

ENCORE PRESENTS

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

MHYT
Mile High Youth Theatre

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

ADAPTED BY
JANET ALLARD
FROM THE BOOK BY MARGERY WILLIAMS



A NOTE FROM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Christina Roberts

Christina & Bussy

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Bussy Gower



At **Mile High Youth Theatre**, our mission is to create theatre experiences that allow students to thrive artistically, socially, and emotionally, and to teach **empathy through the performing arts**. Our Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) program gives students ages 13+ the chance to perform for early elementary audiences, bringing live theatre directly to young children in schools, libraries, and community spaces.

As actors ourselves, we both spent time in TYA early in our careers, and we know firsthand how powerful and formative TYA acting can be. We are passionate about giving our students the opportunity to pass that experience along, because seeing theatre for the first time as a young child is a magical, transformative experience—one that can spark imagination, confidence, and a lifelong love of storytelling. TYA exposes children to new language, vocabulary, abstract thinking, emotions, and the idea that stories can be imaginative and open-ended, not just literal.

With arts funding shrinking and school programs no longer as robust as they once were, TYA gives many children the chance to experience live theatre in their own community. We're proud to bring meaningful theatre to Denver, and we're so excited to share this season's TYA show, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Thank you for supporting Mile High Youth Theatre!

LEARN MORE



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THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

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Cast

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT ROSE LINDSTROM
BOY / NURSERY MAGIC FAIRY NILADRI SATO
SKIN HORSE / SOLDIER VERA FLORENCE
AIRPLANE / NANA / WILD RABBIT ARIANA DANI
BALLERINA / FURRY RABBIT / DOCTOR / SAM HARPER WHEELER

The Velveteen Rabbit is produced by special arrangement
with Stage Partners. (www.yourstagepartners.com)

MHYT IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH



THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Actor Biographies



Rose Lindstrom (she/her) **The Velveteen Rabbit**

Rose is so excited to be in her 4th show with MHYT!! Her previous MHYT productions include, *Seussical Jr.* (Mrs. Mayor), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), and *Where Words Once Were* (Teacher). She thanks you so much for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!



Niladri Sato (she/her) **Boy / Nursery Magic Fairy**

Niladri is excited to perform in another MHYT production. You may remember her from *Seussical Jr.* (Bird Girl 1), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Egeus, Fairy). She has also performed with Colorado Community Theatre in *Into the Woods Jr.* (Florinda). She thanks her parents for encouraging and supporting her interest in theatre and performing, and thanks the cast and crew for making the experience fun and memorable.



Vera Florence (she/her) **Skin Horse / Soldier**

Vera is so excited to be in her first TYA production! Previous credits include: *Elf Jr.*, *Newsies Jr.*, *Where Words Once Were*, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, *Mean Girls*, *The Lion King Jr.*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Vera is a student at East High School, where she is active in the theatre and speech and debate communities. She would like to thank her mom, dad, as well as *The Velveteen Rabbit* cast and crew for all of their hard work and support throughout this process.



Ariana Dani (she/her) **Airplane / Nana / Wild Rabbit**

Ariana is thrilled to make her MHYT debut in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and to be back performing after a six-year hiatus. Previous roles include: *Fiona* (Shrek the Musical) and *Charlotte* (Charlotte's Web). When not memorizing lines, Ariana trains as a competitive chess player, ranking within the top three girls in the state of Colorado. Thank you to Ollie, Sam, Christina, Bussy, and Andrew for making this show possible. Ariana is also eternally grateful to her family for their unwavering support.



Harper Wheeler (she/her) **Ballerina / Furry Rabbit / Doctor / Sam**

Previous credits: *Elf* (Micheal Hobbes), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Sardine Queen + Ensemble), *Finding Nemo* (Bubbles + Dance Captain), *Urinetown* (Robby The Stockfish + Dance Captain + Ensemble), *Something Rotten Jr.* (Featured Dancer + Ensemble), *Seussical Jr.* (Yertle The Turtle + Dance Captain + Ensemble), *Lion King* (Asili Ensemble), *Ride the Cyclone* (Rat Ensemble), 13 (Simon)

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Production Team



Ollie de Haan (they/he) *The Velveteen Rabbit* **Director**

Ollie is thrilled to be bringing free theatre to families across Denver! Ollie is originally from Fort Worth, Texas and holds a BA in Theatre and Directing from Oklahoma City University. Recent Denver credits include *Into the Woods* (Asst. Director, Set Design, Puppets), *Ride The Cyclone* (Set Design), *Seussical Jr.* (Set Designer), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Assistant Director/Stage Manager). Thank you to Bussy, Christina, and Sam!



Sam Webb (she/they) *The Velveteen Rabbit* **Stage Manager**

Sam is thrilled to be making her MHYT debut, stage managing *The Velveteen Rabbit*. She has worked in education for nearly a decade, and has been stage managing for 6 years. Colorado credits: *Miracle on 34th Street* (Town Hall Arts Center), *Chasing Breadcrumbs* (Local Theater Company), *Annie* (Town Hall Arts Center), as well as various teaching artist positions with the weird and wonderful theatre kids of the Denver metro area. Education: University of Puget Sound. Thanks to the MHYT team for their skilled, caring community.





early Giving



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TO MILE HIGH YOUTH THEATRE IS
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THANKS TO COLORADO GIVES
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James and the Giant Peach Jr.

Words & Music by
Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Book by
Timothy Allen McDonald

Based on the Book James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

November 21st – 23rd





**Registration
Launches
December 1st**



Mile High Youth Theatre

SUMMER CAMP

2026

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