

Childrens **PLAYTIME Productions**®

*EDUCATIONAL IMPACT THEATRE -
Where Everybody Plays!*

PROUDLY PRESENTS



*Written by
Jan Coloccia*

*Directed by
Chuck Balgenorth*

Public Performances:
Friday, August 2, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 3, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 4, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Childrens Playtime Productions

PROUDLY PRESENTS



Written By

Jan Coloccia

Director

Chuck Balgenorth

Production Staff

Director

Chuck Balgenorth

Technical Director

Richard De Haven

Instructor/Production Assistant

Christie Clemens

Instructor/Production Assistant

Taylor Graham

Make-Up Design

Linh Young

Costume Design

Isabella Ceja & Linh Young

Lighting & Projection Design

Wass Tech

Sound Assistant

Matthew Creighton

DEDICATIONS

TO AVERY FREY

Break a Leg! We're so proud of you!

LOVE, DAD, MOM, PIPER & SCOUT

TO LADY OPHELIA MEGALIS

It's a Human! You're our favorite Catfish in the swamp!

LOVE YOU 4 EVER, XO GRANDMA & PAPOULI

SPECIAL CAST DEDICATION - BREAK A LEG!

Chuck, Richard, and Jan thank the crew, cast and families for all of their efforts. It is our greatest honor to experience talent in bloom.

YOU ARE ALL STARS!

ALICE IN GATORLAND 2024 CAST

(in order of appearance)

Swamp Woman	Shaily Saig
Alice.....	Avery Frey
Mother	Jazmin Solis
Swamp Rat	Eric Trofler
Alligators	Liat Saig (#1), Emma Ennis (#2), Lena Levy (#3)
Bullfrog Band.....	Adeya Adams (Melodica), Zoey Dodak (Sax)
.....	Lilly Ennis (Trumpet), Alice Paixao (Washboard)
.....	Jacqueline Trofler (Fiddle), Bailey Young (Trombone)
Mosquitoes.....	Elynn Hernandez, Mary Huettner
.....	Raegan Huettner, Nathan Weir
Swamp Animals	Cayden Hutchinson (Raccoon), Simone Beier (Otter)
.....	Araceli Moreno (Snake), Lady Ophelia Megalis (Catfish),
.....	Keisha Romig (Possum)
Panther.....	Patrick Devlin
Crawfish Messenger	Bailey Young
Cook	Isaac McCauley
Duchess	Brooke Drinville
Monarch Caterpillar	Shaily Saig
Mad Hatter	Vito Orlando
March Hair.....	Xavier Jones
Dormouse.....	Riley Young
Flowers.....	Olivia Salas (#1), Janea Clemens (#2), Jacqueline Trofler (#3)
.....	Elynn Hernandez (#4a), Nathan Weir (#4b), Abigail Paixao (#5)
.....	Lilly Ennis (#6), Juliana Hernandez (#7)
Egret Birds	Zoey Dodak, Mary Huettner, Raegan Huettner,
.....	Araceli Moreno, Alice Paixao, Keisha Romig
.....	Liat Saig, Shaily Saig, Bailey Young
Gardeners.....	Isaac McCauley, Eric Trofler, Dominick Weir
Queen of Hearts	Olivia Di Bella
King Birdie	Dominick Weir
Croquet Balls ...	Elynn Hernandez, Araceli Moreno, Abigail Paixao, Nathan Weir
Royal Guards	Zoey Dodak (Soldier), Juliana Hernandez
.....	Keisha Romig, Liat Saig, Shaily Saig
Knaves.....	Mary Huettner, Raegan Huettner
Cousins	Zoey Dodak, Emma Ennis, Alice Paixao
Aunt Dixie.....	Adeya Adams

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

<i>Co-Producers</i>	Chuck Balgenorth, Jan Coloccia, Richard De Haven
<i>Director</i>	Chuck Balgenorth
<i>Technical Director</i>	Richard De Haven
<i>Stage Managers</i>	Chuck Balgenorth, Christie Clemens, Taylor Graham
<i>Camp Assistants</i>	Christie Clemens, Taylor Graham
<i>Camp Instructors (Specialized)</i>	Izzy Ceja, Matthew Creighton, Linh Young
<i>Choreography</i>	Taylor Graham
<i>Props & Set Design</i>	Chuck Balgenorth, Richard De Haven
<i>Costume Design and Coordination</i>	Izzy Ceja, Linh Young
<i>Hair & Make-Up Design</i>	Linh Young
<i>Hair & Make-Up Artists</i>	Leanne Di Bella, Amber Frey Amanda Moore, Lynda Shaeps Nancy Solis, Sarah Williamson, Linh Young
<i>Head Carpenter / Crew Chief</i>	Richard De Haven
<i>Playbill & Promo Materials</i>	Chuck Balgenorth, Richard De Haven, Taylor Graham
<i>Poster Design</i>	Richard De Haven
<i>Photographer</i>	Richard De Haven, Taylor Graham, Parents
<i>Tech Crew</i>	Chuck Balgenorth, Christie Clemens Richard Clemens, Richard De Haven Taylor Graham
<i>CPP Volunteers</i>	<i>Our cast, cast families and friends</i>

THE UN-NAMED STAFF

CPP is proud that it is able to continue to provide the youth of the Coachella Valley with the experience of performing on Stage. It takes a large "staff" of volunteers to put on our productions so that all children can take part. These volunteers include parents, families and friends of cast members, as well as friends of CPP and of theatre in general, all of whom put countless hours into making sets, costumes, and props. They also include the experienced adult actors and actresses who give of their time and talents so generously. All of these volunteers give in order to ensure that the children who are in the production, as well as those who come see the production are impacted in the most positive ways. At the end of the day, it is the difference we make in the lives of others that makes all the difference in the world. CPP thanks our entire "staff" for the difference you have made through your efforts in *Alice in Gatorland*.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order)

Adeya Adams

Adeya is 12 years old. This is her 3rd Production with CCP. She really enjoys singing and dancing. I'm going into 7th grade and I am really excited for this upcoming school year. When she grows up, she wants to be a professional Dancer, in hopes of opening her own dance studio for kids one day.

Simone Beier

Simone is 11 and entering 6th grade at Nellie Coffman Middle School. She enjoys being on stage, and has performed in the past in another state. This is her first time being in CPP's plays, and she has really enjoyed her experience. She likes to act, write, and draw. She is looking forward to many more performances and learning experiences in the performing arts. Simone's plays include: *Newsies* and *Alice in Gatorland*.

Janea Clemens

Janea is nine years old and has been working with CPP/YTP for a while now. This is her sixth show and she is very excited to play Flower #2 (aka Tulip) in *Alice in Gatorland*. She was previously seen in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr* and *Seussical the Musical, Jr*, respectively. She looks forward to many more shows in the future.

Patrick Devlin

This is Patrick's 10th CPP production. He's played characters like Uncle Fester, Templeton the Rat, Poomba, Igor, and even Santa Claus! He's going into 7th grade and loves video games, and is in several after school programs including one that helps younger kids make friends in their new school. He has three cats, including a new kitten, and loves to travel. Patrick wants to be a doctor when he grows up, because he likes helping people.

Olivia Di Bella

Olivia Di Bella is twelve, and this is her 12th production with CPP. She is honored to play the unique character, Queenie. Youtheatre Players is Olivia's home away from home. She wants to thank Chuck, Richard, Taylor, Christie, Izzy, and the crew for making this performance possible. Hold onto your heads for this show!

Zoey Dodak

Zoey is going into sixth grade at Palm Desert Charter Middle. She is 11 years old. This is her 6th show with CPP. Her previous shows were *Elf Jr*, *Pinocchio*, *Color Your World*, *Addams Family Young @ Part*, and *Seussical Jr*.

Brooke Drinville

Brooke is entering 7th grade at John Glenn Middle School. In her free time, she enjoys art, such as drawing and painting. She did 3 years of twirl and she performed in a parade at Disneyland in 2022. She currently enjoys CPP's weekly Acting and Improv Clubs.

Emma Ennis

Emma will be in 2nd grade. She loves making up her own songs and dance routines. Emma says what she likes about acting is "you don't have to be yourself, you can be anything you want to be".

Lilly Ennis

Lilly will be in 5th grade. She loves dancing, listening to music, and singing. She has been in a few class plays and a dance show. Lilly's favorite thing is her little chihuahua Monster.

Avery Frey

Avery is 11 years old. This is Avery's first production with CPP, but she is no stranger to the stage. Avery is a member of CPP's musical theater clubs. She was also a competitive cheerleader for 4 years. Avery is honored to be a part of such a talented cast!

Elynn Hernandez

Elynn is 4 years old and this is her second play. My favorite hobby is singing and dancing.

Juliana Hernandez

I'm going in to the 4th grade and this is my second play with CPP. She really likes it. Her hobbies are soccer and now acting.

Mary Huettner

Mary is entering 4th grade at Rancho Mirage Elementary School. She loves to play soccer. This is her first CPP performance.

Raegan Huettner

Raegan is entering 4th grade at Rancho Mirage Elementary School. She enjoys gymnastics. This is her first CPP performance.

Cayden Hutchinson

Cayden is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. This is his 5th CPP play. He thinks acting is fun! He loves being onstage, meeting friends, drawing, skateboarding and his dog Lou.

Xavier Johns

Xavier is 13 years old and loves acting. He is a passionate kiddo who is a natural in theater. He has performed in *Lion King*, *Addams Family*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* on the big stage; he gives his best in any role given. His personality is that of a cartoon character and he is constantly in costume. Xavier has found an amazing family with CPP and is enthralled to perform in many more.

Lena Levy

Lena Levy, a 7-year-old from Palm Springs, has been dedicated to the art of dance for most of her young life. With five years of training at Miss Lindsay's Dance Studio, she has honed her skills in ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop. Lena's passion for performing extends beyond dance, as she is now in her second year of theatre camp. She has attended both Palm Canyon Theatre Company and Youtheatre Players, where she continues to cultivate her love for the stage and to build her theatrical repertoire.

Isaac McCauley

Isaac McCauley is in the 7th grade at PDCMS and this is his 4th production with CPP. He has performed in *Charlotte's Web*, *Elf Jr.* and *The Misadventures of Storytelling*. He loves developing characters and making them come alive. Outside of CPP, Isaac is in the swim club, runs his own business and loves gaming!

Lady Ophelia Megalis

Lady Ophelia Megalis is a very creative seven-year-old Pisces who lives in beautiful (and very hot) Palm Desert, California. She loves to draw, sing, make shows with her dad and her favorite food is probably Kinder eggs. This is her first theater production ever. She is very excited to be a part of this wonderful show!

Araceli Moreno

Araceli is 7 years old, going into third grade, and this is her first time being in a CPP play - and she is loving it!

Vito Orlando

Vito is going into the 7th grade at King's Schools. This is his 4th show with CPP. He loves to entertain on stage! Vito is performing as the Mad Hatter. This his first comedic role. He hopes you have a good "TIME"!

Abigail Paixao

Abigail is 8 years old and this is her first play ever! She loves CPP! She loves to perform and to ice skate! She hopes you love the show.

Alice Paixao

Alice is 10 years old. This is her 1st show with CPP, but she has performed in two school plays. Her hobbies are acting, dancing, ice skating and watching hockey with her family.

Keisha Romig

Keisha is an enthusiastic and creative young mind. She enjoys acting, community service, and art. She also has a true love of chicken nuggets. When she is not acting, she participates in Girl Scouts and spends time with her friends.

Liat Saig

Liat attends Ronald Reagan Elementary School and will be in 3rd grade. This is her fourth production with CPP and she enjoys performing on stage. She is also a competitive cheerleader and spends her time practicing her tumbling skills. Liat has had so much fun at camp this summer.

Shaily Saig

This is Shaily's fourth production with CPP. Shaily's a rising 6th grader at PDCMS and enjoys singing, dancing and volleyball. She is thankful for the fun time and opportunity she had in Youth Theater Camp this summer with all of the cast and crew.

Olivia Salas

Olivia Salas is 9 years old and attends Jackson Elementary. Although she is new to CPP, she has performed ballet and folkloric dance. She is excited about her first play, *Alice in Gatorland*, as she has enjoyed her time learning all the new characters. She looks forward to being in many more plays.

Jazmin Solis

Jazmin is 12 years old has been with CPP for 3 years. This is her 9th show since she's started. She hopes that in her future she can be an actor.

Eric Trofler

Hello, I am Eric Trofler and I am 12 years old. This is my 10th production with Youtheatre Players. I am excited to be playing the role of the Swamp Rat. Past roles were Boris the Spy in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Daniel Stoker in *Rocky Monster Jr.*, Ed in the *Lion King Jr.*, and a Security Guard in both *Elf Jr the Musical* and *Aladdin*. I love being a part of CPP to become a better actor, and to spend time with my friends. Other things I enjoy are video games, football, anime, and playing in the band at PDCMS. Enjoy the show!

Jacqueline Trofler

Hi my name is Jacqueline Trofler and I am almost 11 years old. I love performing and spending time with my friends at CPP. This is my 10th production with CPP where I am one of the Flowers. Past roles were a Lioness in the *Lion King Jr.*, a Bird Girl in *Seussical the Musical*, back up dancing and singing roles in *Aladdin Jr.*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Elf Jr.*, and *Addams Family Jr.* Outside of theater I love to play soccer and work on paintings. I also love playing video games with my friends. I hope you enjoy the show!

Dominick Weir

Dominick has been performing since he was 5 years old. He is now a very outgoing 13 year old who has been with CPP for over a year. This is his 8th show with CPP where he has played roles such as Iago from *Aladdin*, Zazu in *The Lion King Jr.*, Baron Bomburst from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.*, and so many other fun parts!

Nathan Weir

Nathan is a very energetic 5 year old. This is his first Summer Camp with CPP and his third show. He has learned a lot and is always excited to perform in front of his family.

Bailey Young

I'm going into Fourth Grade at Washington Charter School in Palm Desert. Look out for me as the Crawfish Messenger. My past productions include *Elf Jr* (Workshop Elf), *Lion King Jr* (Ensemble), *Aladdin Jr* (Agrabah Citizen), *Addams Family* (Ancestor with a dance feature), CPP's 2023 Holiday Showcase (Ensemble), *Seussical Jr* (Thing), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Ensemble, Hidden Child), *Misadventures of Storytelling* (Queen of Hearts, Ensemble). Besides theater, I love to dance and am in my second year on the Ace Dance Team at Dance Dimensions in Palm Desert.

Riley Young

Riley is happy to be playing Dormouse in *Alice in Gatorland*. She is going into sixth grade at PDCMS. She loves being on stage and has been performing with CPP since she was eight years old! She is very excited to be in her 9th show with CPP.

Staff Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Chuck Balgenorth, Co-Producer, Director, Co-Stage Manager, et al.

A former King of acronyms (JD, MBA, BSEE), Chuck is CPP's Secretary/Treasurer and resident Jack-Of-All-Trades – he is reputed to be *all work and no fun*. Acting in CPP and elsewhere includes *Pandora's Box*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Shakespeare on the Road*, *Musicians of Bremen*, *Rapunzel*, *Ants and Grasshopper*, *Ugly Duckling*, *Doctor Doolittle*, *Tortoise and Hare* and *Snow White and Evil Queen*. Chuck was also the RCDF Nightly Musical's Co-Producer, Writer, Director, Stage Manager, and, in-a-pinch performer for 16 years!

Isabella Ceja, Costume Coordinator

Izzy is our resident costumer. She graduated from CalPoly Humboldt where she earned her degrees in Theatre Arts(costumes) and Communication. She got her start in theatre in the desert as a child. She performed for 10 years in dance and acting under the direction of Chuck in numerous productions before moving on to college. Upon graduation she returned to her roots in the desert to help the next generation of students learn about theater. As always, we are excited to have her back with us.

Christie Clemens

This is Christie's 2nd time being stage manager (and other roles) for CPP/YTP. She has been working with CPP/YTP for more than ten years both on/off the stage. Working with kids is something she enjoys and will continue until she no longer can.

Richard Clemens

Richard has been involved with CPP for over a decade, helping with building sets and being a stagehand. This is Richard's first year being the prop master for the show. Richard is super excited for the challenge and responsibility.

Matthew Creighton, Production Support

Having started with set and prop building for CPP's Shrek Jr, Matthew then followed his talented son Bennett through several more CPP productions - expanding his efforts to sound production, design, and operation – and even into lighting design and overall tech assistance. Somewhere along the line he realized that his son wasn't even there – but he still stuck around to have fun. He is going on his eighth year helping Chuck and Richard bring more amazing CPP/YTP productions to life on stage.

Richard De Haven, Seriously, he must do something, right!?

Richard is CPP's President and has been with CPP for 27 of its 29 years. Richard has performed in countless productions and has worked even harder behind the scenes for CPP/YTP and RCDF. Despite having adequate vision insurance, Richard can still be identified as the grandfather-looking man with his glasses tilted to look through only one lens. Clearly, this is a means to get a better view of the - - - ooh, squirrels!

Leanne Di Bella, Makeup Artist

This is Leanne's 5th show doing CPP/YTP makeup. A teacher in PSUSD, Leanne most recently has been a resource for teachers to get revitalized (see her ad in this Playbill!)

Amber Frey, Makeup Artist

This is Amber's first time as a makeup artist for CPP/YTP. She is the proud mother of another CPP first-timer – Avery, playing the role of Alice herself!

Taylor Graham, Choreographer

Taylor Graham is a senior at La Quinta High School. She's been acting and singing since she was 10 and has been in many productions with CPP. For this Summer Camp, Taylor again steps into the role of choreographer – but takes on the even bigger challenge of Camp Instructor, Production Assistant, and Driver of CPP/YTP's social media presence. If you've seen cast promotions for CPP – it was likely her efforts making them happen!

Amanda Moore, Makeup Artist

This is Amanda's 3rd show doing makeup for CPP. She is a licensed esthetician and specializes in special events and bridal makeup.

Sarah Ortiz, Makeup Artist

Sarah is taking on the challenge of makeup for this production of *Alice In Gatorland* in support of her daughter Adeya.

Lynda Shaeps, Makeup Artist

CPP would likely not exist if Lynda had not brought 4 other valley women into her home nearly 30 years ago to pursue this crazy idea of providing the youth of the desert with a professional quality experience of theatre as a tool for growth and development. Working in nearly every acting media, Lynda has done and taught hair and makeup for countless productions throughout the valley and southern California. She continues to be an instructor at College of the Desert where she shares her wealth of knowledge.

Nancy Solis, Makeup Artist

Nancy has helped CPP/YTP with makeup for a number of productions. She is a hair stylist in real life.

Nick Wass (Wass Tech), Lighting and Projection Design

This talented, award winner actor and techie has been involved with CPP for over 10 years. Onstage in shows like *Shrek Jr* (Farquaad), *James and the Giant Peach, Jr* (Ladahlord), and *Mary Poppins, Jr* (Mr. Banks). Donating his time, he helped renovate YTP's space. Wass then began designing lighting and projections for their productions (*Matilda Jr, Charlotte's Web, The Rocky Monster Show, etc*). Nick owns both Wass Projections and Wass Tech, designing tech internationally, with 5 west coast premieres under his belt (*Be More Chill, Driver Seat, Why Can't the Trains Run on Time, Do Not Remove Label, and Unbound*), and 3 of the 50 states with *Frozen* musicals. Nick is a regular designer for world famous theatres like North Shore Music Theatre, New Zealand's Canterbury Ballet, and Reno Little Theatre.

Linh Ho Young, Makeup Director, Makeup Artist

Linh, the makeup designer, really enjoys the process of creating and executing the vision of a production. She is mom to Bailey and Riley Young, who are both in the show, and what better way to support them than to do it backstage, supporting the entire show? This will be Linh's fifth show leading makeup and sixth show as a makeup artist.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS GO TO

H.N. & FRANCES C. BERGER FOUNDATION

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YOUR GENEROSITY IS THE CORNERSTONE OF CPPs!

WHERE WE'VE BEEN!

Alice in Gatorland 2024 marks CPP's 46th Major Production! We are proud that we have been able to serve the youth of the Coachella Valley for nearly 29 years and want to continue to do so for years and years to come. Well over 140,000 children have been entertained and educated from the audience through our main stage productions, touring shows, and on-campus programs. As well, nearly 1,100 youth have participated directly in our programs and experienced the personal growth, enhanced self-confidence, and simple joy that come from this form of creative expression. The children of our communities need this type of program and deserve to continue to know that "all things are possible" can and should be the reality that they experience. CPP is the only theater-based education program in the Coachella Valley that puts local youth on the McCallum stage to perform for local youth. Peers seeing peers "create a new world" is a major factor impacting the development and growth of participants and audience alike.

WHERE WE'RE GOING!?

WE WANT TO DO MORE! There is an incredible pool of talented, creative young people in this valley who hunger to perform and simply don't have the opportunity on a regular basis. Nor do they have an ideal venue. Our goal is to provide both opportunities through additional programs, workshops and partnerships. Our Youtheatre Players performance venue dedicated to youth. Of course, this requires a plan, a pool of dedicated staff and volunteers and financial resources. Help if you can! Find people to help if you can! Come along for the ride and we'll see it happen!

CHILDRENS PLAYTIME PRODUCTIONS (CPP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a MISSION to provide quality theatrical and educational programs that enhance the development of the community and our youth; a PURPOSE to enable youth to discover their creativity, self-expression, self-esteem, and to develop an awareness of the community and the world at large; and a GOAL to fulfill our Mission and Purpose while keeping participation free, providing minimal or no-cost admissions for schools, creating opportunities for families to play together, and producing quality theatrical experiences.