



Childsplay's  
360° Theatre Resources for Schools



# LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE

©1996 by Kevin Henkes. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

By **Kevin Kling**

Based on the books by **Kevin Henkes**

Directed by **David Saar**

Choreography by **Molly Lajoie**

Scenic Design by **Carey Wong**

Costume Design by **Connie Furr-Soloman**

Lighting Design by **Rick Paulsen**

Sound Design by **Anthony Runfola**

Stage Manager: **Samantha Monson**

## The Cast

Lilly.....	Yolanda London
Chester.....	Nathan Dobson
Wilson.....	Jon Gentry
Mother.....	Debra K. Stevens
Father.....	Dwayne Hartford
Mr. Slinger.....	D. Scott Withers
Garland.....	Kate Haas
Student.....	Michelle Cuneen

September 17 to October 16, 2011  
Tempe Center for the Arts

Recommended for ages 4 and older  
[www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

Production Sponsor:



## About *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and Your Theatre Experience

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WHERE EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION  
TAKE FLIGHT

### The Story:

*Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* is based on Kevin Henkes' trilogy of Lilly books *Chester's Way*, *Julius*, *Baby of the World*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. "I am Lilly! I am the Queen! I like everything!" is the mantra of this young and creative mouse. Lilly's adventurous life is filled with fun, friends and frustration. She meets Chester and Wilson when she saves them from some bullies. Her world is turned upside down when her little brother Julius arrives. Soon there is a positive turn: Lilly meets her new teacher Mr. Slinger and is captivated by the way he uses crazy words like "howdy" and how he arranges his students in a non-traditional semi-circle.

Lilly's Grammy saves Lilly from her horrible baby brother by taking her on a shopping trip. Grammy buys Lilly the perfect purple plastic purse, movie star sunglasses and gives her three jingly quarters. Lilly can't wait to show her purse to her classmates and before she knows it, her outspoken enthusiasm causes Mr. Slinger to take her purse leaving Lilly feeling very angry. She writes an "I Hate the Big Fat Teacher Man" note and slips it in his bag. Lilly feels terrible about what she has done and with the help of Mr. Slinger's "Light Bulb Lab" she solves her dilemma. In the end, all is right in Lilly's world and she even finds a place in her heart for her stinky baby brother.

### Themes/Curricular Ties:

New Siblings \* Imagination \* Family Relationships \* Rules \* School \* Friendship \* Page to Stage \* Taking Responsibility for Actions \* Dealing with Bullies \* Anger Management \* Individuality \* Secret/Made-up Languages \* Bike Safety \* Careers



### **About Childsplay:**

Childsplay is a professional non-profit theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

**Our Mission** is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

### **What We Do:**

In addition to our weekend public performances, we also offer three theatre experiences for our school audiences: Field Trips, School Tours and Artist in Residence Programs. Field trip performances, where students come to the theater and see a production, can be booked by contacting Beth Olson at 480-921-5757. School Tour Performances, where we come to your school or other location and perform, can be booked by contacting Jaime Fox at 480-921-5751. Artist in Residence Programs, which can be individually designed to meet the needs of your school or can be based on one of our many existing formats (page to stage, creating original work, use of drama to teach curriculum, professional development for teachers), can be booked by contacting Patricia Black at 480-921-5750.



### **Our Home:**

The Sybil B. Harrington Campus of Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park (formerly Mitchell School) is where you'll find our administrative offices, costume shop, prop shop, rehearsal spaces, and Academy classrooms. We love to hear from our audiences. Send your letters and reviews to:

**Address:** 900 S. Mitchell, Tempe, AZ 85281

**Phone:** 480-921-5700

**Email:** [info@childsplayaz.org](mailto:info@childsplayaz.org) **Web:** [www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/childsplayaz](http://www.facebook.com/childsplayaz)

**To help enrich and extend your theatre experience, check out the 360° Theatre Resource Center on our website!**

**We perform at the Tempe Center for the Arts  
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway  
Tempe, AZ 85281**

### **Theater Etiquette:**

It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

- Use the restroom before seeing the show as we do not have intermission during our school performances.
- Stay seated during the performance.
- Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance. Remember, the actors can see and hear the audience just like the audience can see and hear them.
- Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- Food, candy, gum and beverages will not be allowed in the theater/during the performance.
- Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is not allowed in the theatre/during the performance at any time.
- Following the performance (time permitting) there will be a brief question/answer session where audience members will have an opportunity to ask the actors questions about the production.



## Things to Talk about *Before Seeing the Show...*

### Read the Books!

The play is based on three books written by Kevin Henkes (Henk-us) -- *Chester's Way*, *Julius, Baby of the World*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Read the books aloud in class making sure to share the illustrations (also by Henkes). Talk about the many characters and explain that several of them will appear in the play. Trace Lilly's appearances and involvement in the stories. Talk about the fact that the playwright combined the three stories to create the play.



Yolanda London as Lilly. Photo by Heather Hill

### Set Design, Costumes and Sound:

► Lilly and the characters in her world are mice. The director and costume designer have decided to use only suggestions of "mouseness" rather than to put the actors in full mouse costumes. You will see the suggestion of mouse ears and tails as well as some of the clothing ideas from the book (Lilly's famous red cowboy boots and Mr. Slinger's artistic shirts).

► You will see some of Henkes' actual illustrations in the scenic design—see if you can identify them afterwards.

► The sound designer has chosen many different pieces of music for the play. Listen for the different styles (jazz, classical, etc.) of music when you see the play.

## Some Ideas to Discuss...

► Everyone, including each student and teacher, is special and unique. How are you unique? How are your teachers unique?

► Sometimes "things" that we own (an object or piece of clothing) can make us feel safe, happy, brave, or confident (to name a few). What is something that you have that makes you feel safe, happy, brave, or confident?

► It is important to follow rules both at school and at home. What are some rules that you have to follow at school? At home? What are the consequences for breaking rules?

### Vocabulary And Spelling Words:

Lilly has quite the vocabulary! Review the words below and listen for them when you see the play:

Uncooperative  
Gratifying  
Scrumptious  
Exceptional  
Hideous  
Beady  
Exuberance  
Jaunty  
Jingly  
Glittery  
Interpretive  
Nifty

"I never  
leave the  
house  
without  
a nifty  
disguise"  
~Lilly



Jon Gentry and Gordon Waggoner as Wilson and Chester  
Photo by Lyle Moultrie