

Written by

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CTC's newest Company Actor Traci Allen is currently enchanting Twin Cities' audiences with her portrayal of Cinderella in Children's Theatre Company's holiday production *Cinderella*. Her performance has garnered praise from audiences and critics alike. According to *City Pages*

, "Allen is magnetic as Cinderella, merging weary innocence with grace. It's a performance that carries plenty of dramatic weight, which adds a real heart to all the frantic comedy." Allen's performance was most appreciated by girls and young women from North Minneapolis who belong to local groups dedicated to their empowerment: the Can Do Girls Club and the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church Praise Dancers. Both groups attended the performance on Sunday, November 17 followed by an exclusive post-show discussion with Allen.

For the Can Do Girls, seeing Traci portray Cinderella was inspiring. According to director Shanae Hill, "Being able to sit and talk with Cinderella who was played by an African American woman was amazing! It was nice to have another adult woman talk to the girls and let them know that with hard work-they can do anything despite skin color or anything else."

The co-hosted event was a part of Children's Theatre Company new ACT One initiative to create a more accessible, diverse, and inclusive culture within the theatre's audience and company. 'ACT' stands for 'Access, Connect, and Transform.' CTC is expanding access with its new ACT Pass, created to break down barriers around attending live theatre. With a goal nothing short of transformation, CTC partners with local service organizations like Wayman AME Church and the Can-Do Girls Club to connect with the community, deepen engagement, and explore together the relevance and transformative power of live theatre in young people's lives.

# Traci Allen connects with Can-do Girls Club, Wayman Praise Dancers following Cinderella performance

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