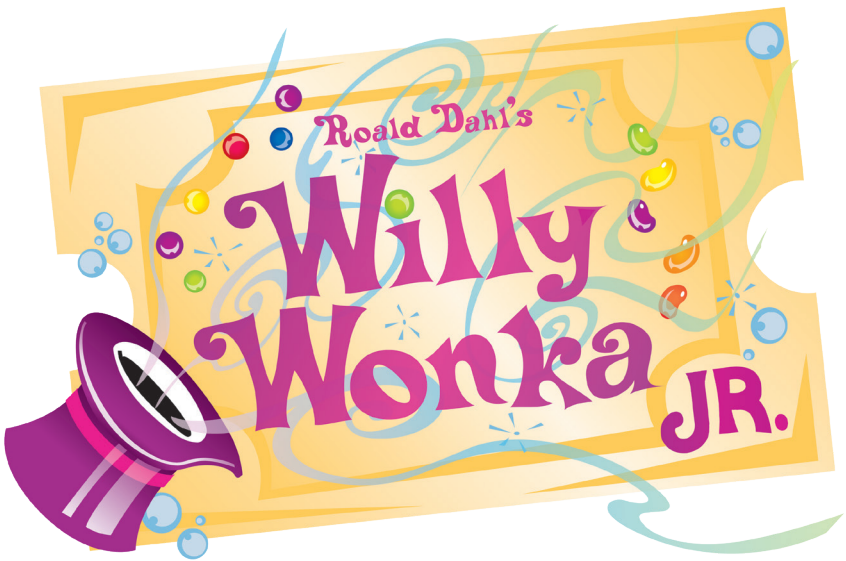


**MTC** MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT  
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



May 17-18, 2024

# 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

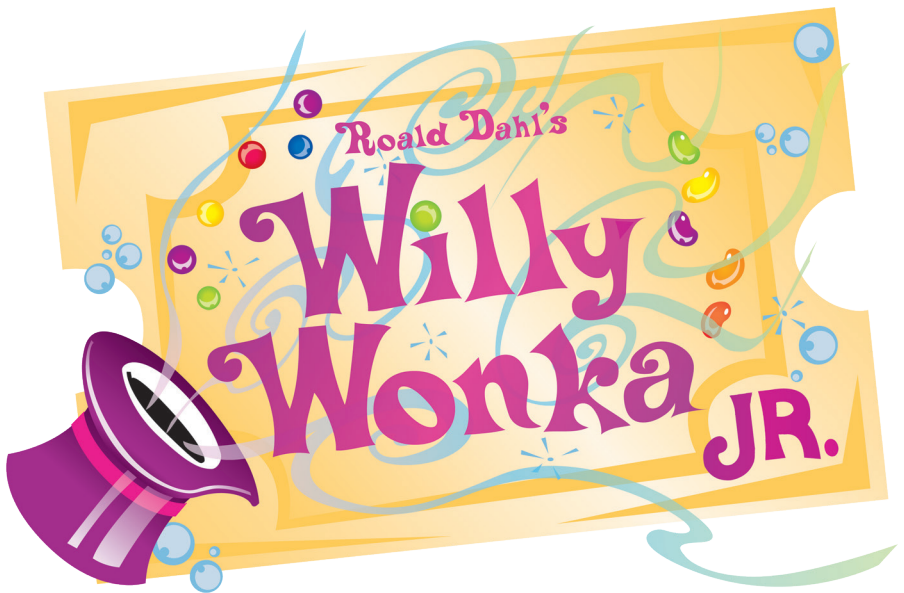
A sign with a blue background and a yellow border, featuring white stars. The text on the sign reads: "SHREK" in large, stylized green letters, "The MUSICAL" in smaller white letters below it, and "JULY 22 - AUG 3, 2024" at the bottom.

## HALF-DAY & FULL-DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

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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](http://www.mtishows.com)

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

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The State of Connecticut  
Department of Economic and Community Development

KAPLAN GIRLS MUSIC FUND  
THE BURRY FREDRIK FOUNDATION  
THE SCHNURMACHER FOUNDATION



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# 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

**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](http://www.musictheatreofct.com)



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



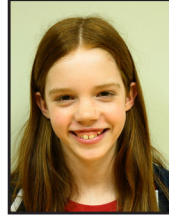
TEDDY  
BAILEY



ARABELA  
BILAL-HAYES



ELI  
CHANG



AVERY  
CRAWFORD



HAZEL  
CROCKETT



SADIE  
GALINDO



ISLA  
KASPAREK



AMELIE  
LEPKE-YOUNG



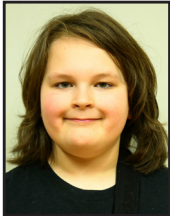
NORI  
LEVITT



NEVE  
MASS



AUDREY  
MELLO



QUINN  
MOONEY



ALEXA  
PHILLIPS



VIVIAN  
PODOLEC



RUBY  
SEHR



LINCOLN  
SHAFER



ANNIKA  
SIMMELKJAER



MACKENZIE  
SMITH



GRACE  
WEINBACH





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# 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](http://www.kevin-connors.com)



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# 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.



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# 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
Front of House Staff .....	STACY MILLER & NANCY SCIGLIMPAGLIA
MTC School Faculty .....	KRISTINE BINGHAM, SHANNON COLFER, KEVIN CONNORS, ELISSA DEMARIA, 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, IRENE DIXON, WENDY GERBIER, DAN GULLER, JACKIE HALL, JOHN HAMLIN, BILL PIERZ, JIM SCHILLING, PETE SPERA, GREG SWEENEY

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# We can't do it without you!

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

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Grades 6-12

A graphic for "Shrek The Musical" featuring the title in a stylized green font on a dark blue background with white stars. Below the title, the dates "JULY 22 - AUG 3, 2024" are written in white.

**SHREK  
THE  
MUSICAL**  
JULY 22 - AUG 3, 2024

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