CTC History Committee

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