



2023 Biennial
Competition

Middlemist Red

Middlemist Red aims to reconnect children of the digital age with the importance of conservation through an immersive, analog mystery experience to find a rare plant that has gone missing from a traveling flower show. Tori Sparks will assist direct and Corey Umlauf will design.



KATE DOUGLAS (*Director/Playwright*) is a writer, performer, and gardener. She has over eight years of creating, directing, and performing in immersive experiences, most notably in her position as Associate Artist at The McKittrick Hotel, home of Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*. Her theatrical work has been presented by the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Met LiveArts, and The Civilians and developed at SPACE on Ryder Farm, Millay Arts, and Rhinebeck Musicals. She is currently a Colt Coeur Resident Artist and is on faculty at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts. For more, visit www.katedouglasprojects.com



TORI SPARKS (*Assistant Director*) (she/her) is a New York-based performing artist working in the U.S. and internationally including with Punchdrunk, Noemie Lafrance, Johannes Weiland, and Third Rail Projects. Tori was an original cast member playing Lady Macbeth for Punchdrunk's ground-breaking *Sleep No More*, also creating the roles of Catherine Campbell and Agnes Naismith, played Hecate and *Rehearsal Directed* during her tenure with the show from 2009-2020. Tori is a featured artist on *Freakonomics* and the Emmy award-winning *Immersive World*. For TV/Film, she co-starred in *Gossip Girl* and had featured roles in the films *Between Yourself & I* (Third Rail Projects), *Dedalus* (Jonah Greenstein), and *Under Review: Katahdin* (Kelly Ashton Todd). Tori Movement Coached Kate Spade's *Make it Mine* campaign and Michelle Handelman's *Irma Vep*, *The Last Breath*. Recently, she worked on the upcoming seasons of HBO's *The Gilded Age* and FX's *Feud*. Tori is a Certified Horticulturist in NYC.



COREY EMLAUF's (*Set Designer*) (she/her) design work has been presented by: *Ars Nova*, *Clubbed Thumb*, *Columbia University*, *JACK*, *Actors Theatre of Louisville*, *Colt Coeur*, and at *Emerson Stage*. Miniature design/fabrication on film: *The Sweet East* (upcoming, 2023 Cannes Film Festival Director's Fortnight), *Vundabar's Lore*. Corey is a 2022-23 Colt Coeur Resident Artist and the Resident Scenic Designer at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference. Select Associate Design credits include: *TopDog Underdog* (Broadway), *A Strange Loop* (Broadway, West End), *Trouble in Mind* (Broadway), *Goddess* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *A Case for the Existence of God* (Signature Theater Center). Proud Member, USA-829.

Middlemist Red



ISRAEL JIMENEZ (*Actor*) is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and the College of Santa Fe. He currently serves as Director of EDIA & Community Engagement for Round House Theatre. His work focuses on breaking down barriers that keep theatre from being available to all. Before joining Round House, Israel served as Director of Community Engagement for Theatre Under the Stars and was the host for the TUTS Spotlight Series. Israel also led the Arizona Theatre Company's Learning & Education department, serving as Program Director for ATC's Summer On Stage (SOS). SOS directing credits include *She Kills Monsters*, *The Addams Family* and *American Idiot*. As an educator, Israel has worked with Childsplay, Arizona School for the Arts, and the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA). Israel has also performed and/or directed for regional and local theater companies including Seattle Children's Theatre, Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Childsplay, Valley Youth Theatre, Southwest Shakespeare Company, and Arizona Theatre Company. Israel's play, *Yo Soy Frida*, won a Dorothy Webb Playwright Award at the Write Now symposium. The play was selected to be a part of the publication, *Palabras del Cielo: An Exploration of Latina/o Theatre for Young Audiences (Volume II)*.



ANDR A MORALES (*Actor*) (she/her) is an actor, director, and theatremaker who enjoys working across the U.S. Favorite Childsplay shows include *Selena Maria Sings*, *Eric and Elliot*, *The Sun Serpent*, *The Imaginators*, and *Charlotte's Web*. She had the privilege of touring *Tom s* and *the Library Lady* nationally, performing at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles and the Sin Fronteras Festival in Austin. Andr a recently served as dramaturg and collaborator with Local Theatre in Boulder and *In Other People's Shoes* in L.A. She just worked as movement director/intimacy coordinator for *The Further Misadventures of Martin Hathaway* with Earlham College, which is bound for the Edinburg Fringe Festival. Recent directing credits include *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, *New Kid*, and *Broadway Beveled*. Recent regional acting credits include *Gloria-A Life* (Human Race Theatre Company), *Native Gardens* (Southern Rep Theatre), *Always, Patsy Cline* (Swine Palace Theatre) and *It's a Wonderful Life-The Radio Play* (American Theatre Company)  Mi familia es mi vida!



JEN GANTWERKER (*Actor*) (she/her) is a theatre artist, educator, yoga teacher, and burrito enthusiast currently based in Arizona. By day, she brings drama and arts integration into local schools as the Education Program Manager at Childsplay Theatre. The rest of the time, she writes, directs, and performs in as many interesting projects as she can, from Shakespeare to sketch comedy. Recent roles include *Christmas Present* in *A Christmas Carol* and *Dolo* in the original fairy tale *Luna & Solis*, which won the Outstanding Ensemble award at the 2022 San Diego Fringe Festival and is being remounted this very weekend for a limited run! Jen is the proud owner of a Very Good Dog, an impressive coffee mug collection, and degrees in Theatre and International Relations from the University of Southern California. In her free time (haha) she enjoys reading books, writing songs about how good her dog is, and doing puzzles.

Stage Manager: Ransom Allen

The Society of Historic Sonic Happenings

The Society of Historic Sonic Happenings (SHSH), is an UP CLOSE Projects Production. Created by Adrienne Kapstein, with sound and interactive prop design by Bhurin Sead and Peter Musante as Artistic Producer. SHSH believes that sound never dies and that the world is filled with hidden sounds of the past. But with the right device, in the right place – and with the audience’s help – the lost voices and noises of the past can be heard in the present. Audiences of all ages work directly with SHSH Sound Scientists to preserve these forgotten sounds in special sonic time capsules.



ADRIENNE KAPSTEIN (*Concept and Artistic Direction*) is a collaborative theater artist and theater educator creating visually rich, physically adventurous new work and immersive, participatory performance experiences. She is passionate about bringing experimental work to audiences of all ages and sharing live art across generations. Her original theatrical work has been presented at Lincoln Center, Soho Rep, New Victory LabWorks, PS 122, as well as in Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Romania, Croatia, and China. She is Associate Professor and Program Head of the BA Acting and BA Directing International Performance Ensemble (IPE) at Pace School of Performing Arts at Pace University. She is also the co-founder of Movement Theater Studio, the only Lecoq based acting studio in NYC. For more, visit www.adriennekapstein.com



PETER MUSANTE (*Producer*) (he/him) is a Baltimore-based theater artist, instructional designer and facilitator. After spending twelve years in the experimental performance and arts education communities of New York City, Peter attended Harvard's Graduate School of Education where he was an Equity and Inclusion Fellow. His recent work combines immersive storytelling with civic engagement in an effort to co-create radically inclusive futures for the spaces we inhabit. In 2018, he founded the UP CLOSE Festival – a hyperlocal immersive theater experience for all ages inspired by NYC urbanist Jane Jacobs. Currently, he enjoys building sensory-rich participatory installations with communities of all kinds under the moniker UP CLOSE Projects – most recently an exploration of hidden sonic history called “SHSH: The Society of Historic Sonic Happenings”. He's also a frequent collaborator with Andrew Schneider (OBIE Award), Blue Man Group, bluemouth inc. (Toronto, ON), and does clinical skills training for NYC medical schools! upcloseprojects.org



BHURIN SEAD (*Lead Artist, Sound Design and Interactive Prop Designer*) (he/him) is an actor, musician and theater maker. Bhurin is interested in performer audience relationships and the possibilities that their interactions reveal. Since 2008, Bhurin has performed with Blue Man Group as a Blue Man performer and is currently a full time cast member and captain of the New York City production at the Astor Place Theater. Bhurin holds a BS in Human Biology from The University of Texas at Austin and an MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts from Brooklyn College.

The Society of Historic Sonic Happenings



SPENCER ARMSTRONG (*Line Producer/ Production Manager*) is a producer and creator of original works. He has had the pleasure of working with New York's leading theater ensembles including Elevator Repair Service, Theater Mitu, Tectonic Theater Project, 600 Highwaymen, and SITI Company. His productions have been presented at HERE Arts Center, The Bushwick Starr, The Dramatist Guild Fund, and Dixon Place. He is a proud alum of The Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab and The Beth Morrison Projects Producer Academy.



KATIE MCFADZEN (*Actor*) (she/her) is an actor, director, and teaching artist and has been with Childsplay since 1993. Favorite Childsplay credits include: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Flora & Ulysses*, *Seussical*, and *The BFG*. Additional acting credits: *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Mamma Mia*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *The Women with The Phoenix Theatre Company*, *Good People*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, and *Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show with Actors Theatre*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Great Gatsby*, and a one-woman version of *A Christmas Carol* with Arizona Theatre Company (also produced at Childsplay), *Barbecue*, *Rasheeda Speaking* and *The Wedding Band* with Black Theatre Troupe, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *The Year of the Rooster*, and *Speech and Debate* with Stray Cat Theatre. Katie holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University. She is a Faculty Associate in ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law where she co-teaches Persuasive Speech. @ms.katie.mcf



JON GENTRY (*Actor*) has been an Associate Artist with the Childsplay ensemble since 1981. Productions include; *The Yellow Boat*(original cast), *A Year With Frog and Toad*, and *Charlotte's Web*. He spent the pandemic appearing in the devised play, *SEEN* on screens in classrooms throughout Arizona. Jon spent 6 months in residency with Speel Theater of Holland when the Childsplay show; *Rock, Paper, Scissors* was reimagined as the Dutch play; *Stein, Papier, Schaar*. Other performances include; *Angels In America*, parts 1 &2, *The Producers*, *The Pillowman* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Recently he appeared two new works: *Junie B Jones*, *Toothless Wonder* at The Magik Theater and *Spells of the Sea* with Metro Theater Company. In 2009 Jon was awarded a Lunt/ Fontanne Fellowship.



RICKY ALVEREZ (*Actor*) is an Arizona-based theatre artist. A graduate from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Theatre in 2004, Araiza went on to become an ensemble member of Childsplay Theatre in Tempe, AZ beginning with the theatre's production of *The New Kid*. In 2009 he decided to step away from professional work and study Physical Ensemble Based Theatre at Dell'Arte International in Blue Lake, CA. In 2017, he received his M.F.A. from Arizona State University. He has also done work nationally with the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, the La Jolla Playhouse in La Jolla, CA, Su Teatro in Denver, CO and The Magik Theatre in San Antonio, TX. Araiza continues to work as a director, actor, and teaching artist throughout the Valley. He serves as Childsplay's Associate Artistic Director – Director of Artist and Community Initiatives as well as the Artistic Director of Teatro Bravo, a Latinx theatre company in Phoenix, Arizona.



ANGELA PINHOLSTER (*Dramaturg*) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Theatre for Youth and Community program in the School of Music, Dance and Theatre at Arizona State University. She is an educator, scholar, and Disney scholar-fan who is interested in creating and researching immersive performance experiences. Prior to her doctoral studies, Angela founded and led an arts integrated nonprofit Title I public charter school in Phoenix. Angela is grateful for the opportunity to learn and play alongside the SHSH creative team at Childsplay.

Stage Manager: Alejandra Luna

Write Now Intern and Workshop Facilitator



THOMAS UNDERDAL (he/him) is an interdisciplinary theatre maker, educator, and scholar whose work is situated at the crossroads of theatre for youth and ecological theatre. His research and creative practice centers on creating youth respondent methods, new work development by/for/with young people, and developing pedagogies and dramaturgies for the current and future ecological realities. Some of his recent work includes developing an Earth Day Celebration featuring two of his new ecological theatre for youth plays, *Isle of Beasts* and *The Girl and the Mountain*, and a multimedia piece, *Eco-Fables, and other tales of the forest*. Other recent plays include *Kingdom* (ASU TheatreLab), *The Plays that Goes Boom! Pow!* (Childsplay Theatre Academy Commission) and a theatre for the very young play, *Fox Needs a Nap* (Arts on the Horizon 2022 Finalist). Thomas is an MFA Theatre for Youth and Community student at Arizona State University. He is also the current Academy Associate with Childsplay and the Play Works Coordinator for Arizona Thespians.

Special Thanks!

To our readers!

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To the Childsplay Staff!

Rachel Solis, Calvin Legasse, Kalie Hagan, Gail Wolfendon, Joel Segraves, Lindsey Howard, Jodie Weiss, Thomas Underdal and so many more who assisted with the producing of these shows!