



## JILL BOLSTRIDGE

*Co-Artistic Director*

Jill is a theatre director and children's theatre teacher from Wallingford, Connecticut. She is currently completing her Master's degree in Theatre and holds a B.A. in Theatre and a B.A. in English Literature from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. Her recent directing credits include "The Rude Mechanicals" from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Lanford Wilson's "Talley's Folly," and Michael Schulman's "Did You Ever Go to P.S. 43?" She recently directed and adapted Dr. Seuss's "Butter Battle Book" and "The Lorax" at the Children's Theatre Company with whom she is also a Teaching Artist through the New York City Board of Education, directing "RESPECT: A Musical History of Women" at Queens Jr. High School (IS23). Jill has taught and developed children's theatre and character education material for nearly five years and has worked with students from ages 2-17. Jill is a director and instructor at the Drama Training Institute in Boston, Massachusetts and continues as Associate Director at the Children's Theatre Company in New York, New York.

## CLARA BOWDEN-KERBY

*Production Assistant Director*



## CELESTINA BRADSHER-LAYNE

*Production Manager*



## AKEEBA BUTLER

*Administrative Production Manager*

Akeeba Butler, originally from California, studied Media Arts and American Culture at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. She began working with high school age youth as a mentor in the Philadelphia Public School System. She then became an After-School Program Coordinator at Old Pine Community Center. Her love for youth led her to work as Preschool Teacher, Counselor and Nanny. Although she has been Group 1 Assistant Director for CTC in 2003, this is her first season as Administrative Production Manager. She looks forward to the upcoming seasons!



## NATASHA BRUSS

*Ethics Education Director*

Natasha Bruss studied Human Rights and Political Science at Barnard College / Columbia University. She has worked extensively for CNN International and MTV. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Natasha has lived in Northern China teaching English, and has traveled broadly throughout the world with the prestigious Maxwell School Dance Theatre Workshop as principal dancer. Natasha continues to provide training and workshops in personal and spiritual transformation through the Ruhi Institute and is currently the Junior Youth Coordinator of the Baha'i Community of New York.



## ANDREW BROWN

*Group 4 Director*

Andrew graduated from Columbia University as triple major in American history, Political Science and Middle Eastern History. Drew has been acting professionally from the age of 12 and trained and studied at the Paradise Theatre Company at Carnegie Hall (Fred Kareman), and has read and performed with critically acclaimed playwright / actor Wallace Shawn, and Oscar winning director, Andre Gregory, and actress Julianne Moore. Drew's belief in working with children and youth through their critical years of adolescence comes from a profound conviction that reaching adulthood is not achieved by some magical accident, but by the investment and attention of dedicated adults.

## NATHALIE DISPAGNE

*Group 2 & 3 Choreographer*



Nathalie Dispagne, of Persian and Caribbean background, was born and raised in Paris, France. She's studied and trained many different dance styles, including: hip-hop, belly dancing, modern, jazz, salsa, contemporary, and African dance. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree of Art at the University of Paris and started to teaching hip-hop in various schools in Paris. She was also the artistic coordinator of "The Diversity Dance Workshop", a group of dancers who try to promote peace and unity through dance and tour internationally. Since she moved in United States, she had her certificate from Broadway Dance Center. Nathalie believes that dance is a wonderful means of expression, allowing a greater consciousness to evolve. Dance can touch the heart and share a positive message.



## KIM HARLEY

*Choral/ Music Director*

Since graduation Kim spent a short time teaching music in the New Jersey Public School System. Kim is one of the Praise and Worship Leaders, assistant choir director for the adult and youth choirs and private vocal coach at Brooklyn, New York's 24,000 member Christian Cultural Center led by the Reverend Dr. A.R. Bernard. To date Kim has traveled and ministered in Italy, Russia, Scotland, South Africa and the Bahamas. Kim has been blessed to sing alongside the world renowned Christian pianist Dino and Cheryl Kartsoukakis at **Carnegie Hall**. Kim also conducted a special 100 voice women's choir for incumbent and current **Mayor Michael Bloomberg**. From childhood Kim has gone to musical schools and has not stopped since.



## MICHAEL HARLEY

*Choral/ Music Director*



## LORY LAZARUS

*Associate Music Director & Composer*

Lory Lazarus is, with Eric Dozier, one of the resident- composers for CTC, and is the author of almost 350 songs. Almost everything Lory writes is about peace and

unity, including his musical, "Attack of the Elvis Impersonators," about the spirit of Elvis returning to earth to unite mankind. Lory has written the CTC mini-Dr. Seuss musicals, "Yertle the Turtle" and "The Lorax," and is the writer of the hit song "One World," which has been receiving radio airplay. He wrote 23 songs for "Barney & Friends" on PBS, as well as the theme songs for "The Healthy Kids Show" (Family Channel) and "Hot Properties" (LifeTime Network). He also was a staff writer for the Cartoon Network's "Courage, the Cowardly Dog."



## JACK LENZ

*Composer / Producer*

Jack is a composer and producer whose prodigious talent and prolific output have placed him first in no less than three award categories. Jack's list of credits goes on forever.

He's scored music and themes for virtually every Canadian television network as well as many U.S. broadcasters and film producers. You've heard his music on *Designer Guys*, *Due South*, *Goosebumps*, *Life And Times*, *CBC's The Journal* and *Fashion File*.



## DENISE MARONEY

*Costume Coordinator*

This is Denise Maroney's first time working with CTC. She has served as a costume design assistant on various shows at the Williamstown Theatre Festival '06 and most recently on *Gutenberg! The Musical!* (The Actor's Playhouse). Favorite costume design credits include *Something More Pleasant* (NYU), *Wounds to the Face* (Chashama) & *The Animal Project* (NYU). She has also designed hats for *Far Away* (NYU) and makeup/special effects for several projects including *Marisol* (Hudson Guild Theatre). A recent graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Denise would like to extend a big 'thank you!' to everyone- friends, family, CTC parents & staff- involved in making the costumes happen!!

## OLIVIA MORA

*Group 2 Director*

Olivia Mora recently moved to NYC where she was associate artistic director for Maui Academy of Performing Arts. While in Maui she directed several projects including *Scrooge The Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *101 Dalmatians* and *A Village Fable*. Olivia holds a BA in theater /choreography from Mills College in Oakland, CA and is a proud graduate of The Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA. Her greatest accomplishment has been directing/choreographing an all-female version of Shakespeare's *HENRY V*. She would like to thank CTC for the opportunity to grow and create new friendships while working with such an inspirational group of young people



## DIANE NOSSEIR

*Group 4 Choreographer*

Diane Nosseir of Culture Shock NY and NYC's "The Movement" has recently joined the CTC team bringing her unique style and love for dance to the community. Dance Collective. Competing as a member of "Capital Funk" at Bust A Grove in D.C and participating in "Monsters of Hip Hop" in Orlando, Diane was inspired to dance

with Culture Shock NY. She has been performing and traveling with them for the past year and is also currently rehearsing with "The Movement", a theatrical show of dance, drama, and spoken word. Along with her interest in teen character development through the arts, Diane is a graduate of the George Washington University with a degree in Public Health and Secondary Field in Communications. She is currently a student at New York University's Wagner School where she will receive an MPA in Health Policy and Management, and continue on to work in international development and public health policy.



## DESI K. ROBINSON

*Communications Director*

As a radio producer, Desi has uncovered and told the story of children and youth whether in light of the education of girls or providing perspective on current issues. She has been working for children's organizations for over 10 years. She has been the Public Relations Coordinator at the nationally acclaimed organization, KIDS PEACE which provides children with a variety of care from housing to education. As a performing artist, Desi has performed on Broadway at the LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE in association with the Saint Vincent Players. Desi is currently a producer with WBAI Radio.



## JUNG MUN

*Set Designer*

Jung E. Mun was born and raised in Korea. Her unique interest in space drove her to study sculpture and Scenic Design. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sculpture and Master's in Fine Arts in Environmental Design and Scenic Design. She worked as a Set Designer for Korea Broadcasting System for 3 years and worked at "Interior Company" for one year before moving to New York.



## FRANK SANCHEZ

*Musical Director & Composer/ Pianist*

Frank Sanchez is proud to be starting his second season with the Children's Theatre Company. He is even prouder that he is now a composer for the Children's Theatre company shows. He wishes to thank his family for their constant love and support, and also Mehr, Mandy and Jill for making his music a reality.



## NAOMI WATANABE

*Drums & Percussion*

Naomi has played the drums and various other percussion instruments for over 10 years and has toured extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the United States. She performs her eclectic selection of world culture music at various venues in all five boroughs.