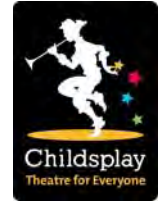


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News Release

For immediate release 3/30/10

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

Calling All Human Beans “The Big Friendly Giant” is Headed This Way

Tempe, AZ -- Childsplay, Arizona’s award-winning theatre company for young audiences and families, completes its spring lineup with Roald Dahl’s modern fairy tale, *The Big Friendly Giant*. Opening at the Tempe Center for the Arts on May 1 and running through May 23, this delightful adaptation of the modern classic features the brave orphan Sophie and her whizpoppin’ best friend, the BFG, on an adventure that leads all the way to the Queen of England!

One night, a giant steals little orphan Sophie from her bed, but this giant is no ordinary, scary, giant! He’s Big and Friendly, and every night he blows lovely dreams into the bedrooms of sleeping *chiddlers*. Join Sophie and The BFG as they become best friends and team up to save the children of England from a hungry bunch of child-eating giants. With his delightfully jumbled language and innocent charm, The BFG is sure to become your best friend too!

This hilarious adventure was adapted by playwright David Wood from the original book by Roald Dahl. David Wood has written more than 50 plays for children, was dubbed Great Britain’s “national children’s dramatist” by The Times, and won the OBE in 2004 for services to literature and drama. Author Roald Dahl first became interested in writing children’s books by making up stories for his daughters. His first children’s book, *James and the Giant Peach* was followed by an unbroken string of bestselling titles, including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, *The Witches*, and *Matilda* among many others.

Childsplay’s artistic director and founder David Saar is the director of this production.

Most enjoyed by young people age 6 and up.

The Big Friendly Giant

By Roald Dahl

Adapted for the stage by David Wood

Directed by David Saar

Scenic Design – Carey Wong

Costume Design/Puppets – Rebecca Akins

Sound Design – Anthony Runfola

Original Music – Christopher Neumeyer

Stage Manager – Samantha Ries

Cast

The Cast

The BFG.....Dwayne Hartford
Sophie.....Debra K. Stevens
Gizzardgulper, Meatdrinker, Headmaster, Mr. Tibbs.....Andrés Alcalá
Bloodbottler, Dad, Head of the Army.....Jon Gentry
Fleshlumpeater, Sam Simkins, Head of Air Force.....D. Scott Withers
Bonecruncher, Mary, Queen of Sweden, Rebecca.....Laura Berger
Childchewer, Miss Plumridge, Queen of England.....Katie McFadzen

Performance Information:

Tempe Center for the Arts/Theater

700 W. Rio Salado Parkway

Tempe, AZ 85281

Tickets -- 480-350-2822 (ext. 0)

www.childsplayaz.org/boxoffice

Schedule:

Sunday, April 25, 4 pm – Target Storybook Preview

Saturday, May 1, 4 pm – Opening

Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 4 pm May 1 through Sunday, May 23

Tickets: \$25 for adults; \$20 for children/students/seniors

(\$12 discount tickets for Target Storybook Preview 4/25/10 at 4 pm)

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.
