

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Melissa Ferlaak
Senior Communications Manager
612.382.5571
mferlaak@childrenstheatre.org



Zoo-Wee-Mama!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical Returns in a Newly Updated Version

Award-Studded Creative Team and Cast Announced

Minneapolis, Minn.—Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) is proud to announce the cast and creative team for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*, the smash hit production based on *The New York Times* best-selling *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book series and media franchise. The popular series by author/illustrator, **Jeff Kinney**, is the recipient of six Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards and is published in 66 languages throughout the globe. The books have also been brought to the silver screen five times, including the latest film released on Disney+ in 2021. Director **Jenn Thompson** (multiple Drama Desk and Lortel nominations, upcoming national tour of *Annie*) will helm an updated version with some new songs and scenes by playwright **Kevin Del Aguila** (Off-Broadway: *Altar Boyz*, Emmy-winning writer, television’s *Peg + Cat*, musical book writer for the musical version of *Madagascar* and *Dog Man: The Musical*) and composer/lyricist team, **Michael Mahler** and **Alan Schmuckler** (Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre, *The Secret of My Success* (NBC/Universal)), with choreography by **Patricia Wilcox** (Broadway’s *Motown the Musical*, *A Night with Janis Joplin* and more). Music supervision and direction is by **Amanda Morton** (*Goodspeed*, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* first national tour), scenic design is by **Scott Davis** (*Ride the Cyclone* (MCC), *Disney on Ice*, *Othello: The Remix* (The Westside Theater), costume design by **Kara Harmon** (*Cullud Wattah* (Public Theater); *Hometown to the World* (Santa Fe Opera)), lighting design by **Philip S. Rosenberg** (Broadway’s *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Pretty Woman*, and more), projection design by **Edward T. Morris** (*Goodspeed*, *Roundabout*), and sound design by **Sten Severson** (Tony®-nominated *HAIR* (Broadway, West End, National Tour)). The musical is produced by special arrangement with **Kevin McCollum** (producer for *RENT*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Six*, *Motown: The Musical*, and many more) and **Buena Vista Theatrical**.

Author **Jeff Kinney** states, “I’m incredibly excited to see Greg Heffley and his Wimpy world spring to life onstage at Children’s Theatre Company, which puts on amazing, first-class productions. It’s enormously gratifying as an author to have my work in the hands of such a talented team.”

The cast bringing the famous characters to life on stage include **Patrick Scott McDermott** (*Les Misérables* (National Tour); *Kinky Boots* (Paramount Theatre)) and **Huxley Westemeier** (Broadway’s first national tour of *School of Rock*, *August Rush the Musical*) as Greg Heffley, **Kamryn Henderson** (*A Christmas Story* (Music Theatre Kansas City)) as Rowley Jefferson, CTC Company Members **Autumn Ness** as Mom and **Reed Sigmund** as Dad, **Harry Lawler** as Rodrick Heffley, **Brielle Freeburg** and **Sullivan “Sully” Sigmund** as Manny, **Anja Arora** as Patty Farrell, **Indra Khariwala** as Chirag Gupta, **Sam Mandell** as Fregley, **Andrej Humiston** as Joshie, **Dean Holt** as Mr. Underwood/Bill Walters, and **Rue Norman** as Mrs. Clayton. The middle-school-mayhem ensemble includes **Sam Rosewarne**, **Matthew Woody**, **Tic Treidler**, **KateMarie Andrews**, **Drew Elo**, **Ella Freeburg**, **Mabel Weismann**, **Jaya Bird**, and **Mason Yang**. The full cast and understudy listing is below along with their bios.

“What a delight to join the incredible creative team behind *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*, as we continue its journey, here at Children’s Theatre Company,” stated director **Jenn Thompson**. “Diving back into Jeff Kinney’s all too relatable world of middle school mayhem, conjures up that sweet and vulnerable time in life when everything feels upside down, but all you really need is one good friend to see you through it. I can’t wait to share this hilarious and heartwarming story with CTC audiences, both young and old, and in the middle.”

Middle school, ugh. It’s the worst. But Greg is determined NOT to be at the bottom of the popularity chart. He’ll leave that to his weird neighbor, Fregley. Or maybe Greg’s best friend, Rowley Jefferson. But it’s not going to be Greg... no way.

See Jeff Kinney’s popular character take center stage as Greg’s cartoon diary becomes a hilarious and heartfelt musical. Will Greg’s plans lead him to sacrifice his one true friend? Can anyone avoid the dreaded Cheese Touch? Grab a hall pass and don’t be late for an adventure familiar to anyone who actually survived middle school!

“We are thrilled to have this wonderfully reimagined version of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* on our stage,” stated CTC Artistic Director, **Peter C. Brosius**. “This musical adapted from the beloved and hilarious books by Jeff Kinney takes us deep into the wild and woolly world of middle school. It is a tale that celebrates the power of friendship and how we all can learn what truly matters in life. We are so excited to have you see what this extraordinary creative team and amazing cast will bring to the stage.”

Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical runs April 22 through June 18, 2022 on the UnitedHealth Group Stage. Tickets can be purchased at childrenstheatre.org/wimpy or by calling the ticket office at 612.874.0400. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$78. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical* is proudly sponsored by **Delta** with additional support from **Treat & Company**.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical

Book by Kevin Del Aguila

Music and Lyrics by Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler

Based on the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book series by Jeff Kinney and the 20th Century Studios films

Produced by special arrangement with Kevin McCollum and Buena Vista Theatrical

Directed by Jenn Thompson

Choreography by Patricia Wilcox

Music Supervision by Amanda Morton

A Children’s Theatre Company Original Production

April 22-June 18, 2022

UnitedHealth Group Stage

Best enjoyed by all ages

Creative Team and Production Staff

Scenic Designer | Scott Davis

Costume Designer | Kara Harmon

Lighting Designer | Philip S. Rosenberg

Sound Designer | Sten Severson

Projection Designer | Edward Morris

Music Director and Conductor | Amanda Morton

Stage Manager | Amanda Baranski

Assistant Choreographer | Kym Chambers Otto

Assistant Stage Manager | Chris Schweiger

Howard University Stage Management Fellow | Cortney Gilliam

Cast

Greg Heffley | Patrick Scott McDermott, Huxley Westemeier

Mom | Autumn Ness

Dad | Reed Sigmund

Rodrick Heffley | Harry Lawler

Manny | Brielle Freeberg, Sullivan Sigmund

Rowley Jefferson | Kamryn Henderson

Patty Farrell | Anja Arora

Chirag Gupta | Indra Khariwala

Fregley, Tween Boy | Sam Mandell

Joshie, Teen Ensemble | Andrej Humiston

Bryce, Overgrown Kid | Sam Rosewarne

Lionel James, Tween Boy | Matthew Woody

Chris Hosey, Tween Boy | Tic Treitler

Yvette, Tween Girl | KateMarie Andrews

Teen Ensemble | Jaya Bird

Teen Ensemble | Drew Elo

Pauline, Tween Girl | Ella Freeberg

Claire, Tween Girl | Mabel Weismann

Charlie Davis | Mason Yang

Mr. Underwood/Coach, Bill Walters, Mr. Winsky | Dean Holt

Mrs. Clayton, Tween Girl, Ensemble | Rue Norman

Understudies

Greg Heffley | Tic Treitler

Dad, Mr. Underwood/Coach, Bill Walters, Mr. Winsky | Ryan Robert Nelson

Mom, Mrs. Clayton, Tween Girl, Ensemble | Janely Rodriguez

Rodrick Heffley | Drew Elo

Patty Farrell | KateMarie Andrews

Fregley | Matthew Woody

Chirag Gupta | Mason Yang

Joshie, Bryce | Jack Peterson

Tween Girl | Mari Peterson-Hilleque

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 (inquiries only, no ticket processing)

Phone: 612.874.0400

Website: <https://childrenstheatre.org>

Lap passes available for children newborn to three years for \$5

ASL Interpreted Performances: Friday, March 20 at 7pm and Sunday, June 5 at 5pm

Audio Described Performance: Friday, May 20 at 7pm

Sensory Friendly Performance: Friday, June 17 at 7pm

Performance Dates

Friday, April 22, 7pm (Preview)

Saturday, April 23, 7pm (Preview)

Sunday, April 24, 7pm (Preview)

Tuesday, April 26, 7pm (Preview)
Wednesday, April 27, 7pm (Preview)
Thursday, April 28, 7pm (Preview)
Friday, April 29, 7pm (Opening Night)
Saturday, April 30, 1pm and 5pm (Opening Weekend)
Sunday, May 1, 1pm and 5pm (Opening Weekend)

Thursday, May 5, 7pm
Friday, May 6, 7pm
Saturday, May 7, 11am and 3pm
Sunday, May 8, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, May 12, 7pm
Friday, May 13, 7pm
Saturday, May 14, 11am
Sunday, May 15, 1pm and 5pm

Friday, May 20, 7pm (ASL/AD Performance)
Saturday, May 21, 11am and 3pm
Sunday, May 22, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, May 26, 7pm
Friday, May 27, 7pm
Saturday, May 28, 1pm and 5pm
Sunday, May 29, 1pm and 5pm

Thursday, June 2, 7pm
Friday, June 3, 7pm
Saturday, June 4, 11am and 3pm
Sunday, June 5, 1pm and 5pm (ASL Performance)

Thursday, June 9, 7pm
Friday, June 10, 7pm
Saturday, June 11, 11am and 3pm
Sunday, June 12, 1pm and 5pm

Wednesday, June 15, 2pm and 7pm
Thursday, June 16, 7pm
Friday, June 17, 2pm and 7pm (Sensory Friendly Performance)
Saturday, June 18, 11am and 3pm (Closing)

Creative Team

Director

Jenn Thompson's recent credits include *MonsterSongs* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *Into The Woods* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival); *The Music Man*; *Oklahoma!*; *Bye Bye Birdie* (Goodspeed); *A Doll's House, Part II* (TheaterWorks); *Shiller's Mary Stuart* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Abundance* (Hartford Stage); *Conflict* (Mint Theater, NYC); *The Secret Garden* (Denver Center). Jenn's production of *Women Without Men* (Mint Theatre, NYC) garnered 2016 Lortel and Off-Broadway Alliance Award nominations for Outstanding

Revival as well as 5 Drama Desk Award nominations including Outstanding Director and Revival. Former Co-Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's TACT/The Actors Company Theatre. Up next: *Chains* (Mint Theater, NYC); *Anne of Green Gables* (Goodspeed) and the national tour of *Annie*, set to go out this fall.

jennthompsondirector.com

Playwright

Kevin Del Aguila is an Emmy-winning writer and Broadway performer. He is the bookwriter of the off-Broadway musical hit *Altar Boyz* (NY Outer Critics Award) and lyricist of *Click Clack Moo* (Lortel and Drama Desk nominations). His other musical adaptations include the DreamWorks film *Madagascar* and *Dog Man: The Musical*. Kevin has written for numerous children's television shows, including *Peg + Cat* (PBS), *Waffles + Mochi* (Netflix), and as head writer of *Blue s Clues & You* (Nick Jr.). Children everywhere have heard Kevin's voice as a Troll in the Disney movie *Frozen*.

Composers/Lyricists

Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler are a songwriting team whose experience includes *The Secret of My Success* (NBC/Universal); musical TV pilot *Boyfred* (ABC/Sony/Shoe Money Productions); animated feature *My Little Pony 2* (Hasbro, Ron Fair); music video *LEGO Store: The Musical*. Musicals in development: *Night at the Museum* (Kevin McCollum) with Alan Menken, Shawn Levy and Bob Martin; Frankenstein adaptation *The Monster* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) with Chelsea Marcantel. Winners of the Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre. Mahler: lyrics: *Miss Saigon* (West End, Broadway); music and lyrics, *October Sky* (NBC/Universal). Schmuckler: music/lyrics/song producer, *Kidding* (Showtime, starring Jim Carrey; featured soloists Ariana Grande, Kesha, Dick Van Dyke); music production, *LEGO Store: The Musical*; winner, Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre, Webby Award (podcast musical *Wait Wait Don t Kill Me*, Wondery Media). They are represented by ICM Partners.

Choreographer

Patricia Wilcox (she/her) choreographed *Motown the Musical* (Broadway); *A Night with Janis Joplin* (Broadway); and *Little Shop of Horrors* (City Center/Encores). National tours include *An Officer and a Gentleman*; *Seussical*; and *Children s Letters to God*. Regional: *The Secret Garden* (Denver Theatre Center); *The Music Man* (Goodspeed Opera House). Upcoming: *Annie* (National Tour).

Music Supervisor, Music Director, Conductor

Amanda Morton (she/her) is a music director based out of the NYC region. Upcoming, she will serve as music supervisor for *Anne of Green Gables* (Goodspeed/ShowTown Theatricals). Select credits include *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* First National Tour, Ars Nova, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Lightning Rod Special, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Wilma Theater, and Theatre Horizon. She garnered Barrymore Awards for Best Music Direction on Theatre Horizon's *The Color Purple* and *Into the Woods* as well as Wilma Theater's *Passing Strange*. She holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College. For JT & PJ.

Scenic Designer

Scott Davis Production Designer: Disney on Ice: Road trip adventures, Off-Broadway credits: *Ride the Cyclone* (MCC); and *Othello: The Remix* (The Westside Theater). Chicago credits include productions with: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf, Court Theater, Paramount Theater, Victory Gardens, Drury Lane, Northlight Theater, American Theater Company, Marriott Theater, Griffin Theater Company, Windy City Playhouse, Steep Theater, and Northwestern University. International credits include productions with: Shakespeare's Globe, Unicorn Theater (London) The Market Theater (South Africa), The Neuss (Germany), Gdansk Shakespeare Theater (Poland), The Cultch (Vancouver), DUCTAC Theater (Dubai), Brice Mason Center (New Zealand), and The Edinburgh Festival (Scotland). Regional credits include productions with: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Asolo Repertory Theater, Signature Theater, Walnut Street Theater, Children's Theater Company, Utah Shakespeare Theater. www.scottadamdavis.com

Costume Designer

Kara Harmon's (she/her) recent costume design credits include *Cullud Wattah* (Public Theater); *Hometown to the World* (Santa Fe Opera); *Shutter Sisters* (Old Globe); *Darlin Cory* (Alliance Theater); and *Toni Stone* (Milwaukee Rep). Local work includes *Guys & Dolls*; *Steel Magnolias*; and *Native Gardens* at Guthrie Theater. www.KaraHarmonDesign.com

Lighting Designer

Philip S. Rosenberg Broadway: *Mrs. Doubtfire*; *Pretty Woman*; *The Elephant Man*; *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; and *It's Only a Play*. Regional: Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Ford's Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, The Old Globe, TheatreWorks, Hartford Stage, Alliance, Huntington Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Dallas Theatre Center, Denver Center Theatre, The Alley Theatre, Arena Stage, The McCarter Theatre, Manhattan School of Music, Portland Stage Company, TACT, Barrington Stage Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival, Bay Street Theatre, Goodspeed Opera, Two River Theatre Company, George Street Playhouse, and Westport Country Playhouse.

Sound Designer

Sten Severson's (he/him) selected credits: *The Wiz* (CTC/Penumbra Theatre); *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); *Choir of Man* (West End); *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Old Globe); and *Into the Woods* (Delacorte Theater).

Projection Designer

Edward T. Morris (he/him) is excited to join Children's Theatre Company for the first time. He has designed for Goodspeed and Roundabout among many others. He holds an M.F.A from Yale School of Drama and is a member of Wingspace and United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Stage Manager

Amanda Baranski has enjoyed stage managing at the following select theaters, Alliance Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Arena Stage, Triad Stage, Circle Theater, Casa Mañana, Theatre Arlington, Kids Who Care, Inc., Trinity Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, and Second Thought Theatre. Anna holds an M.F.A. in stage management from the University of California, Irvine. www.annabaranski.com

Assistant Choreographer

Kym Chambers Otto (she/her). Tours: *Cats*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Cinderella*. Theatre: The Ordway, Kansas City Starlight, TUTS, Kansas City Rep, TOTS, Bushnell, North Shore, Forestburgh, History Theatre, Chanhassen, Old Log, Nautilus. Training: New York University, St. Olaf College. Currently Voice Teacher/Coach and Co-Owner of Twin Cities Musical Theatre Training (TCMTT). AEA 2005.

Assistant Stage Manager

Chris Schweiger has worked at CTC for nearly 20 years, and she is delighted to be back in person again after two years away. She just stage-managed *Bina's Six Apples* at CTC, and she has worked at Perseverance Theatre, Arena Stage, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Ordway, Guthrie Theater, Mixed Blood, New Victory Theater, The Old Globe, Alpine Theatre Project, and Moab Music Festival. She graduated from Northwestern University and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia.

Howard University Stage Management Fellow/Production Assistant

Cortney Gilliam (she/her) made her stage management debut in *Something Happened in Our Town* at CTC and has been the Production Assistant for *Annie* and *Bina's Six Apples*. She's grateful for the exploration and experiences brought by new art at CTC! Cortney holds a B.F.A. from Howard University.

Cast

Greg Heffley

Patrick Scott McDermott has enjoyed theatre roles in *Flying Over Sunset* (Vivian Beaumont); *Les Misérables* (National Tour); *Kinky Boots* (Paramount Theatre); *Matilda* (Theatre Squared); *I, Banquo* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Oliver!* (Marriott Theatre); *Matilda* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Seussical* (Marriott and Drury Lane Theatres); *Holiday Inn* (Marriott Theatre); *Ragtime* (Marriott Theatre); and *Peter Pan* (MusicTheater Works). TV credits include, *Saturday Night Live* and *Chicago Med*.

@patrickscottmcdermott

Greg Heffley

Huxley Westemeier (he/him) is thrilled to return to CTC as Greg after portraying Manny in the original production! He has performed nationally as Billy in the Broadway First National Tour of *School of Rock*; August Rush in *August Rush the Musical*, and performed locally at Guthrie Theater, The Ordway, and Minnesota Orchestra. Huxley is also a composer with the Los Angeles Inception Orchestra.

Mom

Autumn Ness is celebrating her 21st season with the CTC Acting Company! A few of her favorite shows include *Annie*; *Cinderella*; *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*; *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*; *The Jungle Book*; and *Romeo and Juliet*. Autumn is a recipient of the 2018 TCG Fox Fellowship, the 2020 Next Step Award, and the 2022 MN State Arts Board Creative Support grant.

Dad

Reed Sigmund is loudly celebrating his 21st 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, Theater Latté Da, and The Stillwater Zephyr Theatre.

Rodrick Heffley

Harry Lawler (he/him) is a Junior attending SPCPA. He has been seen performing in *Les Misérables*; *Follies*; *Sense & Sensibility*; *Into The Woods*; and most recently *Amelie* at Bluewater Theatre Company. He has also appeared in shows at Morningside Theatre Company, SPCPA, and Edina High School!

Manny

Brielle Freeburg (she/her) is excited to make her theatrical debut at CTC alongside her big sister, Ella. She's trained in trapeze, contortion, and gymnastics and feeds her passion for music by playing piano, drums, and guitar. She is in sixth grade at Century Middle School in Lakeville.

Manny

Sullivan "Sully" Sigmund is a Lego loving, monster expert, currently dominating second grade math! He's now making his CTC stage debut, after recently strutting across the stage in *Madagascar the Musical* with the Stillwater Zephyr Theatre. Other credits include the CTC original online web series *Write On! Wednesdays* and *Audrey Saves the Universe*.

Rowley Jefferson

Kamryn Henderson (he/him) has held roles in *A Christmas Story* (Music Theatre Kansas City); *Descendants, Jr.* (Summit Theatre Group); *The Wizard of Oz* (Starlight); and *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* (Blue Springs City Theatre). Kamryn is thrilled to be in his first production with CTC.

Patty Farrell

Anja Arora (she/her) is thrilled to perform in CTC's *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid the Musical!* This is her second production at CTC after appearing in *Annie* over the holiday season. She has also performed in CTC's 2021 summer intensive, *COVIDtown the Musical*, and in productions at Stages Theatre Company, Blue Water Theatre Company, and Minnetonka Public Schools.

Chirag Gupta

Indra Khariwala (she/her) is excited for her first CTC Performance. Indra has performed in over five productions at Stages Theatre, including *Frederick*; *Madagascar*; *Elf the Musical Jr*; and *Mary Poppins* as well as school productions. Indra is a 9th grader at EHS. She plays the violin with MacPhail and GTCYS and performs Indian Classical Dance at KDT.

Fregley, Tween Boy

Sam Mandell (he/him) is thrilled to be back on the CTC stage, previously appearing in *Annie*. He has also enjoyed roles in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (Blue Water Theatre); *Elf the Musical Jr.* (Stages Theatre Company) and several productions at Minnetonka Theatre. He would like to thank his family for their love and support!

Joshie, Teen Ensemble

Andrej Humiston (he/him) is thrilled to make his Children's Theatre Company debut! He has performed with Youth Performance Company, Theater Latté Da, the Minnesota Boychoir, and the Minnesota Orchestra, in addition to school productions. He attends SPCPA as a junior, studying musical theater.

Bryce, Overgrown Kid

Sam Rosewarne is delighted to be making his CTC debut! He has previously performed in *James and the Giant Peach* and *Willy Wonka* (Stages Theatre Company). He has also enjoyed participating in Minnetonka School productions, including most recently, *Chicago* (Minnetonka Theatre).

Lionel James, Tween Boy/Understudy Fregley

Matthew Woody discovered his love for the theatre last fall in the production of *The Little Mermaid* at Farmington High School. He was a semi-finalist in the MN State Fair Amateur Talent Contest in 2019 and 2021, where he took runner up in the preteen division. Matthew's been chosen for numerous select choirs at school and plays trombone in the band.

Chris Hosey, Tween Boy/Understudy Greg

Tic Treitler's (they/them) recent credits include *Annie* (CTC); *Falsettos* (Morris Park Players); *Pippin* (Emerging Professionals Ensemble); *Spring Celebration* (Circus Juventas). They study musical theatre at SPCPA as well as aerial arts, hand balance, and contortion at Circus Juventas. They are thrilled to be doing another show at CTC!

Yvette, Tween Girl/Understudy Patty Farrell

KateMarie Andrews (she/her) is very excited to be in her second performance at CTC. KateMarie has previously performed in *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds* (CTC); *Akeelah and the Bee*; *Seussical the Musical*; *Mamma Mia*; and *Pride & Prejudice* at The Mraz Center for the Performing Arts, Burnsville High School.

Teen Ensemble/Understudy Rodrick

Drew Elo (he/him) has been acting since the 3rd grade and has enjoyed roles in *Into the Woods* and *Guys and Dolls* with Buffalo High School as well as various roles with Buffalo Community Theatre. He is active in choir and was part of the 2021 MMEA All State Choir. This will be his first role with CTC. He would like to thank his family and friends for all their support through this exciting endeavor.

Teen Ensemble

Jaya Bird (she/her) is thrilled to be returning to CTC after being involved in *Annie* this past holiday season. She's enjoyed performing in *Schoolhouse Rock, Live*, the Twin Cities Tour (Lakeshore Players Theatre) among other productions such as *The Little Mermaid; Annie; A Midsummer Night's Dream; and Beauty and the Beast* (Steppingstone Theatre).

Pauline, Tween Girl

Ella Freeburg (she/her) is thrilled to be back at CTC! Her previous credits include *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Road Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (CTC); *Music Man* (Chanhassen Dinner Theaters); *A Christmas Carol* and *Music Man* (Guthrie Theater); and *The Nether* (Jungle Theater). She attends SPCPA as a junior.

Claire, Tween Girl

Mabel Weismann (she/her) is ready to return to middle school... and one of her favorite musicals! Fun fact: she played little brother Manny in the original *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*. Other CTC roles include Cindy Lou Who in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and Pepper in *Annie*. She has also performed at The Ordway, Guthrie Theater, Theater Latté Da, Artistry, and Park Square.

Charlie Davis

Mason Yang (he/him) has enjoyed roles in *Urinetown* (Twin Cities Theater Camp); *Shrek, the Musical* (Ashland Productions); *The Wizard of Oz* (Twin Cities Theater Camp); and *Mary Poppins, Jr* (Ashland Productions). This is his first role with Children's Theatre Company. He is an eighth grader.

Mr. Underwood/Coach, Bill Walters, Mr. Winsky

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.

Mrs. Clayton, Tween Girl, Ensemble

Rue Norman is stoked to be this season's Performing Apprentice! She has enjoyed roles in *Annie* and *Something Happened in Our Town* at CTC. 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.

Understudies

Dad, Mr. Underwood/Coach, Bill Walters, Mr. Winsky

Ryan Robert Nelson (he/him) is immensely excited to be joining the team at Children's Theatre Company as an Understudy. You may have seen Ryan on stage locally at The Jungle Theatre, Yellow Tree Theatre, and The Brave New Workshop Comedy Theatre, among many others. Ryan received his B.A. from Southwest Minnesota State University.

Mom, Mrs. Clayton, Tween Girl, Ensemble

Janely Rodriguez (she/he/they) has enjoyed roles in *Cinderella* and *Annie* at Children's Theatre Company. She was also in *Songs for a New World* (Artistry) and has had the pleasure of working for the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. They hold a B.F.A. from Brenau University.

Joshie, Bryce

Jack Elizabeth Peterson (he/him) is thrilled to make his CTC debut. He has enjoyed performing with Ashland Productions, Lakeshore Players, and at Mounds Park Academy. Jack is a member of CTC Institute Young

Company. Jack appreciates the guidance of all his directors, choreographers, voice and dance teachers, and the support of his family and fellow actors.

Tween Girl

Mari Peterson-Hilleque (she/her) is excited to be in another CTC show, previously appearing in *Annie* and *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*. Mari is a 10th grader at Hope Academy in Minneapolis.
