

Childsplay's 2008-09 Season

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CHILDSPLAY NEWS RELEASE

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Help! *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

Tempe, AZ – Childsplay, Arizona's professional theatre company for young audiences and families, kicks off its 2008-2009 Season at the Tempe Center for the Arts with ***Miss Nelson is Missing!***, a hilarious comedy based in a Texas elementary school in the 1970s. Directed by Childsplay Artistic Associate Dwayne Hartford (who also directed such Childsplay hits as *Junie B. Jones* and *a Little Monkey Business*, *Seussical* and *Petite Rouge*), this page-to-stage adaptation opens on Saturday, September 13 and runs through Sunday, October 5. Starring Childsplay favorite Katie McFadzen in the dual roles of Miss Nelson and her doppelganger Miss Viola Swamp, audiences are in for a rare treat!

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Harry Allard and James Marshall's popular children's book was first published in 1977 and was immediately popular with children, parents and, especially, schoolteachers! *Miss Nelson is Back* and *Miss Nelson Has A Field Day* followed in quick succession. Children the world over are familiar with Miss Nelson, a sweet but ineffective young teacher, faced with a classroom of unruly students who have trouble following the rules and being respectful. But Miss Nelson proves to be extremely resourceful. One day she is absent, and the students in Room 207 are surprised and dismayed to find Miss Viola Swamp in her place. The classroom takes on a very different mood with Ms. Swamp at the helm. Discipline is strict, there are no more stories, no recess, but lots of math and extra homework. The students desperately try to solve the mystery of their missing teacher and enlist the help of Detective McSmogg.

Miss Nelson is Missing!

By Jeffrey Hatcher

Based on the book by Harry Allard and James Marshall

Directed by Dwayne Hartford

Design Team:

Scenic Design – Aaron Jackson

Costume Design – Connie Furr Solomon

Lighting Design – Rick Paulsen

Cast: (casting is still in progress at the date of this release)

Miss Nelson/Miss Viola Swamp – Katie McFadzen

Most enjoyed by young people age five and older.

Tempe Center for the Arts

700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe

Box Office – 480-350-2822

www.childsplayaz.org/boxoffice

Target Storybook Preview:

Sunday, September 7 at 4 p.m. (all tickets discounted at \$12)

Opening

Saturday, September 13 at 4 p.m.

Weekend Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 13 through Oct. 5 at 1 and 4 p.m.

For more information visit www.Childsplayaz.org.

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Please note: Childsplay's administrative offices have moved to the new Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park (formerly Mitchell School), 900 S. Mitchell Dr., Tempe, Arizona 85281. Main office phone: 480-921-5700.

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 or visit our website at www.childsplayaz.org.

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