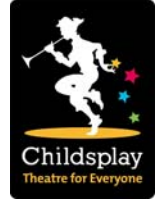


For additional information for media purposes, contact:

Jill Bernstein
jbernstein@childsplayaz.org
480-921-5703

900 S. Mitchell Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85281
480-921-5703
480-921-5777 fax
info@childsplayaz.org



News Release

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Photos -- <http://gallery.childsplayaz.org/>

Unleashing* a Season of Hits for 2010-2011

Tempe, AZ – Childsplay, Arizona’s award-winning theatre company for young audiences, announces a season filled with unsurpassed crowd-pleasers, including a Tony-nominated musical, brilliant adaptations of classic children’s stories, original work, and the return of that sell-out star, Junie B. Jones! Founder and Artistic Director, David Saar says “We want to dazzle a whole new generation of audiences with some of the biggest hits we’ve produced in our history.”

The season opens in **September 2010** with *A Year With Frog and Toad*, a revival of Childsplay’s smash hit production of this Tony-nominated musical for young audiences. Based on the well-loved books by Arnold Lobel, with music by Robert Reale, and book and lyrics by Willie Reale, this delightful family musical follows the adventures of two great friends, the cheerful Frog and his grouchy friend, Toad through the four seasons of a year. Directed by Childsplay founder and Artistic Director, David Saar, *A Year With Frog and Toad* features some of the ensemble’s best loved actors reprising their favorite roles. Kyle Lawson of *The Arizona Republic* called the 2004 Childsplay production “...tuneful, funny and the sort of thing that makes both kids and adults say afterward, ‘Gosh, that was wonderful.’” Chris Page of the *East Valley Tribune* said it was “...a triumph, a joy to watch.”

A new holiday tradition is born! Families have been searching for something different from the usual fare for the winter holidays and we’ve got it! Sell-out crowds and clamoring fans left us no choice but to bring back *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* Last year’s runaway hit returns to the stage in **November and December 2010** with that lovable imp, Junie B., and the world of intrigue that is Room One. A few quotes from last year’s audiences say it all, “It was a fantastic production and I highly recommend it. I was laughing so hard I cried” and “That was so good, I wish we could go back tomorrow!”

***From January through March 2011**, P.D. Eastman’s classic children’s book *Go, Dog. Go!* springs to life in a rousing musical adaptation by playwrights Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory, with music by Michael Koerner. This rollicking free-for-all is an exuberant, high octane musical world of doggy fun. Like a pop-up book that comes to life – it’s a real DOG PARTY! Kids will delight in seeing some of their favorite lines from the book like “Do You Like My Hat?” come to life.

An original Childsplay production, *The Imaginators*, opens in **April 2011**. When newcomers to the neighborhood, Tim and his sister Anne, meet their wildly imaginative neighbor Nina, their garage is transformed into a place of mystery and high adventure as they set about defeating a monster called the Mooklecratz. Written by Childsplay ensemble member, Dwayne Hartford, *The Imaginators* explores the power of make believe, as the three friends discover friendship, courage and cooperation.

Rounding out the season in **May 2011** is an extraordinary version of Mary Norton's classic book, *The Borrowers*, adapted for the stage by Charles Way. The Clock family, possibly the last of the Borrowers, live under the floorboards, and survive by "borrowing" what they need from the "human beans" who live above them. Driven by loneliness and curiosity, young Arrietty ventures upstairs looking for a friend, and discovers a whole new world filled with wonder and fraught with danger. This enchanting production is directed by Childsplay's own renaissance man, Dwayne Hartford, who directed the previous Childsplay hits *Miss Nelson is Missing*, *Seussical*, *Honus and Me*, and *Busytown*.

Recognizing the impact the economy has had in all of our lives, Childsplay is keeping ticket prices at the same level for the third year in a row! Childsplay Play Passes (flexible, cost-saving ticket packages for families) are on sale through the Childsplay website at www.childsplayaz.org. Single tickets will be on sale at the theater box office starting in early August. Play passes cost between \$15 and \$18 each depending on quantity and date purchased. Single tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus applicable box office charges. Each production will have one discounted preview performance with a general admission ticket price of \$12.

All performances will take place at the 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/box office](http://www.childsplayaz.org/box_office)

For more information visit www.childsplayaz.org

Please note: Childsplay's administrative offices are located in the Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park, 900 S. Mitchell Dr., Tempe, Arizona 85281. Main office phone: 480-921-5700.

This is Childsplay's proposed season: dates, venues, and titles may change.

Childsplay is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the City of Tempe, and the City of Scottsdale. Childsplay is also a constituent member of the Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, and TYA/USA.

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 480.921-5700.

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