

The Children's Theatre Project
Karen Braz

In this, the 98th Season of the Community Players, the Children's Theatre Project (CTP) celebrated our 30th year of offering opportunities on stage and backstage for youth in theatre camps and a fall mainstage production in 2025/2026.

We began with our Summer Theatre Camp, MOANA JR., for a week in August. The show was a huge undertaking, with 40 campers, 12 teen assistants and 20 Players' members in positions such as music director (Geri Veroneau), choreographers (Robyn Waldron & Caleb Anderson), tech director/set designer/master builder/designer & creator of Moana's iconic outrigger boat (Kevin Belval), scenic artist (Sarah Taylor), costumers (Betty Lent & Suzanne Potoma, with help from May Hubbard & Sara Stuart and teen assistant Katy Gunther), set builders/painters (Jeremy Lent, Matt Walsh, Sarah Taylor & Alexander Belval), lighting designer (Steven Meier), backstage grips (Jen Ackerman, Kevin Belval, teen assistants Colin Parada, Payden Rhodes & Pemberley Scroggins), hair/makeup (Heather Biron), program design/printing (Khrystine Rhodes-Peguero & Marilyn Slater), photographer (Kristin Curren), house manager (Allwynne Fine), and training/activities coordinator (Kirsten Smith).

Many thanks to Tony Bonjorno for audition help not long before his hip surgery - which he "passed" with flying colors 😊

Also, many thanks to Will Fogg, who came in as Sound - A1 and cast member Aislinn Neal Sound - A2 for the performance on Friday night



And as always, camp cannot be successful without the help and contributions of our teen assistants. Not only do they work all week long during camp days - pulling props, painting set pieces, helping cast members with craft projects or learning lines and songs - but they also are the worker bees during move into the Audi, set up and strike...AND many of them run tech during the performance!!

Harper Annicchiarico (light board tech), Zoey Blanton (QLab tech), Rebecca Boisvert, Miriam Darman, Samantha Devine (stage manager), Katy Gunther (costumes), Daemon Habecker (spotlight), Rachael Mooney (assistant stage manager), Colin Parda (grip), Payden Rhodes (grip), Pemberley Scroggins (grip), Charlotte Willing (sound - A2).

It was QUITE the show!!!

We then moved into our 30th fall production, *SOMETHING ROTTEN! JR.*! This was another **BIG** musical production! With 34 cast members, ages 8 to 17 learning tons of music from MD Tony Bonjorno and tons of dances from choreographer Caleb Anderson, plus dozens of backstage/tech staff (many of the above-mentioned people!) pulled together by producer Jen Ackerman, the show was a visual and performance gem



FROM THE "SOMETHING ROTTEN JR." 30TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION'S DRESS REHEARSAL - Comments from audience members, used in a PR video of pics from the show

"Incredible kids made fabulous performance!"

"Fantastic CTP show in all respects: witty & spirited performers, great music & choreography (Tony Bonjorno & Caleb Anderson), wonderful set (Sarah Taylor, Jen Ackerman, Steven Meier, Wally Pineault, Rick Silverberg & team), lovely costumes (Betty Lent, Suzanne Potoma).

Adults will love it as much as kids will. Not to be missed! I haven't laughed so hard in a long time. What a joy!"

"An absolutely riotous evening of comedy, song & dance! Set and particularly the changes were mesmerizing! Expertly lit! (Steven Meier) Costumes were lush and the "EGGS"! (Kate Mara - designer/creator of The Eggs!). Hysterical. I am overwhelmed by the talent displayed on the stage & haven't laughed like that in quite a while! Thoroughly entertaining. You owe it to yourselves to get out and see this stellar 30th Anniversary CTP production of SRJ!"

We ended our 30th Anniversary Season with the Winter Vacation Theatre Camp in February. 30 young actors ages 8 to 14, 7 teen camp assistants and again, many of the Players members mentioned above on the other two shows, working on the backstage/tech staff, presented THE RAINBOW FISH MUSICAL, a delightful, fun, colorful show based on the very popular children's book 😊

I am grateful and thankful to all the parents, their young actors, and the many dedicated Players members who step up year after year to provide these amazing opportunities in theatre to local youth and audiences. Here's to Season #31!!!