Dragons Love Tacos: The Musical
JAN 26 thru FEB 25, 2024

An adaptation of the best-selling book Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin and Illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
Script by Cristina Pippa
Music & Lyrics by Sharon Kenny
Directed by Anna Crace

Costume Designs by Stacey Palmer
ABOUT STAGES THEATRE COMPANY

Since our founding in 1984 Stages Theatre Company has put the well-being and growth of youth in the center of everything we do—on stage, backstage, in the audience, and in the classroom. When a youth enters any of our spaces, they are the center of not only why we do what we do, but how we do it.

Through our Productions, our Education Programming, our Fundraising Initiatives, the Development of New Work for the TYA Stage, and our Mentorship Programs we strive to center youth in the stories we tell, the plays we create, the curriculum we develop, the activities we initiate, and the decisions we make. As a company and a community of artists and teachers, the youth and families we serve drive what we do first, last, and always.
MEET THE CAST

MILES ALEXANDER
Baby Dragon

DREW CHU-YANG-HEU
Dragon Ensemble & u/s Robbie

ELIANA GARRICK
Dragon Ensemble & u/s Florina

INDIGO HOULTBERG
Shishito

JACOB MARCKEL
Professor Puff

SAMANTHA REMUCAL
Baby Dragon and u/s Shishito

ZOLA JO RENFROE
Bell & u/s Kodi & Orla

ASHER RILEN
Robbie

STELLA SCHLEGELMILCH
Orla

JON SCHUMACHER
u/s Professor Puff

ADDICA SHARBONO
Kodi

ANTONIA SHULMAN
Sammie

HAZEL SMITH
Baby Dragon

MIMI STELLJES
Dragon Ensemble & u/s Bell

EMMA TAN
Florina

AUDITIONS - Join the Fun!

We typically audition youth ages 10-18 for our productions. Adult actor auditions will be posted as needed. We begin taking audition appointments 2 weeks prior to the audition dates listed below. Auditions, rehearsals & performances are held at Stages Theatre Company, located in Hopkins.

LEARN MORE! VISIT: STAGESTHEATRE.ORG/AUDITIONS
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THE CREATIVE TEAM + CREW

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Sandy Boren-Barrett
DIRECTOR - Anna Crace
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Matt Ouren
FJA DIRECTING MENTEE - Alanna Nyberg
FJA DIRECTING MENTEE - Savannah Switzer
MUSIC DIRECTOR - JC Lippold
CHOREOGRAPHER - Megan Torbert
SET DESIGNER - Tiffany Fier
HEADWEAR DESIGNER - Kim Ford
SOUND DESIGNER - Gretchen Katt
COSTUME & MAKE UP DESIGNER - Stacey Palmer
BIPOC YOUTH MENTEE COSTUMES - Pixie Gatlin
PROPS DESIGNER - Yvonne Ring
LIGHTING DESIGNER - Tony Stoeri
BIPOC YOUTH MENTEE LIGHTING - Aarya Batchu
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Jim Hibbeler
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR - Christa Ludwig
PRODUCTION MANAGER - Melanie Salmon-Peterson
STAGE MANAGER - Emily Carey
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER - Hailey Ballard
Robbie loves Dragons. When Professor Puff appears out of a book on Dragons, he lets Robbie into a secret; the thing dragons love most is tacos. When Robbie has to go to the Taco Cave to meet his sister, Sammie, he and his best dog Kodi discover something wild; Dragons really do love tacos! While watching the dragons pick up their tacos, he meets Orla, an artisanal salsa maker from Ireland who is there to sell her salsa and spread spice across the world.

Excited by the prospect of bringing a tasty gift to add to the dragons’ tacos, Robbie takes a jar of salsa to the Dragon’s Den. When he approaches however he discovers that spice is a dragon’s worst nightmare! Spice gives dragons terrible tummy troubles and they begin to fret about the possibility of coming into contact with spice again. Hearing this, Robbie and Kodi run back to the taco truck and turn to Professor Puff’s book on Dragonology. When Professor Puff appears again he tells them that there’s one thing that dragons love as much as tacos, and that’s a taco party! Robbie begins to craft an invitation to a party at his house later that day and drops it off outside the Dragons’ Den where they excitedly open it.

With the dragon attendees secured, Robbie and Kodi realize that they still have the spicy salsa - Kodi starts to dig and they bury the salsa along with the help of Professor Puff. While they’re burying the salsa, Orla walks in and sees them. She runs off and struggles with whether to stick with her spice, or bend and make something spiceless for the sake of friendship. Back at Robbie’s house, the party is in full swing and the dragons are having the best time, dancing and eating tacos with Robbie, Kodi, Professor Puff and Sammie. When Orla arrives at the party with a brand-new mild salsa, Professor Puff doesn’t trust her. They tango and come to a reconciliation. Amidst the tango Kodi and Robbie notice tiny green specs in the salsa and start to panic, they pick up the salsa and it reads ‘Totally Mild Salsa* now with jalapenos’. They scurry around trying to stop the dragons from eating the salsa but it is too late, the dragons’ tummy troubles begin and they start to breathe fire. Sammie, Puff and Orla run outside but Robbie is trapped inside trying to help the dragons. Kodi rushes back in to save him and help put the fire out.

Once the fire has stopped, Orla apologizes profusely and promises to listen to people’s needs rather than deciding things for them. Robbie realizes that in his quest to be friends with dragons he hadn’t noticed his best friend, Kodi. He thanks Kodi for saving him and for always being there, meanwhile the dragons start to rebuild the house. Maybe it’s because they’re good samaritans, but it might just be the taco breaks! Everyone comes together to finish the house and celebrate friendship.
The Creators

Adam Rubin
Adam Rubin is the #1 New York Times best-selling author of a dozen critically-acclaimed picture books. El Chupacabras (illustrated by Crash McCreery) was voted winner of the Texas Bluebonnet award in 2020. The Ice Cream Machine, his first collection of stories for middle-grade readers, received a starred review from School & Library Journal. Adam also has a keen interest in magic tricks, puzzles and optical illusions. In fact, he is the official “Director of Puzzles & Games" for the modern wonder emporium, Art of Play.

Daniel Salmieri
Daniel Salmieri grew up drawing ninja turtles, fighter jets and 90’s Knicks players. He has since gone on to create illustrations for award-winning children’s books and the New York Times. He has illustrated 12 picture books including four best-sellers, one of which is Dragons Love Tacos. Dan lives with his wife Sophia and their dog Ronni in Brooklyn, NY, where he was born and raised. You can see more of Daniel’s illustrations on his website https://www.danielsalmieri.com/
The Creators (continued)

Sharon Kenny
Music and Lyrics
Sharon’s theatre work has been produced and/or developed at New York Theatre Workshop, Manhattan Theatre Club, 92NY, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Theatreworks Palo Alto, Yale Institute of Music Theatre, The Institute for American Musical Theatre, and Stages Theatre Company. She is a graduate of The Hartt School and an alum of ANTFest (Ars Nova), The Johnny Mercer Songwriter’s Project, Prospect Theatre Company’s Musical Theatre Lab, Vineyard Arts Project, and Space on Ryder Farm. She has performed sold out shows to Joe’s Pub, Le Poisson Rouge, and the Gramercy Theatre, and has been a finalist for the Fred Ebb, Jonathan Larson, and Richard Rodgers Awards.

Cristina Pippa
Script
Cristina Pippa is an award-winning playwright, filmmaker, and recipient of an Artist Initiative grant for her prose. Her play Cell Cycle is published and included in More Scenes from the Best New Plays. Adaptations for Stages Theatre Company include Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo and The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires. Cristina completed her BA at Columbia University and her MFA at the University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop, where she received the Iowa Fellowship for the Arts and the Norman Felton Fellowship. She is the Director of the MFA in Dramatic Writing and Screenwriting Programs at Missouri State University.
ASK WHAT IF QUESTIONS!
By asking 'what if' questions, you are training them to think about the world around them and how it works.

WHEN MISTAKES HAPPEN, TRY TO FIND THE POSITIVES.
Allow them to find new pathways into problems, for instance, if they're stuck on a math problem, you could draw pictures to help frame it in a different way.

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS.
Questions that require a longer answer than just 'yes' or 'no' encourage young people to form their own ideas and practice creative thinking.

FREE-TIME AND PLAY IS IMPORTANT
Giving your young person space to independently explore their own ideas and interests in an unstructured environment can be super helpful in giving them agency over their creativity. It allows them to practice their creativity in a way that is beneficial to them and their journey.

PRAISE THE PROCESS
Creative risks don't have to be scary, they encourage a young person to focus on the process rather than the outcome. If they're not afraid of failing then they are more likely to try new things such as learning an instrument or taking an acting lesson. The less we reward the end result and instead focus on the process, the more we deepen their passion and understanding.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Show

- Is there something that you believe in that other people aren’t sure about? How does that make you feel?
- Why do you think Robbie loves dragons?
- What are the big events that happen in the book?
- How many characters can you count in the book? How do you think they will appear in the play?

After the Show

- What were the main differences between the book and the play?
- Why do you think Orla still puts some spice in the salsa? Have you ever done something you thought was right but turned out to be the wrong thing?
- How did you feel about Robbie and Kodi’s friendship? Have you ever felt like your friend wasn’t noticing you and what did you do to change that?
- Did your idea of why Robbie loves dragons change after seeing the musical? If yes, why?

Costume Designs by Stacey Palmer
Characters

ROBBIE - a kid who loves dragons
KODI - a dog who loves that kid
Sammie - taco maker and teenage sibling
PROFESSOR PUFF - an expert dragonologist
ORLA O’LEARY - an artisanal salsa maker
BELL - a dragon with orange wings
SHISHITO - a dragon with bright green wings
FLORINA - a dragon the color of a fire engine
DRAGONS - who love tacos

Costume Designs by Stacey Palmer

Set Design by Tiffany Fier

Headwear Design by Kim Ford, middle, pictured her with her parents modeling a few of the dragons.
ACTIVITIES

Create Your Own Dragon

All the dragons in Robbie’s world look different (although they all love tacos!). Use the space below to design your own dragon. You can think about the following things when creating your dragon.

- How tall is your dragon?
- What color is your dragon? Does it have more than one color?
- Does your dragon have any hair?
- Does your dragon have spikes?
- Does it have wings? How big are they?
- Does it have a short or a long neck?
- Does it have a tail?
- Does your dragon wear any accessories?

Submit your dragon at https://www.dragonslovetacos.com/fan-art and you could be featured on the Dragons Love Tacos official website!
What if....

Have you ever looked at an animal and wonder what would happen if it ate something and transformed into something magical? For Robbie, it’s Dragons eating tacos, but what if a horse ate an ice cream cone and turned into a unicorn! We would love to hear the stories from your imagination and the kind of creatures that you create. If you have a story, please send them to acrace@stagestheatre.org and we’ll feature our favorites during the run of Dragons Love Tacos: The Musical!

If you need any help or inspiration, the writer of Dragons Love Tacos has some helpful videos with tips and tricks to encourage you to start writing. You can find those here: https://vimeo.com/showcase/adamrubinstorywriting

The cast on the first day of rehearsal for Dragons Love Tacos: The Musical
Further Reading

- Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel
- Robo-Sauce
- The Ice Cream Machine (Tales from the Multiverse #1)
- Big Bad Bubble Secret Pizza Party
- Those Darn Squirrels and the Cat Next Door

If you liked Dragons Love Tacos, you might also like:

- The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors- Drew Daywalt
- Creepy Carrots - Aaron Reynolds
- There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly - Simms Taback
- How to Fold a Taco - Naibe Reynoso, illus. by Ana Varela
- The Sour Grape - Jory John
- Attack of the Underwear Dragon - Scott Rothman, illus. by Pete Oswald
- Change Sings - Amanda Gorman, illus. by Loren Long

In the rehearsal room for Dragons Love Tacos: the Musical
Photos: Amy Rondeau Photography
General Information

Ticket Policy: Ticket orders will not be processed without full payment. We do not issue refunds. Exchanges can be made up to 24 hours prior to a scheduled performance. Exchanges can only be made for another performance of the SAME TITLE. Subject to availability.

Box Office Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to all performances. Mainstage: Unless otherwise noted, performances take place in the mainstage theatre. Seating is reserved and begins 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Jaycees Studio: All performances of Spookley the Square Pumpkin, The Name Jar and The Dandelion Seed will be in the Jaycees Studio, a versatile space located in the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Seating is general admission and begins 30 minutes prior to show time. Come early for the most seating options!

Land Acknowledgment

Stages Theatre Company acknowledges with respect and gratitude that the land on which we live and work is the unceded, traditional land of the Dakota Nation. We are committed to learning from the past and critically examining the implications of colonial histories in our day to day lives.

To honor the traditional custodians of this land, complimentary tickets to every performance are available specifically for our indigenous community. We hope these resources can move us in taking collective action towards land repatriation. Please call our box office at (952) 979-1111 to secure these complimentary tickets.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
Accessibility

At Stages Theatre Company we believe that theatre experiences are for everyone! We are working towards a fully inclusive environment where all programs and performances are accessible to all.

**Sensory-Friendly Performances**
Relaxed performances designed for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder, or others with sensory sensitivities.

**American Sign Language (ASL)**
Interpreted Performances
American Sign Language interpretation by certified interpreters for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Audio Described (AD) Performances**
Audio Description services are intended to enhance the understanding of and access to visual information primarily for but not limited to people who are blind or have low vision.

**Pay What You Can Performances (PWYC)**
These performances have no minimum price, and patrons are asked to “pay what you can” the day of the show to support the theatre’s programming.

**Open Door Program**
The Open Door Program provides free and reduced cost tickets, bus subsidies, and tuition assistance to families, schools, and social service agencies. An application and further information can be found on our website: stagetheatre.org/access

**Additional Services Available**
- Assisted Listening Devices are available for all Stages Theatre Company’s Mainstage productions.
- Wheelchair Accessible Seating is available at every Stages Theatre Company performance.
- Accessible Parking and Accessible Restrooms are available at the Hopkins Center of the Arts.

**Accessibility Performances are available for all season subscription options.**