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## **News Release**

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### **Childsplay Awarded International Medallion Award**

Tempe, AZ – David Saar, Founder and Artistic Director of Childsplay, Arizona’s award-winning theatre company for young audiences, will receive the 2010 Medallion Award from the Children’s Theatre Foundation of America on August 6, 2010. The award is given to honor Childsplay’s artistic excellence and national influence during its 33 year history. The Medallion Luncheon will be held in conjunction with the American Alliance for Theatre in Education’s annual conference being held in San Francisco.

Founded in 1977, Childsplay is a nationally and internationally respected professional theatre company based in Tempe, Arizona. In the past 33 years, Childsplay has educated and inspired nearly four million young people and families, and has grown to serve an average annual audience of 300,000 students, teachers and families.

In commenting on the award, David Saar said, “It is particularly gratifying and meaningful to be recognized with a Medallion Award. It is definitely one of our field’s ‘Good Housekeeping Seals of Approval,’ and recognizes Childsplay’s contributions along with some very impressive company!”

The Medallion Award has been presented yearly since 1992 to honor the recipients’ significant achievements contributing to the cultural enrichment of children and youth in the United States and Canada. Accomplishments include authoring textbooks, writing plays, directing and producing at leading theatres, creating exemplary education programs involving the arts, and mentoring future leaders in this field.

Other 2010 honorees include: Palo Alto Children’s Theatre and its Director, Pat Briggs; The Rainbow Company Youth Theatre of Las Vegas, Nevada and its Artistic Director, Karen McKenney, and Education Director, Dr. Toni Molloy-Tudor; and playwrights Eleanor and Ray Harder of Los Angeles.

For information about the Children’s Theatre Foundation of America, go to <http://www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org/>.

For more information visit [www.childsplayaz.org](http://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 480.921-5700.*

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