

Children's Theatre Company

BEHIND THE CURTAIN BEYOND THE STAGE

SPRING | 2019





Photo of Joy Dolo in *The Hobbit* by Dan Norman

From Middle-earth to Minneapolis

With your help, our craftspeople create pieces that transform actors into mythical creatures.

The world premiere production of *The Hobbit* was an epic, magical journey, with a cast of characters ranging from hobbits to goblins and dwarves to dragons. But, telling this tale with five actors playing a total of 24 different roles required a type of magic that only CTC's Costume Crafts team could summon.

To translate iconic characters like Gollum, Smaug, and Gandalf to the stage is no small feat. To switch from one character to another in a matter of seconds is an even greater one. Custom-designed costume crafts pieces were the magical elements that helped actors truly embody the character they played at any given time. Thanks to the fabulous work by the Costume Crafts department, the actors of *The Hobbit* were up to the task!

Each actor had a "base costume" which varied depending on the characters they portrayed. Joy Dolo (pictured left as Gollum) played a total of six characters in *The Hobbit*, including Gandalf and Gollum, so her base costume was extremely versatile.

One such costume crafts piece was the hat that Joy donned to become the iconic character Gollum. Randy J. Rowoldt, our costume craftsperson, built the base of the piece by hand to resemble an old mining hat. He then fit the hat with Joy's microphone and headlights made from tin cans, both of which needed to be operational during performances. Randy spent more than 40 hours on this single piece, which embarked on an epic journey of its own: visiting three different technical theatre departments (costume, sound, and lighting) before it was finally ready for the stage.

Support from donors like you helps us to reimagine classic stories and translate them into new experiences that delight audiences of all ages. Thank you for your generosity.

Kid Power!

Your gifts help us celebrate kid-centric stories.

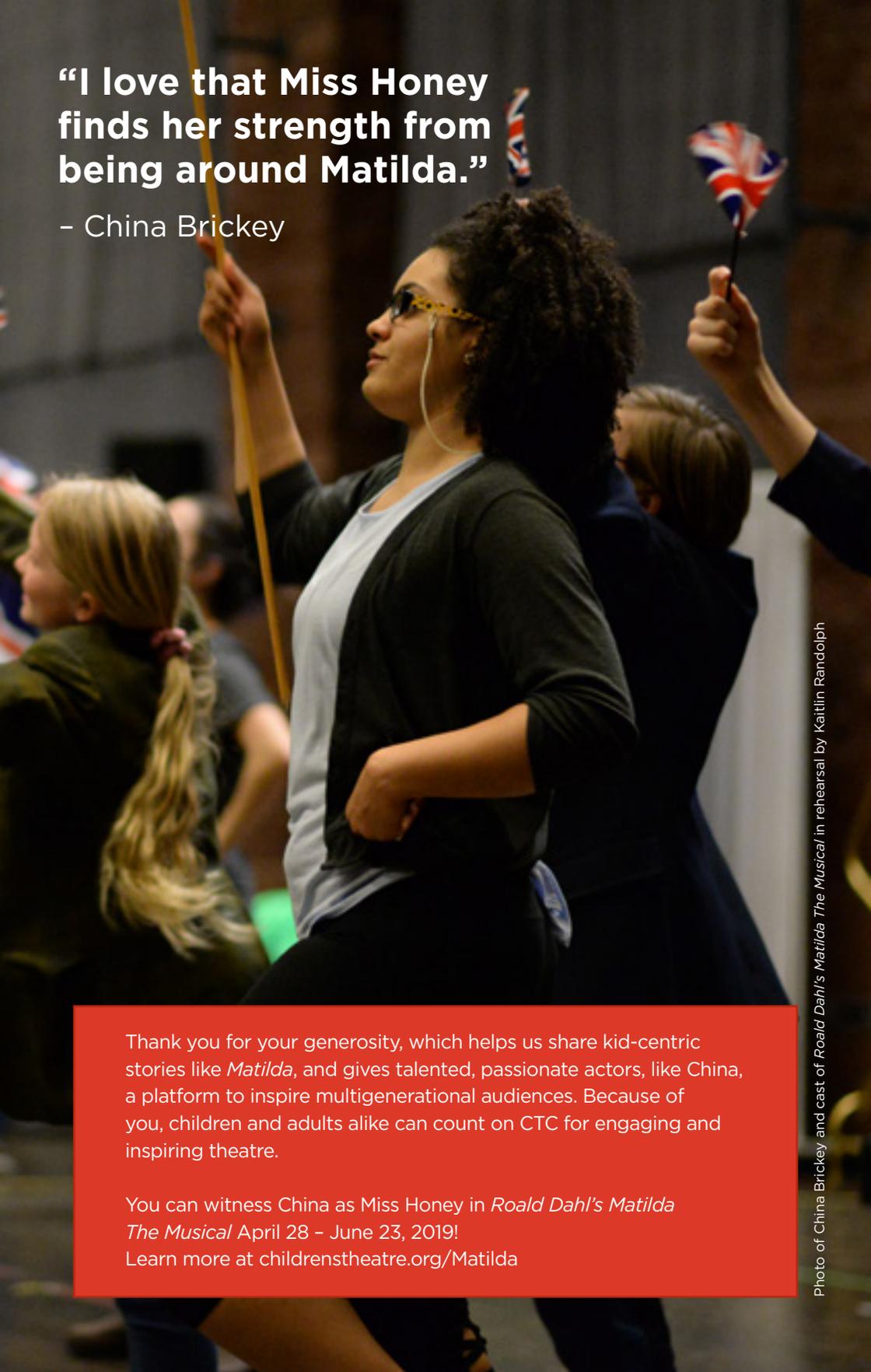


"I love that Miss Honey finds her strength from being around Matilda. It speaks to what Children's Theatre Company does so well: respecting and hearing children as equals," says actor China Brickey.

Donors like you give our audiences kid-power productions like this season's regional premiere of *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*. You also help us work with talented actors, like China, who are passionate about our mission to educate, challenge, and inspire children and families through theatre. China, who was a CTC Performing Apprentice during the 2015 - 2016 Season and has performed in CTC shows including *The Wiz* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*, is back on stage this spring to play Miss Honey in *Matilda*.

China's path to the stage wasn't inspired by a single defining moment. Instead, she credits the cumulative influence of supportive adults who used stories and theatre to validate her experiences and build trust. "I was lucky to have a high school theatre teacher, Ms. Tamara, who loved using the 'talking circle' to hear us, validate us, and show us we could trust our own stories as people and specifically storytellers. That's one of the most valuable gifts an educator has ever given me," says China. As a theatre educator herself, China tries to share these same gifts with her own students.

When she's on stage, China works to validate and include young people. She remembers what it felt like as a child to realize that adults don't always have the answer and that, like Matilda, she could take control of her own destiny. "*Matilda* circles around the ideas of what happens when we don't remember that children are people and we write them off as naïve or silly," says China. As an actor and educator, China wants to show young people that their struggles, desires, and questions are important, meaningful, and real.



**“I love that Miss Honey
finds her strength from
being around Matilda.”**

– China Brickey

Thank you for your generosity, which helps us share kid-centric stories like *Matilda*, and gives talented, passionate actors, like China, a platform to inspire multigenerational audiences. Because of you, children and adults alike can count on CTC for engaging and inspiring theatre.

You can witness China as Miss Honey in *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* April 28 - June 23, 2019!

Learn more at childrenstheatre.org/Matilda



Big Moments on the Big Stage

Thanks to you, local students build life skills through our in-school education program.

We all have memories we look back on to give us the strength, courage, and power we need in the present. Many students in our Neighborhood Bridges program create one of those memories at the Crossing Bridges Festival, when they perform original plays on CTC's professional "big stage." That's right—the very same stage that treats you to productions like *Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Mr. Popper's Penguins* spotlights local students, their voices, and their stories every May.



“Acting on the ‘big stage’ is something that many students will never do again,” says Melissa Toft, a fourth grade teacher at Jenny Lind Elementary School in North Minneapolis, who has worked with Neighborhood Bridges, our in-school theatre education program rooted in critical literacy, for two years. “However, being asked to present to a class or a crowd, or being asked to show themselves and be vulnerable will be a regular part of their future. I know they will draw from this experience each time.”

To prepare for their performance during the Crossing Bridges Festival, students rework a story of their choice. They think through characters, dialogue, costumes, props, and sets to create an original play that will be presented to their community on CTC’s UnitedHealth Group stage.

Teachers like Melissa, or Ms. M. as her students fondly call her, continue with Neighborhood Bridges year after year because they see the impact the program has on their students. “It’s been so exciting to watch Sam evolve,” says Melissa, as she recalls a particular student’s remarkable transformation. “She has a stronger presence in class, and we’re able to refer back to the strength she had at Crossing Bridges when she goes into difficult situations, like testing or needing to speak up.”

Because of you, Neighborhood Bridges students like Sam discover resiliency and confidence that extends beyond the classroom and the “big stage.” Your support creates incredible and inspiring moments that will continue to encourage local students for years to come. Thank you for your support!

WE’D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT THE CROSSING BRIDGES FESTIVAL!

May 14, 2019

May 15, 2019

May 21, 2019

May 22, 2019 (featuring Melissa’s class!)

Admission is free and open to the public.

All performances begin at 6pm in CTC’s UnitedHealth Group Stage.

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theatre
company

Mystical
MENAGERIE

20

CURTAIN CALL BALL

19

SAVE THE DATE

9.7.2019

JOIN US FOR AN OTHERWORLDLY WONDROUS NIGHT
AT MYSTICAL MENAGERIE, CTC'S CURTAIN CALL BALL.

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