

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 6th, 2023

PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT:

Teresa Rende Johnson

Director of Marketing

206-859-4020 | teresaj@sct.org



SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE OPENS *CARMELA FULL OF WISHES* ON FEBRUARY 17TH, 2023

(Seattle, Wash.) Seattle Children's Theatre is excited to continue the second half of their 2022-23 season this February with *Carmela Full of Wishes*. Based on the book of the same title by Newbery Medal and Caldecott Honor-winning author Matt de la Peña and illustrator Christian Robinson, this adaptation by Alvaro Saar Rios opens to Seattle audiences after a successful run at the Chicago Children's Theatre last spring. Director Michelle Lopez-Rios leads the Chicago Children's Theatre cast here in Seattle featuring Maria Clara Ospina (Carmela), Adrian Cerrato (Big Brother), Jasmin Cardenas (Mamá / Ensemble), and Christopher Jose Alamo (Papí / Ensemble) alongside Seattle local Antonieta Carpio (understudy Carmela & Mamá).

The source material brings its own accolades, though many may also know the author and illustrator duo from their bestselling *Last Stop on Market Street*. Adapter Alvaro Saar Rios is a Texican playwright living in Chicago whose plays have been performed in New York City, Mexico City, Hawaii, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and all over Texas. Michelle Lopez-Rios is an Associate Professor and Artistic Director of Chicago Playworks at The Theatre School at DePaul. Together with Alvaro Saar Rios, she co-founded the Royal Mexican Players in 2004; the two have continued to collaborate on workshops and productions since then.

Carmela Full of Wishes is the second Chicago Children's Theatre adaptation of a book by de la Peña and Robinson, including their 2018 world premiere of *Last Stop on Market Street*. "These productions are part of a broader effort by the theater, under the leadership of artistic director Jacqueline Russell, to bring diverse, contemporary voices from children's literature to the stage in world premiere plays and musicals, many of which go on to be performed in other cities," explained Emily McClanathan of the *Chicago Tribune*. She continues, "With its picture book visuals, charming cast, strong Latina protagonist and universal themes, *Carmela Full of Wishes* is well worth an outing for anyone with a little person in their life."

SCT's production in Seattle is also accompanied by a robust partnership with The Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery. Founded in October 2018 by Jake Prendez & Judy Avitia-Gonzalez, The Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery is a multi-use multi-cultural accessible arts gallery grounded in the Chicana/o Latinx arts traditions, and located on the border of West Seattle and the White Center neighborhood. SCT invites audiences and community members alike to engage with Nepantla via the Artists Gallery in SCT's lobby, a Mercado on the first Saturday of *Carmela Full of Wishes*, or a Story Drama + Block Printing workshop. "It is a gift to share our production with members of the Nepantla community and in turn share just a few of their affiliated artists' incredible work with you and your families," said Artistic Director, Idris Goodwin, of the partnership.

Carmela Full of Wishes begins performing to Seattle Children's Theatre Field Trip audiences Tuesday, February 14th, opens to the public February 17th, 2023 and runs through March 12th. Tickets for *Carmela Full of Wishes* are on sale now at sct.org.

What: *Carmela Full of Wishes*, based on the book by Matt de la Peña and adapted by Alvaro Saar Rios. Produced by Chicago Children's Theatre with additional production support from Seattle

Children's Theatre.

Where: Seattle Children's Theatre – under the space needle at **201 Thomas Street.**

When: February 14–March 12, 2023

Cost: Tickets from \$25; purchase at sct.org.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

From the book by Matt de la Peña

Adapted by Alvaro Saar Rios

Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

Produced by Chicago Children's Theatre with additional production support from SCT

CAST

Maria Clara Ospina* | Carmela

Adrian Cerrato | Big Brother

Jasmin Cardenas* Mamí / Ensemble

Christopher Jose Alamo* | Papí / Ensemble

Antonietta Carpio | u/s Carmela & Mamí

CREATIVE

Michelle Lopez-Rios | Director

Alvaro Saar Rios | Playwright

Regina García^ | Scenic Designer

Jazmin Aurora Medina | Costume Designer

Lonnae Hickman | Properties Designer / Assistant Scenic Designer

Jason Lynch^ | Lighting Designer

Christie Chiles Twillie | Sound Designer & Composer

Joseph Swartz | Assistant Sound Designer

Elizabeth Stasio | Stage Manager

Michelle Chesley | Assistant Stage Manager

**Actors Equity Associate Member*

^United Scene Artists Member, Local 829

***Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Member*

ACCESSIBILITY OFFERINGS

SCT for ALL

Under SCT for ALL, SCT provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and any family who express need. To book tickets simply call (206) 441-3322 or email **the Ticket Office** and set any price for any upcoming show in the 22-23 season.

American Sign Language Interpreted Performance

March 4, 2023 at 1:00pm

Audio Described Performance

March 11, 2023 at 1:00pm

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those who are deaf and hard of hearing and who have low vision or blindness. Tickets for ASL/AD performances are available throughout the season online or through the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org or (206) 441-3322.

Sensory Friendly/Relaxed Performance

March 12, 2023 at 11:00am

SCT's Sensory Friendly performance incorporates special modifications to accommodate children and families with sensory needs. [Learn more about Sensory Friendly Performances here.](#)

EVENTS

Join SCT and Nepantla for these opportunities to engage with art and community around *Carmela Full of Wishes*.

Throughout the run @ SCT | Visit the lobby to peruse an Art Gallery exhibiting local Latinx artists and a Nepantla gift shop.

Saturday, Feb 18th @ SCT | Nepantla Mercado | 12:00pm–4:30pm

The Art Gallery converts to the Nepantla Mercado for the first Saturday of Carmela! Artist-vendors will display work available for purchase; featured artists include Judy Avitia-Gonzalez, Cecelia DeLeon, Rafa Diaz, Maribel Galvan, Raquel Garcia, Eileen Jimenez, Carlos Martinez, Teresa Martinez, and Cherie Zeledon.

Story Drama + Block Printing Workshop

Saturday, February 25 @ at Nepantla Cultural Arts | 11:00am–12:30pm

Saturday, March 4 @ SCT | 12:00pm–1:00pm and 3:30pm–4:30pm

Join artist Eileen Jimenez for a block printed workshop! Eileen's created original artwork inspired by the illustrations from *Carmela Full of Wishes* to craft block prints. After you stop at a station to create and color your own background, Eileen will guide you through selecting and printing with her Carmela blocks on top!

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With our 2022-23 Season, Seattle Children Theatre's celebrated its 121st World Premiere since 1975. SCT is a leading generator of new works, providing youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, SCT for All provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and families. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under One&Five. Learn more information about both of these programs at sct.org.

The 2022-2023 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors Microsoft, ArtsFund, and The Shubert Foundation, which will help the organization serve 130,000 annually and provide more than 60,000 free or significantly reduced tickets to children in the Puget Sound area.