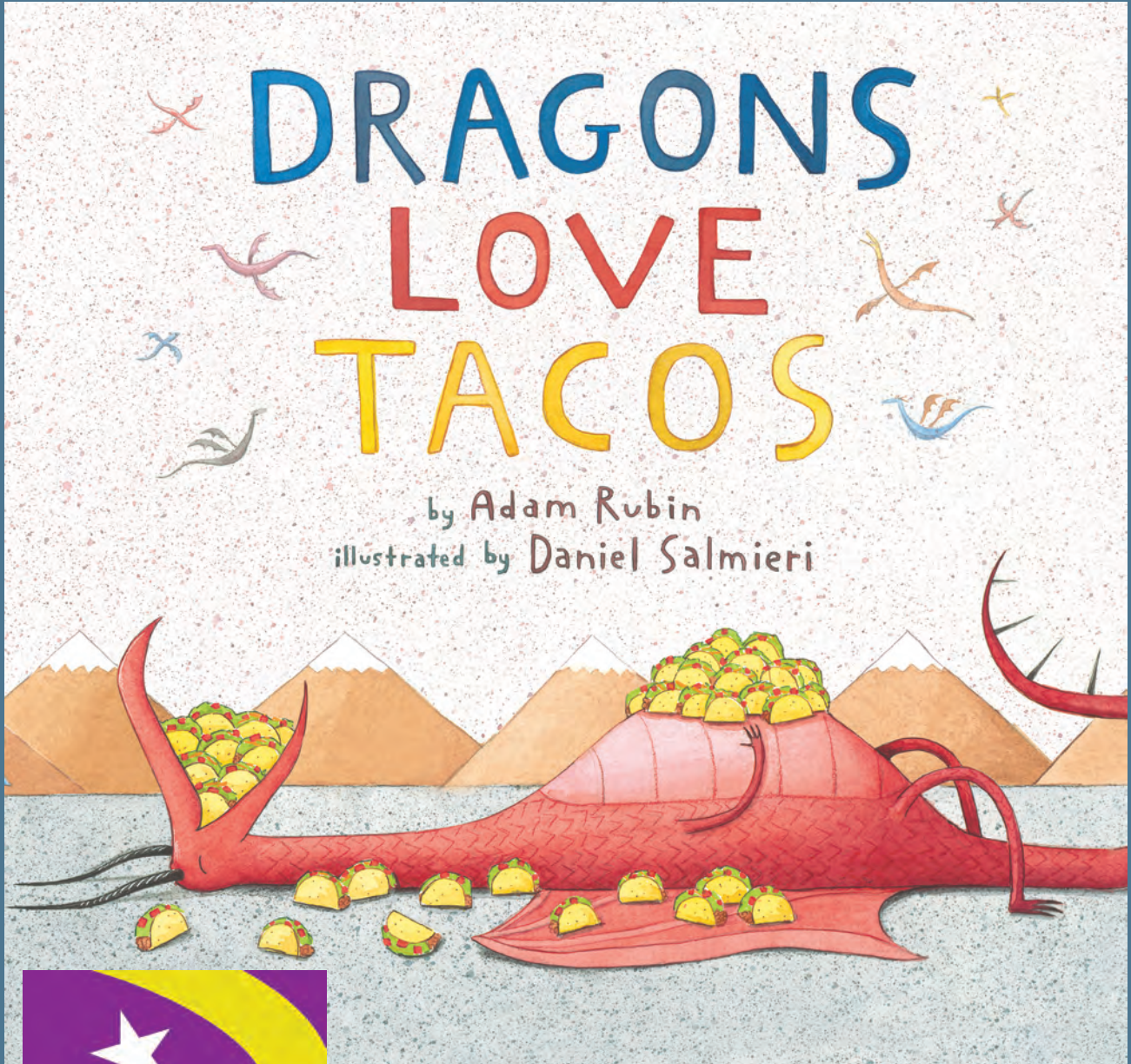


Dragons Love Tacos

BY CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE

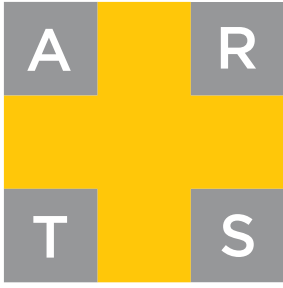


McColl Family Theatre
February 11 - March 6, 2022

BY ERNIE NOLAN
BASED ON THE BOOK BY ADAM RUBIN WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIEL SALMIERI
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From the Artistic Director

Welcome back to the theatre and to Children's Theatre of Charlotte's 74th season! We've got an exciting season in store. Our fall is an homage to our pandemic season. Last year we produced and recorded four shows and shared them digitally with schools across North and South Carolina and are now overjoyed to be able to share them, live and in person, with you.

We open with the imaginative world of *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* written by Gloria Bond Clunie. Then we highlight a piece from The Kindness Project, *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. This is an incredible look at a young boy's journey as he flees Germany and tries to find refuge in a new country where he doesn't speak the language. We end our fall with the gentle and beautiful *The Velveteen Rabbit*. In the spring we are excited to share the story of Tomás Rivera, the child of migrant workers who eventually becomes the first Mexican American chancellor of the University of California, Riverside, in *Tomás and the Library Lady*. We then return to the wacky and fun world of *Dragon's Love Tacos*. We are honored to present Mike Wiley's *One Noble Journey: A Box Marked Freedom* and have been working on a brand-new clown piece for our youngest audiences called *Pigs is Pigs*. However, as we seek to honor the differences in all people, our final show, *Shrek the Musical*, captures that celebration like none other. I will leave you with the words of Gingy...but these could be the words of any young person today who, deep down, just wants to let their freak flag fly...

*"We spend our whole lives wishing
We weren't so freakin' strange.
They made us feel that way,
But it's they who need to change.
It's time to stop the hiding.
It's time to stand up tall.
Say "Hey world, I'm different.
And here I am!
Splinters and all
Splinters and all."*

Adam Bunke

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Dragons Love Tacos

By Ernie Nolan

Based on the book by Adam Rubin with illustrations by Daniel Salmieri

Published by Penguin Group

Produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

Director **Melissa Ohlman-Roberge**

Choreographer **Mavis Scully**

Scenic Designer **Tom Burch***

Costume Designer **Courtney Burt Scott**

Lighting Designer **David M. Fillmore, Jr.***

Sound Designer **Jason Romney**



* Represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA 829
of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stagehands



Illustration by Daniel Salmieri from the book Dragons Love Tacos ©2010

Run time 60 minutes.

Note: Loud sound effects, smoke, and strobe lights are used during the show, Videotaping, photography and other recording of this production is prohibited.



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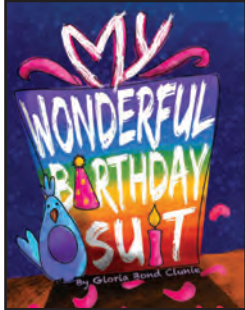
Children's Theatre of Charlotte is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its generous donors, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.



Welcome Home

We're excited to welcome audiences back in person for an amazing lineup of shows full of love, laughter, and lessons. Thanks to our family of donors for bringing this season to life.

GET DETAILS



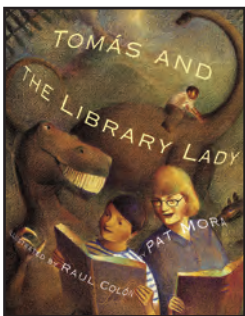
My Wonderful Birthday Suit
Sept 25 - Oct 10, 2021
For ages 4 and up



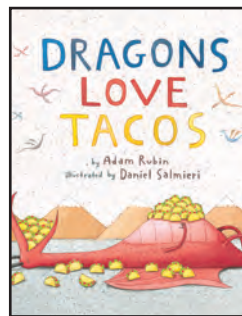
Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba
Nov 6 - 14, 2021
For ages 9 and up



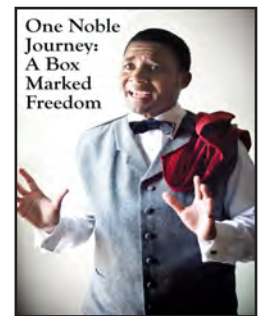
The Velveteen Rabbit
Dec 4 - 19, 2021
For all ages



Tomás and the Library Lady
Jan 29 - Feb 13, 2022
For ages 6 and up



Dragons Love Tacos
Feb 11 - Mar 6, 2022
For ages 4 and up



One Noble Journey: A Box Marked Freedom
Mar 26 - Apr 2, 2022
For ages 9 and up



Shrek the Musical
Apr 8 - May 1, 2022
For all ages



Pigs is Pigs
May 31 - June 12, 2022
For PreK
Supported by PNC Foundation



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- Musical Performance Camps (For rising 3rd - 6th Grade)
- Teen Studios (For rising 7th -12th Grade)

Payment plans and scholarships available



Illustration by Daniel Salmieri from the book Dragons Love Tacos ©2010

CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Melissa Ohlman-Roberge
 Choreographer - Mavis Scully
 Scenic Designer – Tom Burch
 Costume Designer – Courtney Burt Scott
 Lighting Designers - David M. Fillmore, Jr.
 Sound Designer – Jason Romney

CAST

The Boy - Adrian Thornburg
 Leroy the Dog - Margaret Dalton
 Man in Suit - Ryan Wesley Stinnett
 Red Dragon - Emma Metzger
 Yellow Dragon - Griffin Digsby
 Blue Dragon - Isabel Gonzalez
 White Dragon - Brandon Johns

UNDERSTUDIES

Boy and Leroy the Dog - CJ Higginbotham
 Man in Suit - Caleb Sigmon
 Blue Dragon and White Dragon - Morgan Wakefield
 Red Dragon and Yellow Dragon - Amanda Becker

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Stage Manager – Steven James
 Deck Chief - Josh Lucero
 Run Crew - Ashani Smith
 Soundboard Operator - Brandy Brogden
 Master Electrician - Robyn Warfield
 Electricians - Katy Sigmon, Mike Swager, Brandy Brogden, Josh Lucero, Andy Hollar
 Lightboard Operator and Programmer - Mike Swager
 Wardrobe Supervisor - Loren Moody
 Wig Artisan - Jason Estrada
 Scenic Artist - Beth Aderhold
 Prop Artisans - Jordan Garon, Mandy Peeler, Andy Hollar
 Carpenters - Greg Lilly, Mandy Peeler

SPECIAL THANKS

Brandon Kincaid, Hannah Roberge, Kevin Roberge, Mr. Rick Panico and the Hung Gar Kung Fu Academy

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Properties Manager - Cassie Ward
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Charge Scenic Artist - Tim Parati
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BEHIND THE SCENES

All of the elements of the show from set design to costume design, lighting, props and sound, are all created at Children's Theatre of Charlotte by a talented team of artists.

Together, we bring stories like this one to life through the magic of theatre.

COSTUME DESIGN

By collaborating with our team in the Costume Shop, Courtney Burt Scott's bold designs come to life on stage.



REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for the show began in January. Aside from memorizing lines, actors also learned choreography as seen in the photos here.

Cast



Adrian Thornburg (The Boy) is so happy to be working with Children's Theatre of Charlotte again. His previous roles include Brian in the world premiere production of *The Invisible Boy*, Stink in *Judy*

Moody and Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt, and Daniel in *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Survivors in Cuba*. He also played Augustus Maywho in an interactive meet-and-greet at the Tryon Resort Winterfest with Sigmon Theatrical, so let me know if you saw him there and if you voted for him!



Margaret Dalton (Leroy the Dog) is delighted to be returning to Children's Theatre of Charlotte for *Dragons Love Tacos*. Some other past credits here include: Nana in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Marta in

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba, Older Wendy in *Peter Pan*, Mrs. Barrington in *Grace for President*, The Woman in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, Ella Cinders in *Ella's Big Chance: A Jazz Age Cinderella*, Sally in *The Cat in the Hat*, and a season with the resident touring company. Other select professional credits include: five tours with the National Theatre for Children, a national tour of *The Taffetas* (Cheryl), a regional tour of *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

(Miss Nelson/Viola Swamp), *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Linda), *Hatfields & McCoy's* (Nancy McCoy), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene), and *High School Musical* (Gabriella). Ms. Dalton received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Elon University.



Ryan Wesley Stinnett (Man in Suit)

is making his Children's Theatre of Charlotte debut! Ryan is a performer, comedian, and writer. Most notably he was in the original Off-Broadway production of *Puffs*

(Narrator) at New World Stages. This past year he was seen in *Rock of Ages* (Hertz) at Actor's Theatre of Charlotte and in *This Happened Once at the Romance Depot off the I-87 in Westchester* (Kevin) at Forestburgh Playhouse. Select NYC credits include Liza Birkenmeier's *The Hollower* (Pigman), Catya McMullen's *Locked Up B\$#%*\$!* (Bull), Niegel Smith and Todd Shalom's *Take Care* (Ryan), Elizabeth Swados and Erin Courtney's *The Nomad* (Vava), and Feinstein's/54 Below's *54 Pays Tribute to a Very Potter Musical* (Dumbledore/Voldemort). He is co-writer/creator of the variety show *Liz and Ryan: Need Help?* which had its inaugural season at The Peoples Improv Theater in Manhattan. Ryan is a Metrolina Theatre Association Award Winner. MFA: University of Virginia. @ryanstinnett

Cast cont'd



Emma Metzger (Red Dragon) is so excited to return to Children's Theatre of Charlotte! She received BFA training in Musical Theatre at Wright State University. As a Charlotte native, she is so excited to be back and performing at home.

Recent credits include Apache Dancer in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Central Piedmont Community College, Ancestor in the *The Addams Family* at Wright State University, Ensemble in *Disney and Cameron Makintosh's Mary Poppins* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte, and Ensemble in *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. She would like to thank her family for their love and support, and God for all His blessings.



Griffin Digsby (Yellow Dragon) is excited to be making his debut here at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. He's been performing for many years in his young career and he's just getting started. The former Northwest School of

the Arts alumnus has been cast in both *Dragons Love Tacos* and *Shrek the Musical* for our 2021-22 season. He also loves the kids and is excited to participate in "Meet and Greets" and Q&A's. Hopefully we will see him again in the future to bring you more of his energy on our stages.



Isabel Gonzalez (Blue Dragon) is a graduate from The University Of North Carolina at Charlotte and is thrilled to be back at Children's Theatre of Charlotte! You may have seen her on our stages and on

the screen in our productions of *The Invisible Boy* (Sophie), *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees In Cuba* (Paloma), and our Drama League nominated production of *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales* (Player 3). Recent credits include *Migrant X* (Hue-Hue) at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, *Spoon River Anthology* (Actor 8) with The Charlotte Symphony, and *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* (Marty) at the Levine Jewish Community Center. She would like to thank everyone for supporting her journey thus far! Her next adventure you ask?! *Shrek The Musical* here at Children's Theatre of Charlotte!



Brandon Johns (White Dragon) is so overjoyed to be back onstage at Children's Theatre of Charlotte! Brandon just completed his fourth consecutive season at Winterfest at King's Dominion in the show

Jingle Jazz. He was last seen at Children's Theatre of Charlotte as Noodler the pirate in *Peter Pan*. Originally from Virginia, Brandon is no stranger to children's theatre. He has done several national tours

Cast cont'd & Creative Team

with Virginia Repertory Theatre, performing in many shows including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *I Have A Dream*, and *The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves*. Some favorite roles include Tonton Julian in *Once On This Island* at Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Monsieur D'Arque in *Beauty and the Beast* at Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Jim in *Big River* at Fort Lee Playhouse. Brandon is also a musician, arranger, and composer. Some of his original music and arrangements have been featured at Firehouse Theatre and Cedar Fair's theme park, King's Dominion. Brandon sends endless thanks to his mother and brother for their constant support and love. For DLJ.

Melissa Ohlman-Roberge (Director) has worked professionally in the arts as a director, performer, mentor, and educator for 35+ years. She is thrilled to be returning to Children's Theatre, having directed *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, *Judy Moody and Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* and the touring productions of *Rapunzel* and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Originally from Connecticut, Melissa began the North Carolina chapter of her directing career with Theatre Charlotte's 1991 production of *Annie*. With more than 90 directorial credits for her name, Melissa has created a wide variety of productions from large-scale musicals (*Ragtime*, *Carrie*, *Big Fish*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Brightstar*, *Catch Me If You Can*) to drama/comedies (*Wit*, *Red*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*); and small, intimate musicals (*Title of Show*, *Next to Normal*, *Dogfight*) to children's theatre (*House at Pooh Corner*, *Jack and the*

Beanstalk, *Puss 'n' Boots*). Melissa earned her Master of Fine Arts in directing from Florida State University and her Bachelor of Arts in theatre from Southern Connecticut University. She has opened three theatre spaces and two theatre companies, has developed curricula for pre-kindergarten through college and is a six-time recipient of the Metrolina Theatre Association Award for Outstanding Regional Director. Melissa lives in Huntersville with her husband, Kevin. They have three daughters, all of whom are active in the arts.

Mavis Scully (Choreographer) comes from an artistic and eclectic family - Jazz pianist grandfather & mother, painter/art teacher sisters, musician/songwriter brother & son, attorney/author father, and dancing daughter! Her choreography was last seen on Children's Theatre of Charlotte's stage in the 2019 production of *Peter Pan*. Other choreography credits include: *Big Fish* - Lee Street Theatre, *Peter and the Star Catcher* - City Equity Theatre (2015 Broadway World's Best Choreographer Award), *The Brave Little Taylor* - Stage One, Louisville Children's Theatre; *Operettas: The Merry Widow* - Birmingham Music Club, *Christopher Columbus*, *La Perichole* - Seattle Opera. She recently directed and choreographed a new concept workshop production of *Tuck Everlasting* for Eagles' Wings Studio. Mavis has directed several OnStage productions for Children's Theatre of Charlotte during her years as a Resident Teaching Artist for the Education Department: *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Red Red Shoes*, and *Wilde Tales*. She has written 4 one-act plays, produced in Seattle and was commissioned to write and direct *St. George and the*

Creative Team cont'd

Dragon (inspired by Edmund Spenser's epic poem). For the last four years and counting, she choreographs for Charlotte Ballet Academy's Winter Concert where she has a blast using great music from Gershwin to Earth, Wind & Fire. Mavis has worked in just about every genre of the performing arts. Her nation wide career includes plays, musicals, cabarets, performance art, Renaissance fairs, commercials, industrial films, and voice overs. She began her career with Ballet, training at the School of American Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, NYSSSA, and coaching with Bojan Spassoff while dancing as a soloist with the Savannah Ballet, Ballet Oklahoma, and the Cincinnati Opera before the acting bug bit her. She holds a BFA in Acting from Philadelphia's University of the Arts. She is an original member of Walt Disney World's Comedy Warehouse - the prototype for T.V.'s *Who's Line is it, Anyway?*. Mavis teaches Acting, Physical Theatre, Speech & Dialects, Ballet, and Musical Theatre. Combining decades of experience in the Dance and Acting world, she speaks both languages and loves "cross pollinating" technique and inner life work to actors, singers, and dancers. She has coached professional and aspiring artists for many years and loves to mentor passionate driven performers. Fun Fact: Mavis was born in the Year of the DRAGON in the Chinese calendar! Hmmmmmm!

Tom Burch (Scenic Designer) Previous credits at Children's Theatre of Charlotte include: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical*; *Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins*, *Journey to Oz*; *Bud, Not Buddy*; *Coraline*, *Jackie & Me*, and *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds*. He also

adapted and designed the toy/puppet theatre adaptation of *The Dot*, that toured locally last year. Other TYA credits include shows at Childsplay (Arizona), Stage One (Louisville, KY), Chicago TYA and Chicago Children's Theatre. Regionally for adults his work has been seen off Broadway, as well as at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre Louisville, American Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Olney Theatre Center and others. He began his career in Chicago where he designed regularly for *The Hypocrites*, *Northlight Theatre*, *Lifeline*, *House* and many others. He also designed for Chicago Shakespeare, *The Goodman*, *Court*, *Victory Gardens* among others. He's received 5 nominations (1 win) for Chicago's Jeff Award. He teaches scenic design at UNCC.

Courtney Burt Scott (Costume Designer) It is with great appreciation that Courtney returns to Children's Theatre of Charlotte with her inventive design for *Dragons Love Tacos*. She began designing for Children's Theatre of Charlotte audiences in 2003 and has truly enjoyed the delights, challenges, and stories of each production. Some of her all-time favorites include *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* (twice!), the *If You Give a Mouse...* series, *Pinkalicious*, and her award-winning designs for *Lyle the Crocodile*, *Go, Dog, Go!* and *Surviving the Applewhites*. She has received design awards from such notable judges as William Ivey Long and Susan Tsu in addition to numerous local awards and an artist feature in *Our State* magazine. Courtney is a native Charlottean with an MFA in Costume Design from the University

Cast & Creative Team cont'd

of Tennessee. Thank you to the Children's Theatre of Charlotte staff and audiences for being home for so many years!

David M. Fillmore, Jr. (Lighting Designer) is Associate Professor and Lighting Designer at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Designing mostly for dance and theatre, Fillmore's regional design credits include American Stage (FL), Tucahn Outdoor Amphitheatre (UT), North Carolina Museum of Art, The Tennessee Repertory Theatre (TN), Cartage Theatre (NC), Imagination Stage (MD/Washington), The Straw Hat Players (MN), and The Hudson Theatre Works (NJ/New York). Highlights include the world premieres of *My Way* (2000), *The Christmas Doll* (2007), *Surviving the Applewhite's* (2008), *The Drama Club* (2009), *101 Dalmatians* (2014/tour), *Ella's Big Chance* (2015), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - the Musical* (2016-19), *An Homage to Ancient Egypt* (2021), *Alphonse Mucha: Art Nouveau Visionary* (2021), and the international debuts of *The Laramie Project* (2006) in Tours, France and *Lullaby - The Stories We Tell* (2018) in Pietrasanta, Italy. The first show with Children's Theatre of Charlotte was *Magician's Nephew* (2006) and a few of David's other favorite shows include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Peter Pan*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Seussical the Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Reluctant Dragon*, *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Scrooge!*, *Aladdin* and *Treasure Island*. His kids, currently 6, 11 & 14, all started enjoying Children's Theatre of Charlotte productions at 3 months old and are excited to be seeing theatre in person again. David is a member of the United Scenic Artists local 829. He holds an M.F.A. in Scenic

and Lighting Design from Northwestern University, and a B.A. in Theatre from The University of Minnesota, Moorhead.

Jason Romney (Sound Designer) is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate once again with the team at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. A few of his favorite projects at Children's Theatre of Charlotte include *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*, *Cat in the Hat*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical*. He has also designed sound for productions at Triad Stage, Alliance Theatre, Piedmont Opera, Florida Studio Theatre, Imagination Stage, No Rules Theatre, Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy, Playmakers Repertory, Weston Playhouse, Lyric Repertory Company, Ravinia Festival, Utah Festival Opera, Unicorn Pillow Theatre, Elon University, and others. He is a Professor of Sound Design at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem North Carolina. He is a proud member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association, and serves as a Vice Commissioner for Sound Design and Technology at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

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Top 3

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHOW

1. These dragons LOVE tacos! What are some of your favorite foods and why do you like them?
2. As much as the dragons love tacos, they hate spicy salsa! What happens to the dragons when they eat spicy salsa? What should you do with the spicy salsa if dragons are around?
3. The dragons in the story love to have parties, particularly taco parties. Have you ever planned a party? If you could plan your own party, what would you make sure you have to eat? What foods do you not like and would want to make sure aren't on the list?



Recommended Reading

Dragons Eat Noodles on Tuesdays
by Jon Stahl

Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great
by Bob Shea

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs
by Mo Willems

Llama Destroys the World
by Jonathan Stutzman



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