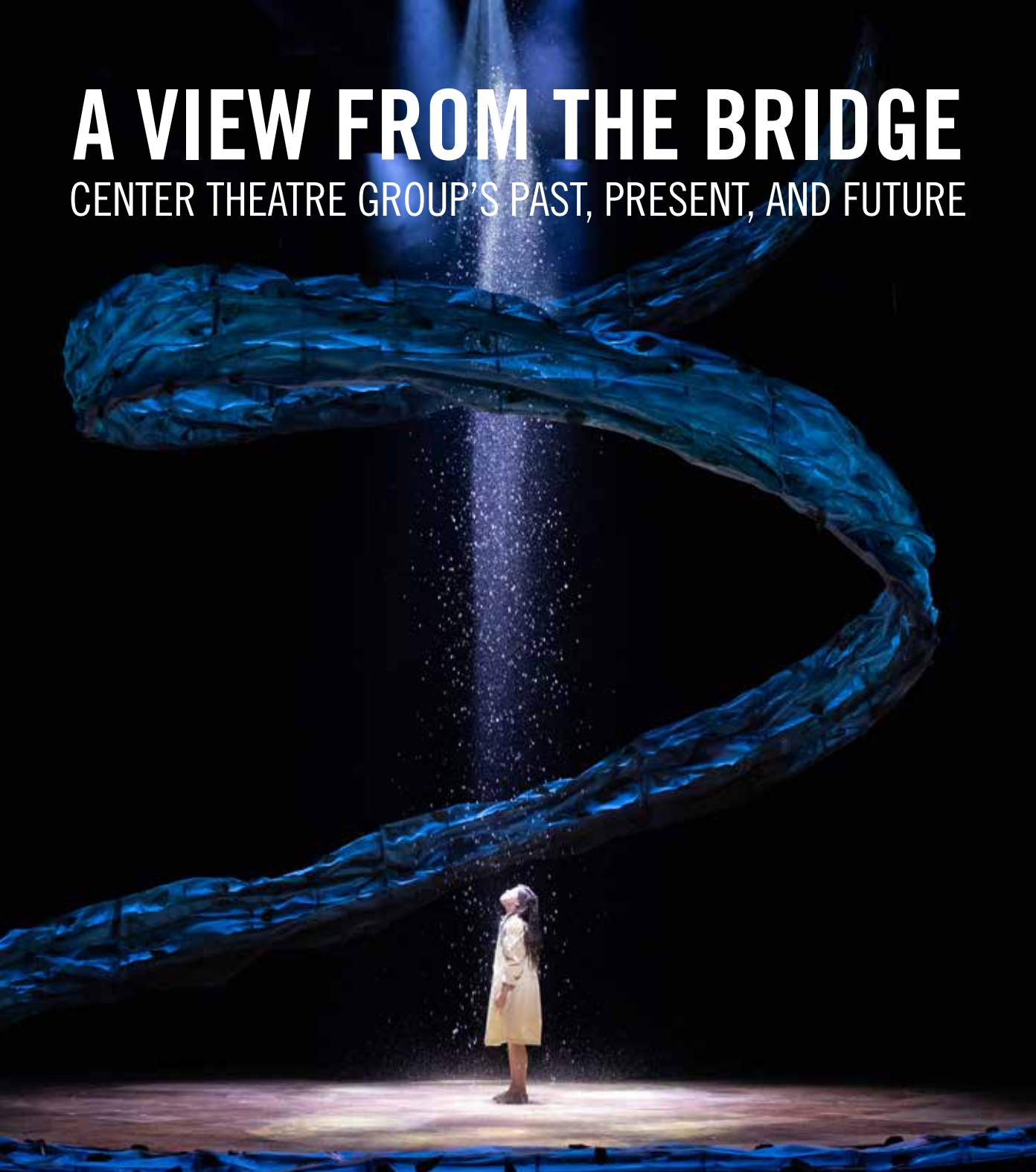


# A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

CENTER THEATRE GROUP'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



2022 Annual  
2023 Report

CENTER  
THEATRE  
GROUP



Constance Wu in the U.S. premiere of *2:22 — A Ghost Story* at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.

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# Our Mission

Center Theatre Group's mission is to serve the diverse audiences of Los Angeles by producing and presenting theatre of the highest caliber, by nurturing new artists, by attracting new audiences, and by developing youth outreach and arts education programs.

This mission is based on a belief that the art of theatre is a cultural force with the capacity to transform the lives of individuals and society at large.

## CORE VALUES

### ■ ARTISTIC AMBITION

We create and present a broad range of outstanding live theatrical work that is bold, authentic, provocative, engaging, entertaining, and inspiring. We support artists working at the highest levels of their own experience and craft.

### ■ ARTISTIC IDENTITY, RISK-TAKING, AND INNOVATION

The theatrical creative process is the center of our work. We collaborate with diverse, creative, and innovative artists, risk-takers, and boundary-breakers to bring great stories to life and create theatre magic.

### ■ CENTERING LOS ANGELES

We are a civic institution anchored in the cultural vibrancy and rich diversity of Los Angeles, committing to represent the communities that make up our great city, country, and world by bringing theatre to our stages for Los Angeles audiences.

### ■ LIFELONG LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND HUMAN CONNECTION

We nurture a lifelong passion for theatre in our current and future generations. We center human connection through collaboration, inclusion, and imagination, united in the power of storytelling.

### ■ RESPECT, COMPASSION, SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, AND AREDI (ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION)

Guided by our social responsibility, we lead with respect and compassion. We create opportunities, cultivate relationships, and dismantle barriers using an anti-racist frame that strives to include marginalized, underrepresented, and excluded communities.



The National Tour cast of 1776 at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre. Photo by Joan Marcus.

# From the President and Managing Director/CEO



Center Theatre Group Board President Amy Forbes and Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman.  
Photo by Ryan Miller/Capture Imaging.

Greetings!

This Annual Report reflects on a momentous year for Center Theatre Group: one that set a new course for our future while we still grappled with the past. It was in many ways a bridge season. The announcement of Snehal Desai as our new Artistic Director excited CTG patrons and the field as we embraced the next generation of creative leadership in live theatre.

Snehal's arrival at CTG, however, was not without its challenges as it coincided with the announcement that we were suspending regular season programming in the Mark Taper Forum for the 2023/24 Season. For an Artistic Director, the Mark Taper Forum is sacred ground - a space where some of the finest works of American theatre have come to life. It is a testament to Snehal's leadership that he found ways to bring the venue alive outside the structures of a regular season. CTG:FWD, Snehal's new programming initiative, nimbly created opportunities for artists and audiences to come together in the Mark Taper Forum for some of the most memorable programming in years.

Now, 12 months later, we are on the other side of the bridge. We have relaunched regular season programming in the Mark Taper Forum and Snehal will direct the first show of the 2024/25 season.

We hope you will enjoy this look back on the 2022/23 Season, including a recap of the productions on our stages, a summary of our impactful Education & Community Partnerships programming made possible by your support, and an in-depth look at our audiences and financials. All said, this is a reflection of the mission and core values that make Center Theatre Group the groundbreaking not-for-profit that it is today.

Most importantly, thank you for your commitment to live theatre and for joining us on this bridge from the past to the future of Center Theatre Group. We are extremely proud of the work done on our stages and grateful for the artists, donors, board members, government leaders, community partners, and audience members who showed their support. We could not do any of this without you.

Sincerely,

**Amy Forbes**  
*President*  
Center Theatre Group  
Board of Directors

**Meghan Pressman**  
*Managing Director/CEO*  
Center Theatre Group





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Mike Birbiglia in the world premiere of *Mike Birbiglia: The Old Man and the Pool* at Center Theatre Group / Mark Taper Forum. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.



## AHMANSON THEATRE

### THE PROM

AUGUST 8 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

### OKLAHOMA!

SEPTEMBER 13 – OCTOBER 16, 2022

### 2:22 – A GHOST STORY

OCTOBER 29 – DECEMBER 4, 2022

### ‘AIN’T TOO PROUD – THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS

DECEMBER 13, 2022 – JANUARY 1, 2023

### THE SECRET GARDEN

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 26, 2023

### 1776

APRIL 11 – MAY 7, 2023

### A SOLDIER’S PLAY

MAY 23 – JUNE 25, 2023

### INTO THE WOODS

JUNE 27 – JULY 30, 2023

## MARK TAPER FORUM

### MIKE BIRBIGLIA:

#### THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL

JULY 27 – AUGUST 28, 2022

CECILY STRONG IN

#### THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

SEPTEMBER 21 – OCTOBER 23, 2022

### CLYDE’S

NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 18, 2022

### TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992

MARCH 8 – APRIL 9, 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

#### A TRANSPARENT MUSICAL

MAY 20 – JUNE 25, 2023

## KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

### KRISTINA WONG, SWEATSHOP OVERLORD

FEBRUARY 12 – MARCH 12, 2023

### FETCH CLAY, MAKE MAN

JUNE 18 – JULY 16, 2023



Norm Lewis, Eugene Lee, and the company of the National Tour of *A Soldier's Play* at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre. Photo by Joan Marcus.



# AHMANSON THEATRE

8 PRODUCTIONS 348,676 AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Jalen Harris and the National Touring Company of *Ain't Too Proud*. Photo by Emilio Madrid.

33,604  
ATTENDEES

## THE PROM

After a year at the Ahmanson that was still feeling the lingering effects of the pandemic, we were thrilled to be getting closer to the business of normal. *The Prom* kicked things off with a touching tribute to the LGBTQ+ community with audiences showing up to The Music Center Plaza in their finest high school era prom attire. It was a timely production with an almost cult like following, which was a pure joy to present at the Ahmanson.

40,918  
ATTENDEES

## OKLAHOMA!

Next up, it was *OKLAHOMA!* as you've never seen it before. Direct from Broadway and reimagined for the 21st century, the show won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical before embarking on a National Tour and making its way to the Ahmanson Theatre where the *Los Angeles Times* would hail it as "Boldly, brazenly alive!" and go on to say that this production of *OKLAHOMA!* "electrifies the Ahmanson."

48,621  
ATTENDEES

## 2:22 – A GHOST STORY

In October, we produced the U.S. premiere of *2:22 – A Ghost Story*, a star-studded supernatural thriller just in time for Halloween. The production featured Constance Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*), Anna Camp (*Pitch Perfect*), Finn Wittrock (*American Horror Story*), and Adam Rothenberg (*Ozark*), in a show packed with star power and jump scares.

37,253  
ATTENDEES

## AIN'T TOO PROUD – THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS

*Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations* played the Ahmanson in 2018 before it went on to Broadway, where it would be nominated for an incredible 12 Tony Awards. To celebrate its success, we invited the show back for a limited two-week homecoming run in December, where it played to packed houses every night.

51,728  
ATTENDEES

## THE SECRET GARDEN

Then, in January, we presented our own homegrown production of *The Secret Garden*, which was beautifully directed and choreographed by Warren Carlyle (*The Music Man*), and featured an incredible cast of Broadway vets.

32,934  
ATTENDEES

## 1776

After that, the classic musical *1776* came to us directly from Broadway, and featured a revolutionary cast comprising multiple representations of race, gender, and ethnicity, giving the classic musical an entirely new interpretation for our modern times.

34,213  
ATTENDEES

## A SOLDIER'S PLAY

*A Soldier's Play* won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize and rocketed back into the spotlight in 2020 with a Tony Award-winning revival production from Roundabout Theatre Company before coming to the Ahmanson. Directed by Kenny Leon and featuring thrilling performances from Norm Lewis and Eugene Lee, the drama brought both critics and audiences to their feet.

68,735  
ATTENDEES

## INTO THE WOODS

Finally, we closed out the year at the Ahmanson with an exclusive engagement of the Broadway revival of *Into the Woods*. Charles McNulty of the *Los Angeles Times* exclaimed, "No one should pass up the chance to see possibly the best production of *Into the Woods* in my lifetime." Thanks to its success, we wrapped up the 2023 fiscal year with our highest-grossing show of the year.

# MARK TAPER FORUM

5 PRODUCTIONS

97,664 AUDIENCE MEMBERS



Nedra Snipes, Reza Salazar (center) and Garrett Young in the West Coast premiere of *Clyde's* at Center Theatre Group / Mark Taper Forum. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.

21,059  
ATTENDEES

## MIKE BIRBIGLIA: THE OLD MAN AND THE POOL

Fiscal Year 2023 opened with the return of Mike Birbiglia to CTG. *Mike Birbiglia: The Old Man and the Pool* is a hilarious tale of life, death, and a highly chlorinated YMCA pool, which would go on to appear on Broadway after a very successful run in Los Angeles and can now be seen on Netflix.

21,162  
ATTENDEES

## TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992

Then in March, we celebrated the 30-year anniversary of Anna Deavere Smith's, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, which drew on interviews with more than 300 Angelenos to explore the uprising sparked by the acquittal of the men charged in the Rodney King police brutality case. The play is a powerful piece of living record and one of the most important works in the history of the Taper.

18,326  
ATTENDEES

## THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

Following Birbiglia, we kicked off our 2022/23 Season at the Taper, featuring an entire slate of productions written exclusively by artists who are woman-identifying, transgender, and/or nonbinary. The first play to be featured was Jane Wagner's *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, starring the Emmy-nominated star of *Saturday Night Live*, Cecily Strong.

19,344  
ATTENDEES

## A TRANSPARENT MUSICAL

Finally, in May, we assembled quite possibly the largest ensemble of LGBTQ+ and nonbinary cast and crew members on one stage to mount the world premiere of *A Transparent Musical*, an exploration of the intersection of Jewish and queer history while celebrating the imperfectly human aspects of a universally relatable family.

17,773  
ATTENDEES

## CLYDE'S

In November, we were tremendously proud to continue our ongoing partnership with two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Lynn Nottage. Her Tony Award-nominated play *Clyde's* got its turn on the Taper stage before going on to become the most produced play in the country last year.

COMING SOON  
Jan 29 - Mar 9, 2025

## FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT

The world premiere of Larissa FastHorse's play, *Fake It Until You Make It*, which was scheduled to open in August, was postponed as Center Theatre Group made the difficult decision to put regular season programming at the Mark Taper Forum on pause. We are excited to now present this important and hilarious work in the 2024/25 season-which will become the first play written by a Native American playwright to appear on the Taper stage.



# KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

2 CO-PRODUCTIONS

17,099 AUDIENCE MEMBERS

This year, we began to lay the groundwork for what has proven to be a successful model of programming at the Kirk Douglas Theatre: co-productions. We saw two extraordinarily successful shows with Los Angeles area companies that paved the way for future co-productions as well.

8,995  
ATTENDEES

## KRISTINA WONG, SWEATSHOP OVERLORD

We kicked off 2023 with a co-production with East West Players. *Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord* is a solo show created out of Kristina's own personal experience of sewing masks out of old bed sheets and bra straps with her Hello Kitty sewing machine during the pandemic. For this show, Kristina earned Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle awards, as well as being named a Doris Duke Artist Award winner and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.



Kristina Wong in *Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord* at Center Theatre Group / Kirk Douglas Theatre, a co-production with East West Players. Photo by Javier Vasquez.



8,104  
ATTENDEES

## FETCH CLAY, MAKE MAN

In June, Center Theatre Group partnered with LeBron James and Maverick Carter's The SpringHill Company to produce Will Powers' *Fetch Clay, Make Man*. The play, directed by the legendary Debbie Allen, featured Ray Fisher as Muhammad Ali and Edwin Gibson as Stepin Fetchit in what Entertainment Weekly called a pair of "knockout" performances.

Ray Fisher in *Fetch Clay, Make Man* at Center Theatre Group / Kirk Douglas Theatre, produced in association with The SpringHill Company. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.



# CENTER THEATRE GROUP IN THE PRESS

Entertainment

THEATER

### The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe review: Cecily Strong shines

SNL veteran Cecily Strong is a radiant success in the new musical.

By Maureen Lee Lenker | Published on September 29, 2023

KCRW

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GREATER L.A.

### Anna Deavere Smith revisits ‘social explosion’ of ‘92 uprising

Hosted by Steve Chiotakis • Mar. 08, 2023

LOS ANGELES



TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992

VARIETY

Home > Legit > News

Jun 30, 2023 8:40pm PT

### ‘Into the Woods’ Review: A Tour for Stephen Sondheim’s Masterpiece Brings Broadway Brilliance to L.A.’s Ahmanson

By Chris Willman



Courtesy Center Theatre Group

Hollywood Reporter

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### ‘A Transparent Musical,’ Based on the Amazon Series, Is Aiming for Broadway

This is the first stage production from Amazon Studios.

BY CAITLIN HUSTON | JULY 10, 2023 11:58AM



Sections

Los Angeles Times

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ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

### Good vs. evil in a sandwich shop: Why ‘Clyde’s’ is a delicious bite of L.A. theater



Nedra Snipes, left, Garrett Young and Reza Salazar in the West Coast premiere of “Clyde’s” at Center Theatre Group’s Mark Taper Forum. (Craig Schwartz)

Splash

magazines

LOS ANGELES GIFT GUIDES ARTS & CULTURE

HOME > LOS ANGELES > ENTERTAINMENT > Clyde's Review - The Story of a Sublime Sandwich

### Clyde's Review - The Story of a Sublime Sandwich

November 13, 2023 | Elaine Mura | 3 min read



From L to R: Nedra Snipes, Garrett Young, Reza Salazar and Kevin Kenworthy in the West Coast premiere of “Clyde’s” at Center Theatre Group’s Mark Taper Forum November 16 through December 18, 2023. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography

The Jewish News of Northern California

FREE NEWSLETTER

Culture > Theater

### A transparently Jewish musical is finally speaking its truth and singing its faith

BY DARYL BUCKNER | JAN 1, 2023



Courtesy and special thank you to the Center Theatre Group-Mark Taper Forum





Daya Curley, Adina Verson, and the cast of the world premiere of *A Transparent Musical* at Center Theatre Group / Mark Taper Forum. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.



A NEW VISIONARY LEADER

SNEHAL DESAI NAMED NEXT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF CENTER THEATRE GROUP

On April 14, 2023, the Center Theatre Group Board of Directors announced Snehal Desai as the next Artistic Director of Center Theatre Group, joining Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman to lead one of the nation’s largest theatre organizations.

“Center Theatre Group is a cultural force in the American theatre, and I am honored to be its next artistic director,” Desai said. “CTG’s vibrant legacy has been built by being the home for the preeminent theatrical artists of our time and the next great American play. I am humbled by the opportunity to enrich that legacy by uplifting and centering the diverse and thriving communities that comprise the beating heart of Los Angeles. I look forward to working with Center Theatre Group’s board, artists, staff, and patrons in ensuring that CTG is a vital, timely, and relevant cultural home for all of Los Angeles.”

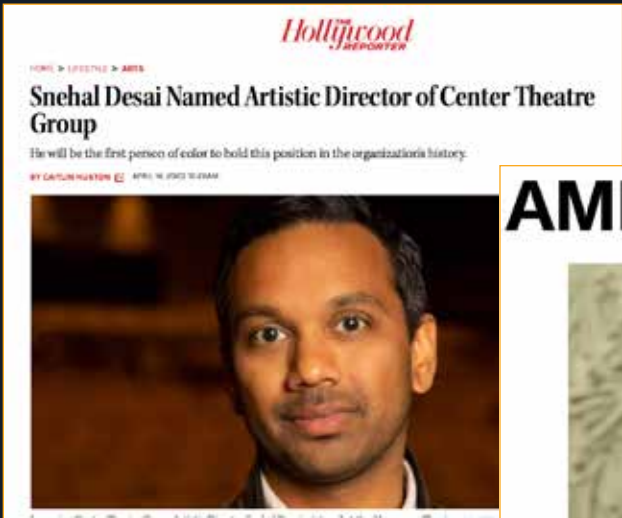
As Producing Artistic Director of East West Players (EWP), the largest and longest running Asian American theatre in the country, Desai produced and directed three of the highest-grossing and most-attended shows in the company’s 57-year history including the post-Broadway premiere of *Allegiance* starring George Takei.

During his tenure at East West Players, Desai led co-productions with Center Theatre Group, Pasadena Playhouse, Rogue Artists Ensemble, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, The Robey Theatre

Company, The Fountain Theatre, API Rise, the Japanese American Cultural Community Center and TAIKOPROJECT. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness of social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling.

A Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Foundation Award, Desai was in the inaugural class of Theatre Communications Group’s (TCG) “Spark” Leadership Program and the first recipient of the Drama League’s Classical Directing Fellowship. He was named by LA Weekly as one of its people of the year in 2018 and received L.A.’s Heritage of Pride Award in 2021.

Desai has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA), Theatre Communications Group, and Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts (LFCSA). He currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT). Desai has been on the faculty of USC’s graduate program in Arts Leadership and is a graduate of Emory University and received his MFA in Directing from the Yale School of Drama.





# EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Center Theatre Group's Education & Community Partnerships (E&CP) programs inspire Angelenos of all ages to experience the joy and power of theatre. We work closely with teachers and schools through in-classroom residencies and through our Student Matinee Program, which brought 5,423 students to the theatre this past year, made possible by the generosity of our donors and sponsors.

Our nationally recognized paid workforce training programs provide on-the-job opportunities and instruction in companion skills such as financial literacy, project management, and ethical leadership. In FY24, we welcomed 395 participants to our free career fairs and engaged more than 35 early-career artists and managers through paid training programs.

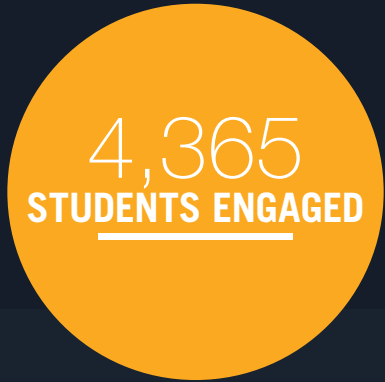
CTG also has a deep commitment to community engagement, particularly in the Boyle Heights neighborhood in East Los Angeles, where our costume and prop shop has become a hub for intergenerational learning. We produce free professional play readings and workshops in libraries and other community spaces, and this year we welcomed over 2,000 people to these events, including a play festival at East Los Angeles College.

We believe that everyone can engage in the joyful practice of theatre and we love connecting community members to the vibrant artists on our stages through our learning opportunities.

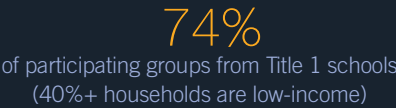


Photo by Camille Schenkkan of Gigniks filming our career video series.

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TOTALS



### STUDENT MATINEES



### COMMUNITY PLAY READINGS



### CAREER FAIRS, INTERNSHIPS & APPRENTICESHIPS



2022-2023 Cohort of Student Ambassadors at "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992"

# AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Center Theatre Group is committed to ensuring the art on our stages are accessible to as many Angelenos as possible. We are proud to offer a number of audience engagement initiatives and events that not only provide access to low- or no-cost tickets, but create an environment that engenders a greater sense of belonging and inclusion for diverse audience members at our theatres.



**1,157 tickets** distributed to community members through nonprofit community partners

Center Theatre Group's In the House community ticketing program invites nonprofit and educational organizations to receive free tickets to the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Kirk Douglas Theatre. In FY23, 1,157 tickets were distributed to community members through our nonprofit partners.

## BLACK OUT NIGHTS FOR CLYDE'S & TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992

Black Out Night is the purposeful creation of an environment in which a Black-identifying audience can experience a performance. Black Out Night provides an opportunity for Black people to be centered and welcomed into a historically white-dominated space.

- **700 attendees** for *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* Black Out Night, in partnership with Black Cultural Events and L.A. Sentinel
- **250 attendees** for *Clyde's* Black Owned Business Night



**4,758 tickets** were distributed to students and young people under 25

Center Theatre Group's FreePlay program provides complimentary tickets to theatregoers 25 years and younger in an effort to encourage a new generation to experience the magic of live performance. In FY24, 4,758 tickets were distributed to students and young people under 25.

## LGBTQIA+ NIGHT FOR A TRANSPARENT MUSICAL

LGBTQIA+ Nights are selected performances dedicated to the LGBTQIA+ Community to gather in celebration of a production in a safe and unencumbered space. For *A Transparent Musical*, we came together in support of the Trans and nonbinary community to share resources and discussion around mental health and wellbeing during one's transition.

- The LGBTQIA+ Night was sponsored by L.A. County Dept of Mental Health and included introductions from Joey and Faith Soloway
- Resource fair with LGBTQIA+ partner organizations
- Post-show party hosted by Peppermint - RuPaul's Drag Race legend

# COMMUNITIES SERVED

**50 STATES**

Audience members represented all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

**50 COUNTIES**

In California, audience members came from a total of 50 of 58 counties ranging from the northernmost county in CA (Siskiyou County) to the southernmost county (San Diego County).

**55k HOUSEHOLDS**

In Los Angeles, over 55,000 households attended at least one of our productions.

**126 CITIES**

126 neighborhoods and cities from Los Angeles County were represented in our audiences.





Montego Glover in the Broadway production of *Into the Woods*. Photo by Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman.



# 2023 GALA: LIGHT UP L.A.

Center Theatre Group's *Light Up Los Angeles Gala* on April 15, 2023 **raised over \$1.3 million in support of our work both on and off our stages**—the largest amount in the annual event's history.

Attendees gathered for an evening not just under the stars but surrounded by them. This year's Honorary Gala Co-Chairs included Angela Bassett & Courtney B. Vance, Anna Camp, Adam Rothenberg, and Cecily Strong.

Attendees began the evening with a reception and dinner at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion. The Mark Taper Forum then hosted special appearances and performances from Rachel Bloom, Sadie Brickman Reynolds, Deborah Cox, Culture Clash, Carmen Cusack, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Brendan Hunt, Cheyenne Jackson, Justin Mikita, Peppermint, George Salazar, Joey and Faith Soloway, and Michael Urie.

Incoming Artistic Director Snehal Desai also made his first public remarks on the Taper stage. He spoke of the enduring legacy of Center Theatre Group and how he hopes to inspire others as he leads us into our next chapter.

"Change will come, but I do also want to acknowledge that all of this happens as we stand on the shoulders of giants," he said. "I feel so privileged to stand before you, connecting two of the most iconic theatres not only in L.A., but in the country and some of the greatest leaders the American theatre has ever known."

At the end of the night, everyone met on the Jerry Moss Plaza and danced the night away, with some even commenting that this was the greatest gala they had ever been to."



# NEW FACES

Over the past year, Center Theatre Group has welcomed (and welcomed back) incredible talent into the CTG family.

Sarah Sullivan became CTG's new Director of Institutional Advancement in October 2022. Arriving at CTG directly from UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP), Sarah has over 25 years of experience working in cultural organizations and creative higher education, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, UCLA Hammer Museum, Art Center College of Design, California Institute of the Arts, Rhode Island School of Design and most recently UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance. She oversees all areas of Advancement.

Ricky Carter also joined the Advancement Team as the Director of Development in June 2022 overseeing all of Individual Giving, including the Major Gifts, Insiders, and Visionaries programs. With over a decade of experience in fundraising, Ricky came to CTG directly from GLSEN and GLAAD prior to that having played an integral role in leadership transitions for both organizations.

The Advancement team also welcomes Katasha Nelson as the new Director of Advancement Operations. Joining us from Playwrights Horizon in New York City, Katasha will lead in the operations that engage CTG stakeholders, supporters, and members.

CTG's dedicated Advancement team is here to help all of CTG's incredible patrons with their philanthropic support.

Outside of Advancement, CTG hired Khanisha Foster as the Director of Equity, Belonging, and Engagement. With a focus on overall strategic and operational matters and community engagement, she has an overarching responsibility for the promotion, development, and coordination of initiatives related to Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at CTG. Khanisha has been deeply embedded in the Los Angeles and national community as a leader in education, EDI work, and artistry.

CTG also brought on Brett Webster as the Director of Media and Content. He was the Head Writer/Supervising Producer of "The Last Call With Carson Daly," and executive produced such shows as the live broadcast of "NBC's New Year's Show" and "The Carlos Watson Show" on Ozy Media, and was also a talent coordinator for "The Late Late Show."

Last but certainly not least, CTG welcomed back Garrett Collins to his CTG home as the Director of Marketing & Sales. In his role, Garrett is leading a team focused on providing the best experience for our audiences in all three of our venues. Prior to his time as the Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Pacific Symphony, Garrett was an integral member of the CTG Marketing & Audience Loyalty teams.



Garrett Collins



Brett Webster



Khanisha Foster  
Photo Credit: Cathryn Farnsworth



Sarah Sullivan



Katasha Nelson



Ricky Carter



Institutional Advancement team





Sean Grandillo and Sasha Hutchings in the National Tour of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *OKLAHOMA!*. Photo by Matthew Murphy.



ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIFTS

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In Memoriam:

CTG mourns the loss of Gavin Creel, a singular talent whose stage presence left audiences in awe over the years. We had the honor of hosting Gavin during Into the Woods, and we will always remember him.

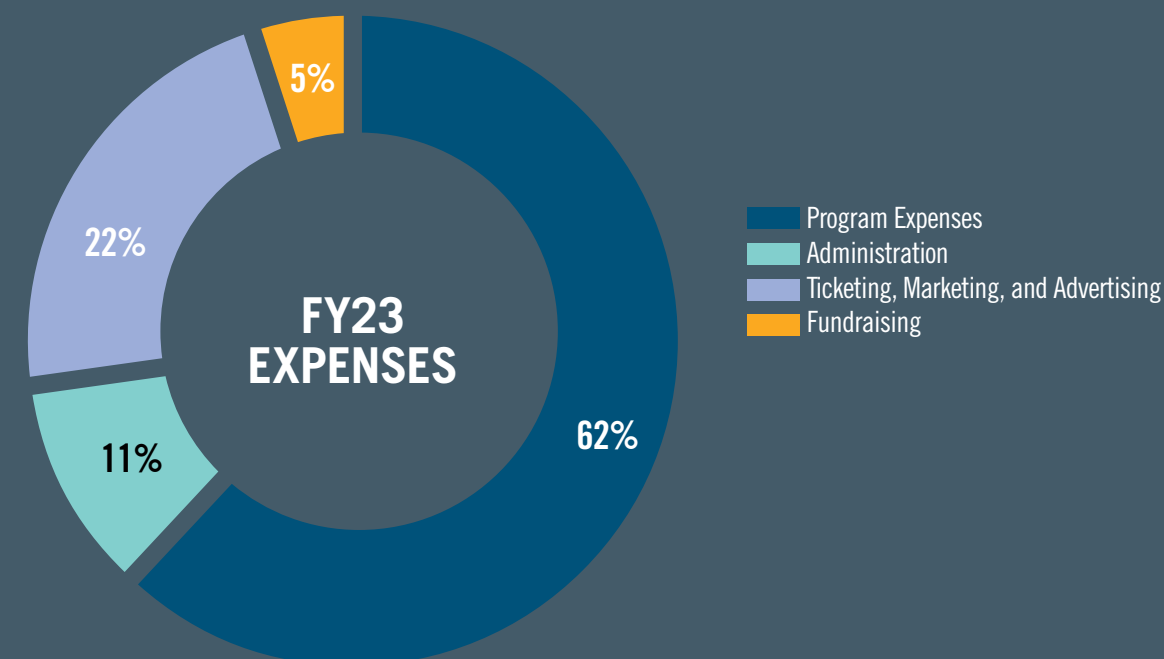
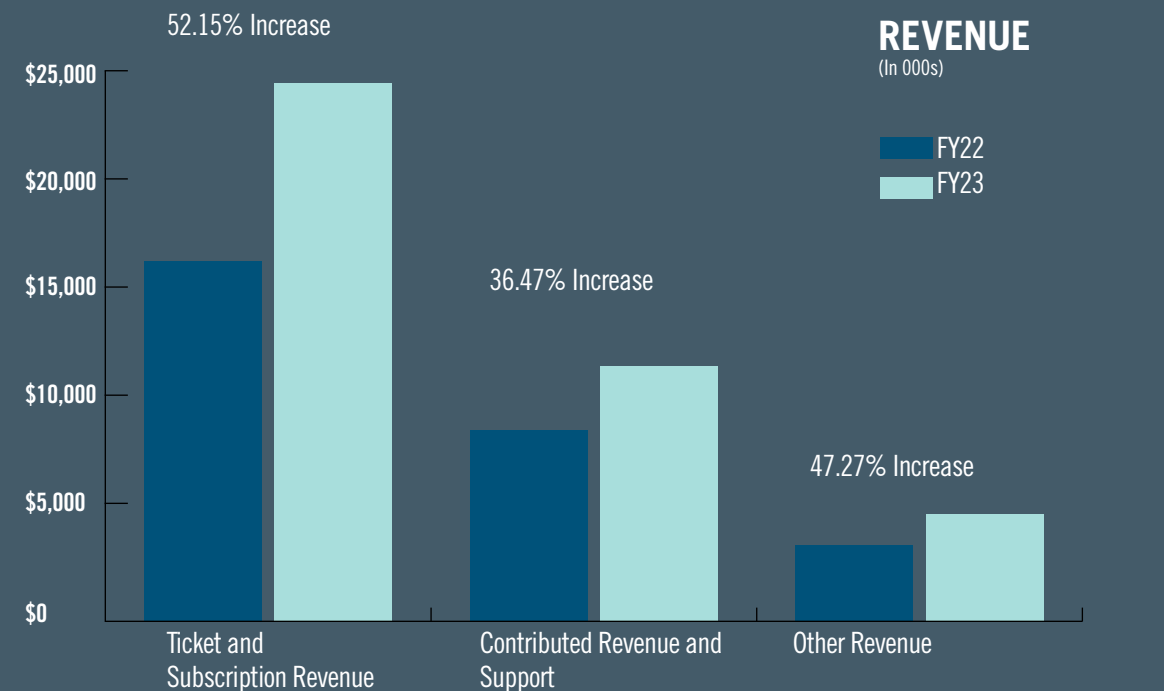
Gavin Creel and Katy Geraghty. Photo by: Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman.

# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: AUDITED FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30

	2023 TOTAL (In 000s)	2022 TOTAL (In 000s)
<b>OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>		
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Net ticket and subscription revenue	\$ 24,714	\$16,243
Other performance revenue	1,639	9
Dividends and interest	256	86
Royalties	58	5
Net realized and unrealized gains FY22	3,027	(6,727)
Other revenue	4,362	2,962
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 34,056</b>	<b>\$ 12,578</b>
<b>ANNUAL SUPPORT</b>		
Foundations, corporations, and individuals	8,331	6,656
Federal, state, and local government grants	2,018	213
Music Center Foundation distribution	708	661
Music Center Unified Fund distribution	169	156
Change in value of split-interest agreements	(190)	-
Net Special Events	628	861
<b>Total Annual Support</b>	<b>\$ 11,664</b>	<b>\$ 8,547</b>
<b>EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT</b>		
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant	-	10,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$ 45,720</b>	<b>\$ 31,125</b>
<b>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>		
Program expenses	35,125	23,839
Administration	6,036	5,403
Ticketing, Marketing, and Advertising	12,709	8,695
Fundraising	3,162	2,764
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 57,032</b>	<b>\$ 40,701</b>
<b>OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>		
Proceeds from insurance	994	1,204
Gain on loan forgiveness	-	1,722
<b>Total Other Changes</b>	<b>\$ 994</b>	<b>\$ 2,926</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (10,318)</b>	<b>(6,650)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$ 68,427</b>	<b>\$ 75,077</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 58,109</b>	<b>\$ 68,427</b>





# CLOSING FROM SNEHAL



Center Theatre Group Artistic Director Snehal Desai.  
Photo by Kim Newmoney.

On April 14, 2023, a lifelong dream of mine became a reality when I was announced as the new Artistic Director of Center Theatre Group. As someone who has a deep love and profound passion for both live theatre and the city of Los Angeles, I could not be more honored to serve as just the third artistic leader in this beloved organization's 57-year history. CTG is a cultural force in the American theatre and its vibrant legacy has been built by being the home for the preeminent theatrical artists of our time and the next great American play. I am humbled by the opportunity to enrich that legacy by uplifting and centering the diverse and thriving communities that comprise the beating heart of Los Angeles. I know my new role also comes with a great responsibility, and I am up for the challenge and excited to help usher in a new chapter for CTG.

While the main purpose of this annual report is to look back, I want to close things out by looking forward and sharing my vision for CTG and some of the work we've already been doing since I officially began my new role in August.

By the time of my first day on the job, we had already made the heartbreaking decision to pause season programming at the Mark Taper Forum for the 2023/24 Season. This was an extremely painful, but necessary decision to make—and it had my full support. Having said that, I did not take this Artistic Director position with plans of leaving the Taper, one of the crown jewels of the American theatre, closed. Enter CTG:FWD.

CTG:FWD is a new initiative I created to use the Mark Taper Forum and our other venues in exciting and creative ways. Its programming is dedicated to special events, community gatherings, and legacy projects. Since its inception, we have welcomed audiences into the Taper for Alex Edelman's smash hit *Just For Us* and *Feinstein's at the Taper*, featuring long-time CTG friend and collaborator Michael Feinstein. We also announced our L.A. Artist Residencies and hosted a series of community events, such as the Los Angeles Theatre Summit, a gathering of local civic leaders, service organizations, and members from L.A.'s vibrant artistic community. In the spring of 2024, CTG:FWD programming continued with return presentations of Alex Edelman's *Just For Us* and *Feinstein's at the Taper*, the debut of a new partnership with MUSE/IQUE, the first Taper Legacy Readings, and a play festival commemorating the 10-year anniversary of community partnerships programming by CTG's Education & Community Partnerships team. In the winter, we were also proud to feature the L.A. Writers' Workshop Festival and the TheaterWorksUSA production of *El Otro Oz* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Looking even further ahead, I want to Center Theatre Group to be viewed as L.A.'s cultural town hall. CTG should be as woven into the fabric of L.A.'s culture as the Hollywood Bowl, the Lakers and Dodgers, and the Hollywood Sign. As such, we have an obligation to serve the broadest possible audience in Los Angeles by providing an essential service and a common touch point for all Angelenos.

This takes time and work. Yet, it is essential work—and at the very heart of Center Theatre Group's artistic programming, financial sustainability, and our collective future. There is only "One L.A."—and there is only "One CTG."

I hope you'll continue to join us. It's going to be one incredible journey.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Snehal Desai".

**Snehal Desai**  
Artistic Director  
Center Theatre Group

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Cecily Strong in *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*  
at Center Theatre Group / Mark Taper Forum. Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.

Front Cover: Emily Jewel Hoder in the revival production of *The Secret Garden*  
at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre. Photo by Matthew Murphy of MurphyMade.

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