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CHILDSPLAY NEWS RELEASE

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***Childsplay's Tour Festival:
In My Grandmother's Purse and A Little Bit of Water***

Tempe, AZ- Childsplay, Arizona's professional theatre for young audiences, offers audiences a chance to see two of its school touring productions, *In My Grandmother's Purse* and *A Little Bit of Water*, in the Studio at the Tempe Center for the Arts in June.

These hour-long plays have been performed at schools in gymnasias, cafeterias and libraries across the state as a part of Childsplay's extensive school touring program with all set, costume and prop pieces properly fitted in every square inch of a Childsplay van. In June, the actors of the two productions will park their vans at the Tempe Center for the Arts, to perform for Childsplay's dedicated audiences giving them a chance to see the shows that have been presented to more than 100,000 children across the region.



In My Grandmother's Purse

By Eric Bass

Directed by Jon Gentry

Scenic Design by Jim Luther

Costume Design by Connie Furr-Solomon

Sound Design by Adam Jacobson

The Story--The Playwright's Description:

"A young boy and his mother play a game in which each has to remember lists of things they both imagine to be 'in Grandmother's purse.' As they play, the things they imagine seem to suggest two different ideas about Grandma. For the boy, she is an adventuress, a fighter of knights and tigers. For the mother, she is the parent who did not care enough about her family. Grandma's appearance only makes matters worse, as all three try to learn to balance the joy of fantasy with the need to feel safe and secure. The play also addresses the themes of death and memory, where one finds the beauty in them, and what they can mean for a child." -Eric Bass

Performance Dates and Times:

Saturday, June 7- 1 p.m. Target Storybook Preview Performance (\$12 General Admission)
American Sign Language Interpretation

Saturday, June 7- 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 8- 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 14- 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

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The Cast

Sonny Boy. Ricky Araiza
Mom. Danette D’Anjou
Grandma. Elizabeth Polen
Grandpa/Puppeteer. Juliet Drake

Touring in schools from November 2007 through June 2008.



A Little Bit of Water

A New Play by Dwayne Hartford
Directed by Anthony Runfola
Scenic Design by Jeff Lemire
Costume Design by D. Daniel Hollingshead
Sound Design by Christopher Neumeyer
Projection Design by Anthony Runfola

The Story:

The world-famous master storyteller, Marie, with the help of her two assistants, Liz and Enrique, tells the story, “A Ribbon of Green.” This is the tale of a river in the desert. The three take the audience far back in time to when the river was created through the friendship of the Land, the Wind and the Water. Using puppets, projections and other theatrical magic, the three characters show how life came to the river – first plants, birds and animals, then early native people, followed by pioneers and farmers. Throughout all this, the storytellers show how the river adapted to suit the needs of those who settled along its banks.

Performance Dates and Times:

Sunday, June 15- 1 p.m. Target Storybook Preview Performance (\$12 General Admission)
American Sign Language Interpretation
Sunday, June 15- 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 21- 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Sunday, June 22- 1 p.m.

The Cast

Marie. Christiann Thijm
Enrique. Marcelino Quiñónez
Liz. Cynthia Callejas

Touring in Schools from January through June 2008.

Produced in collaboration with: Audubon Arizona.
Production Sponsor: SRP.

ALL PERFORMANCES:

Ticket Price: \$12 general admission Target Storybook Preview Performances
\$18 general admission

Recommended for ages five and older.

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Performances will take place in the Tempe Center for the Arts Studio (700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe). For box office information, please call 480-350-2822 or visit www.childsplayaz.org/tca.

For more information about the productions, Preview and Student Activity Guides are located at the Childsplay Web Site at <http://www.childsplayaz.org/preview-and-study-guides.html>.

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's 2007-08 Media Sponsor is KTVK and My Sweet Connection.com

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 480-350-8101 or visit our website at www.childsplayaz.org.

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