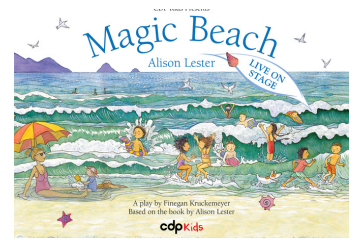
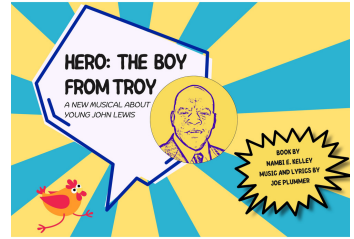


# 2024-2025 Touring Roster



Hello friend,

We're thrilled to share this year's roster of touring work and celebrate the 40th anniversary of Holden & Arts Associates. Over these last four decades, our offerings have varied and shifted, but our mission of sharing stories and creating partnerships remains at the core of all that we do. As the leaders of HAA since 2017, Spring, Stacy and Sarah are emboldened by the company's history and inspired for our shared future. The last five years have brought intense challenges but also incredible opportunities for reaching audiences in new ways, developing new work, and supporting each other in times of crisis.

We share this roster at a time when many organizations continue to face immense challenges. We know there is a need to bring in and retain audience members. We know there is a need for more funding support for venues and artists to help combat the higher costs of presenting and touring. We know the political divide and legislation in many communities adds more challenges to programming meaningful work, especially for young people.

And yet, we know there are opportunities too. We are thrilled to welcome back several of our past international companies like Visible Fictions and Terrapin with brand new work, well adapted for touring in North America. We're excited for newer partnerships with US based companies like Chicago Children's Theater, Honolulu Theatre for Youth and 123 Andrés. We are also proud of the deep and long relationships with the other artists reflected in our 24-25 line-up. These are all artists who believe in the power of impacting young people and families through performance. This is a roster full of opportunities.

These productions bring classic characters to life: from a family of Gruffalos in **The Gruffalo's Child**, to Peter Rabbit and Tom Kitten in **Peter Rabbit and Friends**, to Hamlet and Ophelia in **Hotel Elsinore**, to Peter Pan and Wendy Darling in **Underneath a Magical Moon**. These stories are well-loved by teachers and families alike and are brought to the stage with fresh insight and imagination.

There is stunning and surprising artistry, with images and characters that will live on in the audience's mind long after the show: Life sized elephants in **The Vanishing Elephant**. A crafty fire in **The Paper Escaper**. An astonishingly pink carpet in **The Problem With Pink**. There is live music that can transport you to the deep woods of Northern Ireland in **When We Were Wild**, the salt ponds of Kauai in **The Pa'akai We Bring**, an escape on the Underground Railroad in **Finding North**, or the beaches of South America with **123 Andrés**. There is an invitation to play and think outside the proscenium with the interactive work **I See You Like This** and the rich residency offerings from many of our artists.

And there are brave young people, with stories that reflect the challenges youth face today and offer hope, empathy and support. In **Hero: The Boy From Troy**, we see a young John Lewis discover his path, ultimately becoming an inspiration for generations. In **Clunk!**, we see Andy and his family come together after a period of fear and isolation. In **The Boy Who Sing Pictures**, Lucas risks danger to share his incredible gift that brings joy to his community. In **Eddie and Vinnie**, Eddie struggles with his dyslexia until he discovers the strength of his unique mind. And on the shores of **Magic Beach**, Sally rediscovers the magic of childhood despite her growing up.

We hope these shows will galvanize you with their combination of excellence and educational value. They have so much to offer and are worth investing in. Now is the time for imagination. Now is the time for artistry. Now is the time for bravery.

We look forward to meeting with you in person at the different conferences and working closely with you all on well routed tours, resident activities, and connecting with your audiences in and outside of the school and theater. It is our honor to work in this field and to bring the performing arts into the hearts and minds of millions. Here's to the next forty years.

Cheers,  
Spring, Stacy, and Sarah

## Touring in 2024-2025

1. **The Gruffalo's Child** - Tall Stories of London, England
2. **Peter Rabbit & Friends**- Chicago Children's Theatre of Chicago, Illinois
3. **123 Andrés** - of Washington, DC
4. **The Paper Escaper** – Terrapin Puppet Theatre of Tasmania, Australia
5. **Underneath A Magical Moon**- Tutti Frutti Productions of Leeds, England
6. **Various** - David Gonzalez of New York, New York
7. **The Pa'akai We Bring**- Honolulu Theatre for Youth of Honolulu, Hawaii
8. **Magic Beach** - CDP Theatre Producers of Sydney, Australia
9. **Eddie & Vinnie** - Childsplay of Tempe, Arizona
10. **The Problem with Pink**- Le Petit Théâtre de Sherbrooke of Sherbrooke, Canada and La [parenthèse] / Christophe Garcia of Angers, France
11. **The Vanishing Elephant** - Cahoots NI of Belfast, Northern Ireland
12. **Hero: The Boy from Troy** – First Woman, Inc of New York, New York
13. **Clunk!** - Visible Fictions of Glasgow, Scotland
14. **When We Were Wild** - Cahoots NI of Belfast, Northern Ireland
15. **Finding North** - a collaboration with David Gonzalez and Daniel Carlton of New York, New York
16. **Hotel Elsinore**- Susanna Day Hamnett of Winchester, England
17. **I See You Like This** - Jessica Wilson of Melbourne, Australia



Follow the Gruffalo's Child on her adventurous mission in Tall Stories' enchanting adaptation of the much-loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. One wild and windy night the Gruffalo's Child ignores her father's warnings about the Big Bad Mouse and tiptoes out into the deep dark wood. She follows snowy tracks and encounters mysterious creatures – but the Big Bad Mouse doesn't really exist... does he? Let your imagination run wild with songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone!

Best for Grades PreK-3rd  
From Tall Stories of London,  
England

# Peter Rabbit & Friends



chicago  
children's  
theatre



You are cordially invited to meet Peter Rabbit and friends! Four favorite Beatrix Potter stories, (the Tales of Peter Rabbit, Tom Kitten, Jeremy Fisher and The Tailor of Gloucester) come to life in this mesmerizing, interactive trunk and puppet show, complete with live music and Potter's original text. Levers are pulled and cranks are turned to reveal images that surprise and delight while charming storytellers interweave the classic narration and guide gentle interactive moments, recruiting young watchers to join the adventure.

Best for Grades Pre-2nd

From Chicago Children's Theatre of Chicago, Illinois

**1****2****3****ANDRÉS**

Andrés and Christina are 123 Andrés. This Latin Grammy Award-winning music duo are available for family concerts, student matinees, and community residency. These high-energy, joyful shows include hits from 123 Andrés' award-winning albums and incorporate Spanish, English, and ASL languages. Student matinees introduce musical styles and instruments along with geography and social studies connections. And they have multiple bilingual books based on their songs, published by Scholastic. Their catchy music and lively performances get the whole audience dancing, singing, and learning!

Best for Families, Audience of All ages  
 Student Matinees: Grades PreK-6th  
 From Washington, DC

# The PAPER ESCAPER

by GITA BEZARD



Benny, our plucky puppet protagonist, is eager to explore the world beyond his pop-up book. But when the Illustrator keeps trying to make Benny stay on the page and a wily fire threatens to break out of control, Benny will need the help of a surprising new friend. This nonverbal work uses striking visuals, brilliant puppetry and music to tell a story of determination, friendship and the power of following your own path.

Best for Grades K-3rd  
From Terrapin Puppet Theatre of  
Tasmania, Australia







A reimagining of Peter Pan as told by Wendy Darling. Through her open window Wendy gazes out at the night sky dreaming of blue lagoons, magical moons and most of all, stories. And tonight, there's magic in the air. Fly with Wendy and her brothers as they create the world of Neverland, where time stands still, and the impossible seems possible. Even everyday objects become extraordinary under the magical moon. A sparkling production with exquisite live music and songs, enthralling movement, and a sprinkle of fairy dust.

Best for Grades K-5th  
From Tutti Frutti Productions of Leeds, England



Critically acclaimed and award-winning artist David Gonzalez combines live music and skilled storytelling to create compelling drama. His productions include fairy tales, epic world fables, and community voices. Various musical arrangements and residency options available. Titles in Rep. include: **The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures**, **Sleeping Beauty**, **The Frog Bride**, **Aesop Bops!**, **Maddog & Me: Bullying and the Power of Kindness**, and **Cuentos: Tales from the Latinx World**. His newest work "Talking Birds & Golden Fish" premieres fall 2022!

Best for Grades K and up  
From New York, New York

# The Pa'akai we Bring



This original production introduces audiences to the Native Hawaiian relationship to pa'akai (salt). Traditionally, pa'akai is food, medicine, a sacrament, and a treasured gift. The play follows a family of multi generational salt farmers on the island of Kauai, mixing in ancient stories, hula, live music, original songs, and plenty of audience participation into a tasty potluck of performance, joyously served with Aloha. Created in partnership with the Bishop Museum and cultural elders and leaders, the performance is intended for a multi-generational audience, so audience members young and old can have this restorative experience together. This project was awarded the NEFA Theatre Project Creation Grant in 2021.

Best for Families, Audiences of All Ages

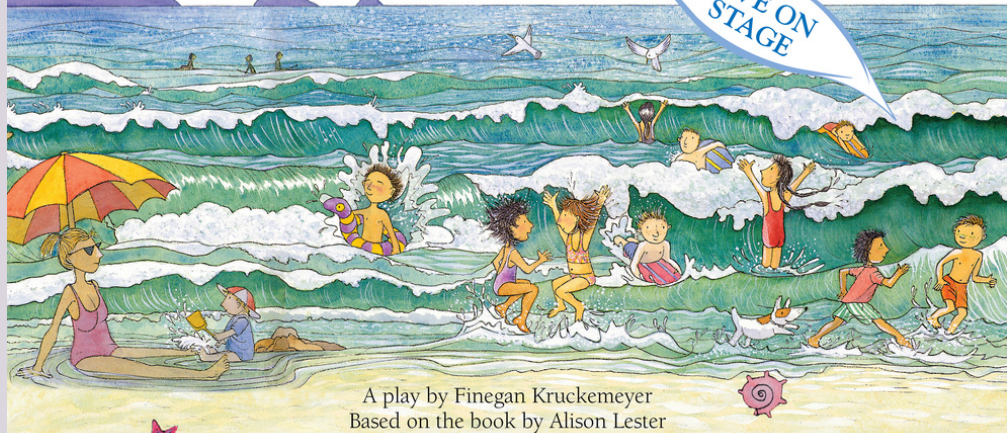
Student Matinees: 1st-6th

From Honolulu Theatre for Youth of Honolulu, Hawaii

# Magic Beach

Alison Lester

LIVE ON  
STAGE



A play by Finegan Kruckemeyer  
Based on the book by Alison Lester



Every year, an ordinary family goes on a beach holiday. This isn't just any beach - it's Magic Beach, where everything you can imagine becomes real. But this year is different. As the eldest child begins to grow up, does she have to leave the magic behind? Alison Lester's classic book comes to life on stage in a wonderful world of text, song, light, shadow and movement. This new Australian adaptation from award winning playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer is a celebration of the power of the imagination and the differences that make every child special.

Best for Grades 1st-6th  
from CDP Theatre Producers  
of Sydney, Australia

# The Problem with Pink



The problem with pink is that it's everywhere! So if pink is just for girls, things might get complicated. That's the topic that divides a group of four happily rambunctious friends who previously had never known a moment of worry in their cozy and pink play space! When a fear of judgment creeps into their world, division and mistrust take hold. If the color pink is only for girls, how will this change the world in which they live and play? This exhilarating dance drama gives children a space to reflect on gender stereotypes and imagine the future with boldness, brightness and freedom.

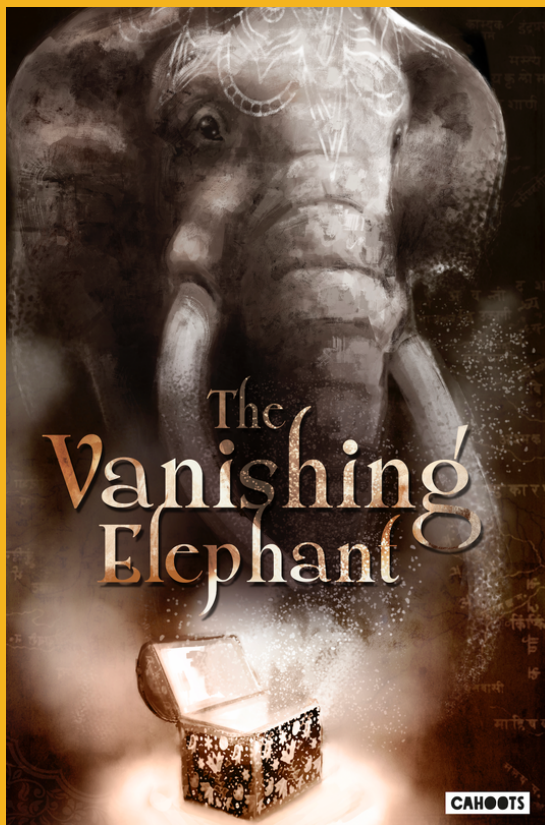
Best for Grades 2nd+  
from Le Petit Theatre de  
Sherbrooke of Montreal, Canada  
and La Parenthese of Angers,  
France

# Eddie & Vinnie



At its heart, *Eddie and Vinnie* is a buddy comedy about Eddie, a boy with dyslexia, and his best friend/sidekick, a wise-cracking gecko named Vinnie. Eddie is a skilled artist, but struggles with schoolwork. When facing the possibility of attending summer school if he can't get his grades up, Eddie teams with the overly helpful new girl in class to write their end-of-the-year report. It seems like Vinnie is always there to distract him...or is she challenging Eddie to lean into his uniquely beautiful mind? Through their journey, students will discover the importance of empathy, understanding, and recognizing each individual's diverse strengths.

Best for Grades 2nd-6th  
From Childsplay of Tempe, Arizona



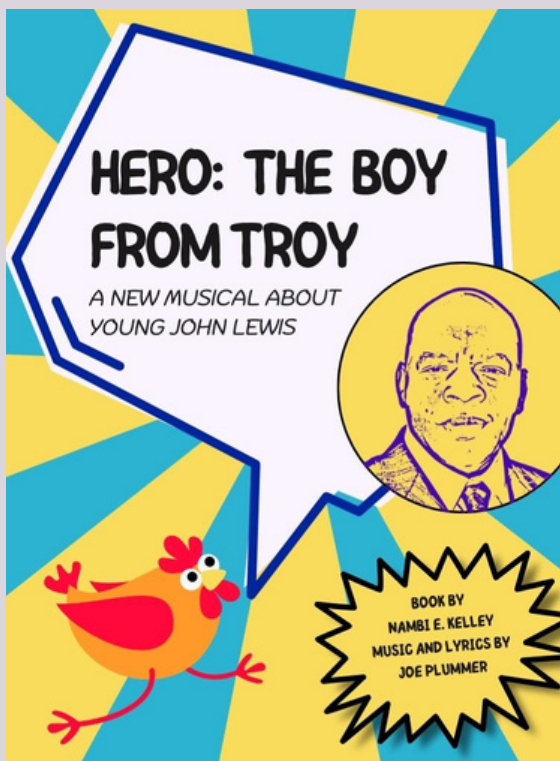
This incredible story, inspired by true events, is told through large-scale puppetry, illusion, and magic. Jenny, a young elephant, is born in the 1900s in Bengal, India and is full of curiosity about the world around her. When Jenny is sold to a circus in America, she must make the strange journey across the sea to a new world filled with many adventures. Eventually she meets the great Harry Houdini who plans to make Jenny magically disappear from the stage of the Hippodrome in New York City.

Premieres Oct. 2023 at the New Victory Theatre in NYC, NY.

Best for Families & Mainstage Audiences

Student Matinees: Grades 3rd+

From Cahoots NI of Belfast, Northern Ireland



Jayden is stuck in detention with a book about Congressman John Lewis, but he thinks that history has nothing to teach him. Together we go on a musical journey through the decades that shows how the heroes in the Civil Rights movement inspired John Lewis to protest injustice and get into 'good trouble.' As young John meets Rosa Parks and Dr. King and ultimately becomes a leader and American hero himself, Jayden learns how he too can take a stand. From the same creative team as Jabari Dreams of Freedom, including playwright Nambi E. Kelley and music and lyrics by Joe Plummer.

Best for Grades 3rd-8th  
From First Woman, Inc of New York,  
New York





Clunk! ....a shiny, heavy thing falls out of Andy's ear during class. What is it? He and his Gran never keep secrets from each other, but Andy makes an exception with the weird ear thing. He keeps it in his pocket – secret. Andy lives with his Gran above her video shop. They tell each other everything, until one day they don't and bad things start to happen. Turns out Gran has been keeping things to herself too, big, important things. Andy starts to wonder if his secret ear thing caused all this, or might it save them all? A powerful solo show that tackles mental health, confidence, and family.

Best for Grades 3rd+

From Visible Fictions of Glasgow, Scotland



## *When We Were WILD*



A wood filled with magic and memories. Home to wild creatures – the Fox, the Owl, the Badger...and brothers Jim and Pete. Farmers. Old now. Very old. With bad backs and welly boots. An old wardrobe in the barn contains all the mysteries of their childhood, when they would sleep beneath the stars and become one with the wild world around them. The owl on her midnight watch, the badger scuffling out of the dark, the fox watching from the woods with its orange eyes... The brothers have grown up and gone their separate ways. Will they ever find a way back to the wonder they once felt when they were young and wild? With astonishing animal puppetry and live music, this is a moving tale of growing up and the importance of nature and art.

Best for Grades 3rd+  
From Cahoots NI of Belfast, Northern  
Ireland



# ◀ FINDING NORTH ▶



Written by David Gonzalez

Performance & additional text by Daniel Carlton

Music performed by David Gonzalez

This one-man play brings to life the powerful stories of the strivings, sacrifices and dreams of John P. Parker, a former enslaved man who dedicated his life to helping other enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad. Drawn from historical research, Parker's tale is woven together with interviews from contemporary immigrants who tell their stories of searching for haven in modern-day America. This production is both an exploration and celebration of the continuing quest for justice and freedom in America.

**Best for Grades 5th+**

**From David Gonzalez and Daniel Carlton of New York, New York**

# HOTEL ELSINORE



Denmark. 2am. A hotel room. Three weary travelers, an unexpected will and a production of Hamlet to rehearse before morning. Tragedy and humor blend in this new play about the challenges of family, forgiveness and Shakespeare. Written and performed by award-winning actor Susanna Hamnett, along with her son and daughter, Joshua and Lily MacGregor, this piece premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2022.

Best for Grades 8th+

From Susanna Day Hamnett of Winchester, England

# I SEE YOU LIKE THIS



With our ever-growing appetite to document our lives through photos and selfies, children are so often the reluctant subjects of their caretaker or parent's cameras; asked to smile, look natural, look that way, and come in closer. This interactive portraiture project allows children to see their adults through the lens of their own imaginations. The child artist is empowered to observe, style, and portray their adult, while adults are able to experience being "seen" by their young person, often for the first time. Captured by a professional photographer, this event can be run in one on one appointments, studio settings, or festivals.

Best For Families, Audience of All Ages  
From Jessica Wilson of Melbourne,  
Australia

## Still booking for the 2023-2024 season?

If you're looking for live performance for 2023-2024, talk with us about our available options for routed or run out dates of: David Gonzalez, Finding North, Call of the Wild, 123 Andrés and more!

And take a look at our incredible digital offerings! We'd love to talk with you more about these options and share more about how our virtual engagements can serve your audiences and the different resources we have available. Trailers and more materials available at [www.holdenarts.org](http://www.holdenarts.org)

## Digital & Special Project Roster for 2023-2024

1. Diary of a Wombat - Monkey Baa
2. Doodle POP - BRUSH Theatre
3. Dreamers- Childsplay
4. Miss Nelson Has A Field Day - Dallas Children's Theater
5. Stories of Oceania - Honolulu Theatre for Youth
6. Jabari Dreams of Freedom - First Woman/Nambi E. Kelley
7. Duke - Honolulu Theatre for Youth
8. The In-Between - Geordie Theatre
9. Child Nation - Jessica Wilson





**We want to hear from you!**

**Write us at:**

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**Spring Karlo - [SK@holdenarts.org](mailto:SK@holdenarts.org)**

**Stacy Meshbane - [SM@holdenarts.org](mailto:SM@holdenarts.org)**

**For more details on each production, including production photos, study guides, tech riders, and more, please visit [www.holdenarts.org](http://www.holdenarts.org) or follow the below QR Code.**



