

MTC MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



May 17-18, 2024

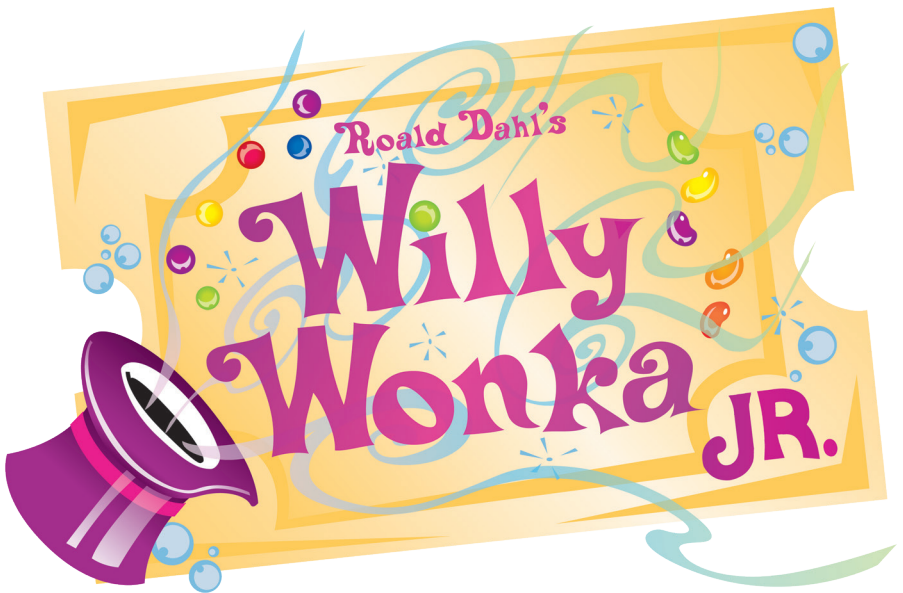


Kenz, It is such a joy wathing you do what you love. We are so proud of you as always!! Congrats to you and the rest of the cast and crew!

Love, Mommy, Daddy, Gray and Zelda

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

presents



Words and Music by
LESLIE BRICUSSE and ANTHONY NEWLEY
Adapted for the Stage by LESLIE BRICUSSE and TIMOTHY A. MCDONALD
Based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by ROALD DAHL

Student Production Assistance by JOJO CIPRIANO
Parent Producer: BONNIE REYNOLDS
Costume Design by DIANE VANDERKROEF
Scenic & Lighting Design by RJ ROMEO
Music Direction & Choreography by ELISSA DEMARIA
Directed by DEB LEVY

ROALD DAHL'S "WILLY WONKA JR."
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

MTC is generously sponsored in part by

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care center

 **CONNECTICUT**
The State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and Community Development

KAPLAN GIRLS MUSIC FUND
THE BURRY FREDRIK FOUNDATION
THE SCHNURMACHER FOUNDATION



**CONGRATULATIONS
FOR A GOLDEN PERFORMANCE
TO SADIE
AND THE WONKA CREW!
LOVE, MOM, DAD, DESI AND ETTA**

CAST

(alphabetically by actor)

TEDDY BAILEY	Grandma Georgina, Oompa Loompa
ARABELA BILAL-HAYES	Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa, Squirrel
ELI CHANG	Willy Wonka
AVERY CRAWFORD	Candy Man, Mrs Salt, Oompa Loompa
HAZEL CROCKETT	Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa, Squirrel
SADIE GALINDO	Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa, Squirrel
ISLA KASPAREK	Phineous Trout, Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa
AMELIE LEPKE-YOUNG	Veruca Salt, Oompa Loompa
NORI LEVITT	Violet Beauregard, Oompa Loompa
NEVE MASS	Augusta Gloop, Oompa Loompa
AUDREY MELLO	Mrs. Bucket, Mrs. TeeVee
QUINN MOONEY	Grandpa Joe
ALEXA PHILLIPS	Grandma Josephine, Oompa Loompa
VIVIAN PODOLEC	Grandpa George, Squirrel, Oompa Loompa
RUBY SEHR	Candy Kid, Squirrel, Oompa Loompa
LINCOLN SHAFER	Charlie Bucket
ANNIKA SIMMELKJAER	Mrs Gloop, Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa
MACKENZIE SMITH	Michelle TeeVee
GRACE WEINBACH	Mrs. Beauregarde, Candy Kid, Oompa Loompa

SPECIAL THANKS to

Mary Jo Duffy at Wiremill Academy of Performing Arts

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS is Fairfield County's most complete resource for the musical theatre, providing conservatory-style educational programming and professional musical theatre. The only organization of its kind in Connecticut, MTC was founded in 1987 by Directors Kevin Connors and Jim Schilling. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, MTC is a Certified Member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts - the first theatre school to be accepted for membership in this esteemed organization. MTC trains over 500 students per season and more than 4,000 audience members attend the seven full-scale productions each year.

For more information, visit www.musictheatreofct.com



**Congrats to Augustus
Neve Mass
and the cast and crew of
Willy Wonka Jr
Love,
Your Family**

THE "ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA JR." COMPANY



TEDDY
BAILEY



ARABELA
BILAL-HAYES



ELI
CHANG



AVERY
CRAWFORD



HAZEL
CROCKETT



SADIE
GALINDO



ISLA
KASPAREK



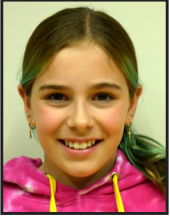
AMELIE
LEPKE-YOUNG



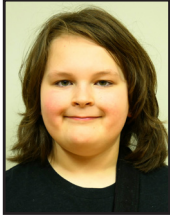
NORI
LEVITT



NEVE
MASS



AUDREY
MELLO



QUINN
MOONEY



ALEXA
PHILLIPS



VIVIAN
PODOLEC



RUBY
SEHR



LINCOLN
SHAFER



ANNIKA
SIMMELKJAER



MACKENZIE
SMITH



GRACE
WEINBACH



CONGRATULATIONS TEDDY!
ALL YOUR HARD WORK HAS PAYED OFF,
KEEPING SHINING!
BREAK A LEG!
LOVE, DAD, MOM, MATTHEW, & VIVI

WHO'S WHO

DEB LEVY (*Director*) has been an integral part of the MTC faculty since 1989. In addition to her teaching and directing roles at MTC, she brings a wealth of experience from her thirteen-year tenure at the Johnston Talent Agency. Deb served as a commercial agent for two renowned children's agencies in New York—Abrams Artists and Associates, and Jordan, Gill and Dornbaum. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Deb further honed her craft by studying acting at Circle in the Square in NYC. She boasts a repertoire of Off Broadway productions, including notable performances in *Inside Out* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Her Summer Stock credits feature roles in productions such as "Fiddler on the Roof" at the New Jersey Festival Theatre, and engagements with Keene State Theatre, Hope Theatre, and The Summer Theatre at Mount Holyoke College. Deb's diverse acting career also includes a live Industrial for Pepsi Cola, where she crossed paths with her husband, Mark. Her television appearances include roles in popular soap operas like *One Life to Live* and *As the World Turns*. Deb served as a paraprofessional at McKinley Elementary School for 16 years, providing support to students with special needs in grades 4 and 5. She resides in Trumbull with her husband, Mark, and they have two daughters, Leah (a graduate of the MTC College-Bound in the Performing Arts program) and Justine. Deb is a proud member of AEA and AFTRA.

ELISSA DEMARIA (*Music Direction & Director*) is a professional actress residing in the NYC area, Elissa has been part of the MTC family since 2012. She has been seen on the mainstage at MTC in *Falsettoland* (Cordelia), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Lucy), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey; CT Critics Circle Nomination), *Next to Normal* (Natalie) as well as others! Other select credits include: *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Standby), *Kiss Me Kate* (Lois/

Bianca), *Seussical* (Gertrude), *Shout! A Mod Musical* (Red Girl), *Light in the Piazza* (Ensemble/Franca U/S). Elissa teaches musical theatre and private voice lessons at MTC. She holds a BFA in musical theatre from Point Park University. Proud member of AEA. @eee.lissa

KEVIN CONNORS (*Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder*) Off-Broadway: *Play Like a Winner* (NYMF award-winner), *Prime Time Prophet*, *Jukebox Saturday Night*, *The Abandoned Loves of Frederick R.*, *Life Anonymous*, *Lover: The Valentino Musical*, *Babes Off Broadway*, *Saloon* and *Suzy Q*. Selected regional productions: *The Fantasticks*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Baby*; with such stars as Joan Rivers, James Naughton, and Johnny Mathis. He has directed over 100 MTC Equity MainStage productions including *Next to Normal*, *Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Evita*, *Doubt*, *Master Class*, *Gypsy*, (all Connecticut Critics' Circle Award Nominations/Winners), and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, (Moss Hart Award Winner). BroadwayWorld Award Winner as Best Director for MTC's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Connecticut Critics' Circle Best Director winner for MTC's *Ragtime*, and recipient of the Tom Killen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Professional Theatre. As a composer he has penned the score for numerous musicals including *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* (both published by Playscripts, Inc.), and served on the faculties of The Hartt School of Music/University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, the University of Bridgeport and Musical Theatre Works in NYC. www.kevin-connors.com



Congrats to the cast and crew of Willy Wonka!

To our talented and beautiful Nori, we are so proud of you always!
Don't stop going for that Golden Ticket!

With love, Mom, Dad, Sara, Nate, Mayzie and all of your family and friends!

WHO'S WHO

RJ ROMEO (*Director of Production / Scenic & Lighting Designer*) has relocated from Pittsburgh, PA to become the Technical Director/Associate Director of Production at Westport Country Playhouse. He returns to MTC for his second season as DP and third season as resident lighting designer. Past MTC credits include *Cabaret*, *Ragtime*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Sylvia*, *Fully Committed*, *RFK*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Tru* and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. In addition, RJ has designed lighting for countless regional productions such as *Guys and Dolls*, *Twelfth Night*, and most recently *Frozen Jr.*

JIM SCHILLING (*Managing Director, Co-Founder*) co-founded Music Theatre of CT in 1987 and is currently MTC's Managing Director and Director of the School of Performing Arts. MTC acting credits include *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well...*, *Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down*, *Yours*, *Anne*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Doubt*, *Almost, Maine*, *God of Carnage*, *The Fantasticks*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The 39 Steps*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and most recently, *Sylvia*. He was nominated for a CT Critics Circle award for Herr Shultz in *Cabaret* and winner of the BroadwayWorld award for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. He continues as a Blue Ribbon Panelist for the Daytime Emmy Awards, and is on the voting committee for the SAG awards, and a member of "Who's Who in the American Theatre" from 1991-present. Jim was also an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University (Advanced Acting, Advanced Scene Study, Script Analysis and Directing) where he was recently nominated Best Director of a musical for his work on *Godspell*.

DIANE VANDERKROEF (*Costume Design*) has been the resident costume designer for MTC MainStage and MTC School of Performing Arts since 2006. In the past she also worked with Kevin Connors on *Babes in Toyland* at the Stamford Center for the Arts. She did designs for the Connecticut Grand Opera, including *Elixer of Love*, *Don Giovanni* and *Don Pasquale*. She has also been designer for Downtown Cabaret Theatre's MainStage and Children's Company, as well as various musicals for New England Lyrical Operetta. When not designing, Diane is a flight attendant for Delta Airlines.



**We are so proud of our young
thespian. You bring such presence and
confidence to the stage. Mom, Dad,
Oliver, Baba and Grandpa love you
loads. Keep lighting up that stage!**

WHO'S WHO

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT

Executive Artistic Director	KEVIN CONNORS
Managing Director	JIM SCHILLING
Director of Production	RJ ROMEO
Box Office Manager & Administrative Manager	ALEX MONGILLO
Marketing & PR Consultant	JOE LANDRY
Cabaret Liaison	RAISSA KATONA BENNETT
Resident Costume Designer	DIANE VANDERKROEF
Resident Lighting Designer	RJ ROMEO
Assistant Stage Manager	JIM SCHILLING
Front of House Staff	STACY MILLER & NANCY SCIGLIMPAGLIA
MTC School Faculty	SHANNON COLFER, KEVIN CONNORS, ELISSA DEMARIA, ALEXANDRA FORTIN, LUCKENIA GUERRIERA, DEBORAH LEVY, TRACEY MARBLE, RACHEL MACISAAC, ALEX MONGILLO, CHRISTOPHER MYERS, JIM SCHILLING
Board of Directors	DAN ARON, GREG COLE, KEVIN CONNORS, MARK CORPRON, WENDY GERBIER, DAN GULLER, JOHN HAMLIN, JIM SCHILLING, GREG SWEENEY

SPECIAL THANKS

Dan & Maureen Aron, John Hamlin & Greg Cole,
Lou Ursone & Curtain Call, Westport Country Playhouse,
Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressman Jim Himes, Mayor Harry Rilling, Senator Bob Duff

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Ruby

To our little star in Wonka's World. May your sparkle continue to outshine even the brightest Golden Ticket.

Here's to a first act that's as extraordinary as an Everlasting Gobstopper!

Huge, Kisses & Candy-Coated Dreams,

**Mommy, Daddy, Jules, Grandma Dee, Papa,
Grandma Tommie, Auntie Cheryl & Gaston**

We can't do it without you!

Music Theatre of Connecticut gratefully acknowledges the support of the following individuals, foundations and corporations.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation
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Follow us on social media for all things MTC:
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exclusive offers, ticket giveaways and more!

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**Alexa,
We are so proud of your
accomplishments
and the person you are!**

We love you. Mom, Dad and Will

SUMMER 2024 at MTC SCHOOL!



Grades 2-8

WEEK ONE:
**THE
LION KING**
JUNE 24 - 28


WEEK TWO:
Wicked
JULY 8 - 12


WEEK THREE:
Meana
JULY 15 - 19


Grades 6-12

A blue rectangular graphic with a yellow border, featuring a starry night sky background. The text reads: "SHREK" in large, stylized yellow letters, "THE MUSICAL" in smaller yellow letters below it, and "JULY 22 - AUG 3, 2024" in white letters at the bottom.

HALF-DAY & FULL-DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE!