



Childsplay's
360° Theatre Resources for Schools



Based on the books by Barnard Waber

Adapted by Kevin Kling

Music by Richard Gray

Directed by **Dwayne Hartford**

Musical Direction by **Alan Ruch**

Choreography by **Michael Barnard**

Scenic Design by **Aaron Jackson**

Costume Design by **Kish Finnegan**

Lighting Design by **Jennifer Setlow**

Sound Design by **Christopher Neumeyer**

Stage Manager: **Samantha Monson**

The Cast

Lyle.	Adam Hostler
Hector B. Valenti.	D. Scott Withers
Joshua.	Colin Ross
Mr. Primm.	John Moum
Mrs. Primm.	Kim Manning
Mr. Grumps.	Jon Gentry
Ms. Nitpicker.	Katie McFadzen
Ensemble	Eric Boudreau
Ensemble.	Christiann Thijm

November 19– December 24, 2011
Tempe Center for the Arts

Recommended for ages 4 and older
www.childsplayaz.org

About *Lyle the Crocodile* and Your Theatre Experience

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**WHERE EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION
TAKE FLIGHT**

The Story:

Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen, and his caviar eating, lovable crocodile, Lyle, have performed in the palaces of kings and the haylofts of farmers. But times are tough and Hector needs to find a temporary home for Lyle. The new apartment of the Primm family on East 88th Street in New York City seems to be the perfect fit.

When Joshua Primm finds Lyle sleeping in their bathtub, Mr. and Mrs. Primm are understandably concerned. Lyle soon wins them over, though, with his dancing, tricks and winning ways. He even impresses their uptight neighbor, Ms. Nitpicker. Mr. Grumps from downstairs is another story, however. He doesn't seem to like anyone.

After a day of fun and frolicking in the city with Joshua and his friends, Lyle is accused of scaring Mr. Grumps' beloved cat and the old man warns the Primms that he will not stand for any more problems with the reptile. Unfortunately, Lyle causes a commotion when he and Hector try to revive their song and dance career at Mr. Grump's department store and Lyle is sent to the zoo.

The other crocodiles are friendly but Lyle is far too talented to be in a cage so Hector breaks him out. They return to East 88th Street to say goodbye to the Primms and discover Mr. Grump's apartment is on fire with the old man and his cat still inside. Lyle saves the day and turns Mr. Grump's attitude around - just another "typical New York day."

Themes/Curricular Ties:

New York City * Page to Stage * 1960s * Unlikely Friendships * Crocodiles * Zoos * Neighbors * Music * Courage * Kindness * Tolerance * Embracing Differences



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 **Web:** www.childsplayaz.org

Facebook: 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...*

What are the differences between seeing a play and a movie? A play happens live in front of an audience. The actors need to recreate the same play over and over again giving the audience the illusion that it is the very first performance. Since theater happens live, each performance may be a little bit different than the next. When a production closes, the play is no more than a memory. In movies, a performance is captured on film, can be accessed any time and becomes a part of history.

How is a musical different than a play? A musical is a story that is told through speaking, singing and dancing. The characters sing thoughts and feelings that are too strong for words. They reveal information about themselves and others through song. Lyrics and melodies that make up songs often stay with you long after you've heard them. Can you think of a song from a movie, musical or even a commercial that has stayed stuck in your head?

Page to Stage: The musical is based on the books *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* and *The House on East 88th Street* by Bernard Waber. Reading the books, it's hard to imagine how they could be translated to the stage because the characters appear as cartoon illustrations *and* some of them are animals. A team of designers worked with the director to create the world of the play. The play takes place in various locations around New York City in the 1960s. When you see the play, you'll notice that much of the scenery will "fly" in from above. On stage left (that would be your right if you're in the audience), there's a fly system made up of weights and ropes. Each piece of scenery that flies is attached to a large pipe (called a batten) with strong cables. The scenery is then flown in or out by a stage hand, who gets a cue from the stage manager over a headset and then pulls ropes on the fly system to raise or lower the piece. When the scenery is not being used, it hangs above the stage out of sight from the audience. To the right are two renderings from Aaron Jackson's scenic design. The piece on the bottom will frame the stage and never moves. The "SALE!" piece will fly in for the department store scene.

Costumes renderings of Lyle and Mrs. Primm by Kish Finnegan.

