



**Blue Water Theatre Company is thrilled to welcome Maridee Slater as
its new Artistic Director!**

Maridee brings with her to Blue Water a broad range of experience and a passion for creating and teaching theater to young people. With two BFAs from Colorado Mesa University, one in Acting/Directing, and one in Technical Design, and a MFA in Theater Directing from Columbia University, she has directed, taught, produced, and performed across the country.

Community and collaboration are Maridee's driving forces. Throughout her career, they have led her back to theater education, and eventually to BWTC. Her history working with youth to inspire and develop love of theater is wide-ranging: as a high school technical director and resident designer at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, NY; as Head of Stagecraft at French Woods Festival, an infamous summer camp in upstate NY; and as a teaching associate at Columbia University's International High School Summer Program since 2013. Her teaching experience spans ages, from her work with elementary-age thespians at the former Seattle International Children's Festival, to college-age aspiring actors at Drew University in Madison, NJ, as a representative of Tectonic Theater Project. She has spent her life enmeshed in musicals, and believes "they are the true American contribution to theatre." Maridee loves advancing new musical works, and assisted with the initial development of *Waitress: The Musical* on Broadway.

Maridee's zeal for theatre is inspiring and contagious. An adept listener, she knows "the greatest ideas will come from those around me. My job is to cultivate an environment where those ideas can manifest and flourish." Drawn to BWTC's kid-focused mission and vision, she notes that while theatre points the way for our society to move forward, "it is the youth who will lead that way."

We are delighted to welcome Maridee to Blue Water Theatre Company. You can meet her at the upcoming BWTC fundraising gala, and she will also be directing the Spring Mainstage Show.