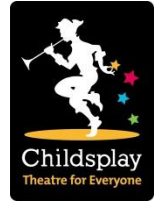


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News Release

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**Curtain Rises on Childsplay's
35th Anniversary Season
with Seven Plays – Four World Premieres,
One Arizona Premiere and Two Well-Loved Encores**

August 9, 2011 – Tempe, Ariz. All 44 U.S. presidents, the Conquest of Mexico and a crocodile who's taken up residence in a New York apartment — they are all part of the 35th anniversary season of Childsplay, Arizona's award-winning theatre for young audiences and families. The seven productions feature favorite characters such as Lyle the Crocodile and Tomás and the Library Lady, and invite audiences into the worlds of the conquistadors, WWII America, and 223 years of our nation's presidency – from George Washington to Barack Obama.

"This is a landmark season for us with a record number of premieres featuring many of our ensemble's best-loved actors," said David Saar, Childsplay founder and artistic director.

The performances take place at the Tempe Center for the Arts – Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Flexible, discounted Play Passes and single tickets are available online at www.childsplayaz.org/boxoffice or through the Tempe Center for the Arts box office at 480-350-2822.

Childsplay's 2011-2012 season includes:

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse – Sept. 11 – Oct. 16, 2011

Lilly is a spunky little mouse who loves cheese snacks, cowboy boots, her new teacher and especially her new purse that holds her movie-star glasses and plays music whenever it's opened. In fact she loves her purse so much that it gets her into trouble at school where she learns that making mistakes is all part of growing up.

Playwright: Kevin Kling. Based on books by Kevin Henkes

Co-Directors: David Saar and Katie McFadzen

Cast includes: Yolanda London, Debra K. Stevens, Dwayne Hartford, D. Scott Withers, Kate Haas, Nathan Dobson, Jon Gentry and Michelle Cunneen

Recommended for ages four and older

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The Sun Serpent – Oct. 22 – Nov. 13, 2011

World Premiere!

Old and new worlds collide in this visually-stunning story of Aztec culture and the Conquest of Mexico. Is Cortés, the Sun Serpent of Aztec legend, rising from the sea to bring peace and harmony? Young Anáhuac believes so at first but soon realizes all is not what it seems.

Playwright: José Cruz González

Director: Rachel Bowditch

Cast includes: Andres Alcala, Ricky Araiza, and Adrea Moralles

Recommended for ages eight and older

Lyle the Crocodile – Nov. 13 – Dec. 24, 2011

Arizona Premiere!

Imagine the Primm family's surprise when they find a crocodile asleep in the bathtub of their New York apartment. Although things are a little crazy at first, Lyle soon wins them over with his lovable ways. Even the neighbors, Ms. Nitpicker and Mr. Grumps, can't resist his charms. A rousing and uplifting musical for the holiday season.

Playwright: Kevin Kling. Based on the book *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* by Bernard Waber

Director: Dwayne Hartford

Cast includes: Chris Matesevac, D. Scott Withers, Kim Manning, David Dickinson,

Katie McFadzen, Jon Genry, Colin Ross, and Eric Beaudreau

Recommended for ages four and older

With Two Wings – Jan. 22 – Feb. 5, 2012

World Premiere!

Lyf's parents have kept him safe in their nest and not let him learn to fly. Into Lyf's world burst a pair of fast-talking twins who have snuck away from the "flock" school. Will his parents' secret reason for protecting Lyf be enough to keep him from the skies? A heartwarming story about love and letting go.

Playwright: Anne Negri

Director: Jon Gentry

Cast includes: Adrian Hernandez, Kate Haas, Nathan Dobson, and Jon Gentry

Recommended for ages six and older

Rock the Presidents – Feb. 12 – Mar. 4, 2012

World Premiere!

You too can become president! A high-octane, multi-media-filled musical revue spanning 223 years of the American presidency – from George Washington to Barack Obama. The 44 men who rose to the highest office in the land are brought to life through all-new rock, pop and folk music.

Playwright: Book and lyrics by Dwayne Hartford

Music: Sarah Roberts

Director: Anthony Runfola

Cast includes: Yolanda London, Eric Beaudreu, Colin Ross

Recommended for ages seven and older

Tomás and the Library Lady – April 7 – April 15, 2012

Tomás loves stories! Papa Grande tells them *todas las noches* but soon Tomás knows all of them by heart. One day while his family is in Iowa picking crops, Tomás meets the Library Lady and nothing is ever the same again. A celebration of reading, imagination and creativity.

Playwright: José Cruz González, Based on the book by Pat Mora

Director: David Saar

Cast includes: Adrian Hernandez and Liz Polen

Recommended for ages five and older

The Color of Stars – April 22 – May 27, 2012

World Premiere!

Travel back in time with Allie as she learns about her grandfather. It's the '40s and young Eddie is living in rural Maine while his father is fighting overseas. Eddie soon finds himself in the middle of a crisis and the decisions he makes shape the rest of his life. A touching story about life in America during World War II with modern-day parallels about the costs of war.

Playwright: Dwayne Hartford

Director: Graham Whitehead

Cast includes: Jon Gentry, Debra K. Stevens, D. Scott Withers, Katie McFadzen, Andres Alcalá, and Kate Haas

Recommended for ages eight and older

Childsplay 360 Theatre Experience

Childsplay 360 offers fun activities before the plays and in the lobby, discussion questions for the ride home and opportunities for family workshops and backstage tours throughout the season. Learn more at www.childsplayaz.org/360-families.php

About Childsplay

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 more information, visit www.childsplayaz.org.

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