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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact us for photos

Childsplay Announces its Inaugural Season In The New Multi-Million Dollar Tempe Center for the Arts

Tempe, AZ -- Childsplay, Arizona's award-winning theatre company for young audiences, is delighted to announce its 30th Anniversary Season at the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), a brand new facility on the southwest bank of the Tempe's Town Lake. As the primary resident company at TCA, Childsplay is offering eight productions for the public through June 2008 including some of its all-time favorite plays for family audiences.

Childsplay Play Passes (flexible subscription packages customized for families) are on sale through the Childsplay office at 480-350-8119 or at the company website www.childsplayaz.org. Single tickets will be on sale the theater box office closer to opening dates. Passes cost between \$15 and \$18 each depending on quantity and date purchased. Single tickets cost between \$18 and \$25 for adults, \$18 and \$20 for children, students and seniors (depending on the production) plus applicable box office charges. Each production will have one discounted preview performance with a single ticket price of \$12.

Charlotte's Web

by Joseph Robinette

Based on the book by E.B. White

Directed by David Saar

Meet Wilbur, an endearing piglet in grave danger of ending up as pork chops, and Charlotte, the wise and winsome spider who becomes his true friend. Together they explore friendship, loyalty, ingenuity and the cycle of life in the barnyard and beyond.

Preview: Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)

September 15 - October 14

Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 4 p.m.

Recommended for ages four and older.

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A Thousand Cranes

by Kathryn Schultz Miller
Based on the book by Eleanor Coerr
Directed by Gary Minyard

Told with grace and simple dignity, this is a poignant drama about a young Japanese girl and her dream that continues to inspire children around the world to work for peace. This powerful play tells the true story of Sadako Sasaki who was just two years old when the bomb fell on Hiroshima. Sadako's courage and determination in the face of personal adversity has added meaning for us all in a post-9/11 world.

Preview: October 21 at 4 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)
October 27- November 11
Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 4 p.m.
Single tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for children/students/seniors

Recommended for ages 6 and older.

Seussical

Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle.
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss
Directed by Dwayne Hartford

Follow Horton the Elephant as he befriends the tiny Whos of Whoville, promising to protect them against all odds because "a person's a person no matter how small." Meanwhile he commits to egg-sit for the flighty Mayzie LaBird and gets into all kinds of trouble because he won't desert his post. This energetic Broadway musical works brilliantly for little ones who love the Seuss stories and for the rest of us who will delight in the sheer spectacle of the show.

Preview: Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)
December 1-23
Saturdays at 1 and 4 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m.
Single tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for children/students/seniors

Recommended for ages four and older.

Goodnight Moon

Book, music and lyrics by Chad Henry
Based on the book by Margaret Wise Brown
Directed by David Saar

For sixty years, children have been snuggled into bed with a nightly reading of the comforting rhyme that is *Goodnight Moon*. Now as Bunny says goodnight to everything in the Great Green Room, all the elements come to life on stage ... the mouse, the bears, the kittens and, of course, the Old Lady saying 'Hush.'

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Preview: February 9 at 4 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)
February 10 – March 9
Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 4 p.m.
Single tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for children/students/seniors

Recommended for all ages.

A Tale of Two Cities

By Dwayne Hartford
Based on the book by Charles Dickens
Directed by David Saar

Childsplay presents a brand new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of love and hate, war and peace, revenge and redemption during the chaos of the French Revolution. This is a tale of Paris and London, of the past and today, of the rich and the poor, of friendship and animosity, of the power of love to redeem and the power of hate to destroy.

Preview: March 16 at 4 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)
March 22 – April 6
Saturdays at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.
Single tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for children/students/seniors

Recommended for ages eight and above.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

By Judith Viorst
Directed by D. Scott Withers

From the moment he wakes up with gum in his hair, young Alexander knows that this is going to be a downright disaster of a day. From carpool calamities to school shenanigans, the day just gets worse until a move to Australia seems to be the only thing that might make life worth living.

Preview April 27 at 4 p.m. (\$12 discounted tickets)
May 3 – 25
Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 4 p.m.
Single tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for children/students/seniors

Recommended for ages four and older.

Tour Festival: In My Grandmother's Purse and A Little Bit of Water

A chance to catch two of Childsplay's touring productions which will be presented 'in rep' as an informal season finale:

In My Grandmother's Purse

By Eric Bass
Directed by Jon Gentry

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A delightful memory game is played between Sonny Boy and his mother, shedding light on a life well-lived. As the game progresses, two very different views of Grandmother emerge and the play explores the way life colors memory and - of course - vice versa.

June 7 - 14
Saturdays and Sunday at 1 and 4 p.m.
\$18 general admission

A Little Bit of Water

By Dwayne Hartford
Directed by Anthony Runfola

Dream of meandering streams flowing through desert valleys, creating beautiful worlds of mesquite and wild flowers. Childsplay and Audubon Arizona are teaming up to do some creating, too. This wonderful new play, celebrating the restoration of the Rio Salado riverbed, explores the beauty and fragility of life in the Sonoran desert.

June 15 – 22
Saturday and Sundays at 1 and 4 p.m.
\$18 general admission

Recommended for ages four and older.

All performances will take place at the new Tempe Center for the Arts (700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe). For box office information, please call 480-350-2822 or visit www.childsplayaz.org/tca.

For more information visit our website at www.Childsplayaz.org.

Childsplay, Inc. is a nonprofit theatre company of professional, adult artists who perform for and teach young audiences and their families. The mission of Childsplay 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, the hallmarks of childhood which are keys to the future.” For information on Childsplay performances, classes or educational presentations please call 480-350-8101.

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