Childsplay Theatre Presents

Chato’s Kitchen

By Mark Valdez
Based on the book by Gary Soto
Directed by Mark Valdez

Scenic Design: Tanya Orellana
Costume Design: Connie Furr
Lighting Design: William Kirkham
Sound Design: Christopher Neumeyer
Projection Design: Jake Pinholster
Stage Manager: Mo Labiaga Treviño

NOVEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 24, 2019
THE HERBERGER THEATER CENTER – STAGE WEST

ACT I: 50 MINUTES
ACTOR TALK BACK: 10 MINUTES

CO-COMMISSIONED AND WORLD PREMIERE PRESENTED AT NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NEWARK, NEW JERSEY) AND CHILDSPLAY, INC. (TEMPE, ARIZONA)

Chato’s Kitchen is a professional production employing members of Actors’ Equity Association.

Season Support Provided by

Season Sponsor
The Herberger Foundation
Billie Jo and Judd Herberger
Welcome to the second show in Childsplay Theatre’s 2019-2020 Season of Adventures at The Herberger Theater Center. As Childsplay’s Board President, I would like to welcome you to the world-premiere production of *Chato’s Kitchen*.

At Childsplay, we believe in the power of “strikingly original theatre” and a major part of that commitment is developing new plays. Over the years, many of our most notable and widely recognized productions have been world premieres. Plays like *The Yellow Boat* by Childsplay Founder David Saar in 1992 redefined expectations of theatre for young people across the world. More recently, plays like *Maddi’s Fridge* introduced complex themes including food insecurity, empathy and compassion—all told through a young person’s point of view.

We know that new theatre for young audiences needs to be constantly generated to best reflect the changing needs of our communities. I am thrilled your family is here to experience how this imaginative book by Gary Soto has been transformed into a brand new staged production. And not only will students and families in Arizona experience this world premiere—we will be taking this story to The New Jersey Performing Arts Center in December for even more students and families to enjoy.

I say this not just as a board member but also as a parent: experiencing the magic of theatre together is a powerful shared memory. I am so grateful to you for making a Childsplay performance part of your family’s tradition.

We can’t wait to Imagine Together with you again later this season!

**Lisa Coulter**  
President, Board of Trustees
WHO’S WHO IN CHATO’S KITCHEN

Moises Castro
(Moises Castro) was born and raised in LA. He is thrilled to represent his community through the eyes of the coolest low-riding cat. Recent credits include: The Hungry Woman (UCSB Multicultural Center), Evangeline: The Queen of Make Believe (About Productions), Valley of the Heart (Mark Taper Forum), Brown & Out (CASA 0101), The Hotel Play (Playwrights Arena), Guards at the Taj (A.C.T), Milton (PearlD’Amour), Brooklyn Bridge (Seattle Children’s Theater), The Motherf**ker with the Hat (WET), and John Baxter is a Switch Hitter (Intiman). Education: UW, NYU, and AMDA. themoisescastro.com

Ricky Araiza
(Novio Boy) is an Arizona native and a practicing theatre artist. A graduate from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Theatre in 2004, he went on to become an ensemble member of Childsplay in 2004. In 2009, he attended Dell’Arte International, where he studied ensemble-based physical theatre and has recently earned his MFA in theatre for Youth and Communities from ASU. He is also the Artistic Director of Teatro Bravo, a Latinx theatre company in South Phoenix, AZ.

Jon Gentry
(Father/Junior) has been a member of Childsplay’s acting company since 1982. Childsplay shows include: Charlotte’s Web, Robin Hood, A Year with Frog and Toad, The Yellow Boat, and Rock, Paper, Scissors. Other roles: Maurice in Disney’s Beauty And The Beast, Frankie Cavalier in Pageant, Moonface Martin in Anything Goes, Passpartout in Around The World In 80 Days, Max Bialystock in The Producers, Tupolski in The Pillowman, Roy Cohn in Angels in America, Parts One and Two. Jon was awarded a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship by the Ten Chimneys Foundation, one of 10 actors in the United States to participate in the Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program.
Liz Neitge (Mother/Rosie) is thrilled to be making her debut with Childsplay! Most recently, she was seen as Rosalia in West Side Story at Seacoast Repertory in New Hampshire and Rosa Santiago in Ghost The Musical at Winnipesaukee Playhouse. Now a Brooklyn resident, Liz graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Performance from Arizona State University. She is so excited to be back in the valley of the sun working on this new show! Some local credits include Anything Goes (Phoenix Theatre), Hair (Desert Stages), The Fantasticks, and RENT (ASU). Instagram: @lizneitge | www.lizneitge.com

Mark Valdez (Director) is an artist, organizer, and consultant based in Los Angeles. His work has been seen at theaters that include the Alliance Theatre, Cornerstone Theater Company, East West Players, La Peña Cultural Center, Mark Taper Forum, MACLA, Mixed Blood, and Trinity Rep, among others. For over 20-years, Valdez has produced and created community engaged projects in his home state of California and around the country. During his tenure as the Executive Director of the Network of Ensemble Theaters, Mark designed and implemented the MicroFest USA project, hyper-local events that were part performance festival, part think-tanks celebrating cultural community development. Presently, Mark is working on Exiled in America, a multi-year, multi-city project that aims to impact housing policy utilizing performance, cultural organizing, and creative community development strategies. He is also creating a new performance piece commissioned by Trinity Rep, with and for the Latinx population of Rhode Island called #latinxox.

Tanya Orellana (Scenic Designer) designs performance spaces for Theater, Dance, Opera and Puppetry. From San Francisco, she is a core member of the award-winning ensemble Campo Santo, participating in their New Work Process, conceptualizing and designing sets alongside the writing process. Design collaborations include: Mexico Premiere of Angels in America directed by Martín Acosta (Teatro Juan Ruiz de Alarcón), Casa de Spirits written and directed by Roger Guenveur Smith (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, San Francisco, CA), world premiere of The Heath by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Sean Daniels (Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell, MA), and Nogales: Storytellers in Cartel Country by Richard Montoya (Borderlands Theatre, Tucson, Arizona and The Magic Theatre, San Francisco, CA). Tanya received her MFA in Scenic Design from CalArts (2017) and is the 2016 recipient of the Princess...
Grace Fabergé Theatre Award. Her design work on *Angels in America* was presented in the US Emerging Designers Exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial 2019.

**William Kirkham (Lighting Designer)** is an award-winning Lighting Designer for Theatre and Live Events. He is also the Professor of Lighting Design at Arizona State University. Previous Childsplay credits include: *Flora & Ulysses, Yellow Boat,* and *Pete, or the Return of Peter Pan.* Regional credits include: Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, ArtsWest Playhouse, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Childsplay, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Contemporary American Theater Festival, The Hypocrites, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Phoenix Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Sideshow Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. William attended Northern Arizona University, Northwestern University, and is a proud member of Local USA 829.

www.wckirkham.com

Christopher Neumeyer (Sound Designer) works as Sound Designer and Composer for many theater companies in Phoenix and abroad. Amongst his favorite productions are: *Rock the Presidents, The Sun Serpent, A Wrinkle in Time, The Phantom Tollbooth, The Giver* (Childsplay); *In the Next Room* and *Secret Order* (Actors Theatre); *All My Sons, Fences, Cabaret* (Theaterworks in Palo Alto, CA). Previously, he was the Resident Sound Designer and Sound Supervisor for Childsplay, as well as producing sound effects and voice over content for multi-media projects, corporate DVD's, and feature films.

**Connie Furr (Costume Designer)**

Theatre: *The Christians* (Brooklyn Academy of Music, Playwrights Horizon, Mark Taper), Six Humana Festivals and *Macbeth* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *Beauty and the Beast, Seussical,* and *101 Dalmatians* (premiere) (Children’s Theatre of Charlotte), *Othello* and *Henry the 4th* (Georgia Shakespeare Festival), *Sun Serpent* (premiere), *Rock and Roll Alice in Wonderland,* and *Goodnight Moon* (Childsplay Theatre), *The Nearly True Story of*
WHO’S WHO IN CHATO’S KITCHEN CONTINUED


Jake Pinholster (Projection Designer) is an Associate Professor of Media Design and Associate Dean in the ASU Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, head of design training program specializing in projection/media design for performance. An Associate artist with Les Freres Corbusier. Broadway credits: The Pee Wee Herman Show. Off-Broadway credits: Escape from Bellevue, Boozy (LFC). New York credits: David Dorfman Dance’s Underground (BAM), Hoover!, Dance Dance Revolution, HeddaTRON (LFC), Dixie’s Tupperware Party. Regional credits: Riders of the Purple Sage (AZ Opera), Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson (Center Theater Group), Current Nobody (LJP, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). TV: Carrie Fisher: Wishful Drinking (HBO), The Pee Wee Herman Show (HBO).

Mo Labiaga (Stage Manager) is a Stage Manager of Spanish citizenship. She has lived in Mexico, Texas, and Colorado, and soon she’ll be moving to Spain. She received her BA in Theatre Design and Technology with an emphasis in Stage Management and an Arts Entrepreneurship Certificate from the University of Northern Colorado. During her free time, she enjoys reading, going out with friends on adventures, finding new restaurants, and attending the circus. She loves traveling, exploring new places, and explaining her knowledge in the performing world. This is why she is so excited to be working with Childsplay. Some of her favorite shows that she has worked on as a stage manager are Clybourne Park, Major Barbara, Dance Suite: Appalachian Spring, and She Kills Monsters, and Disney’s Beauty and the Beast.

Please check houseboards for any program changes. Taking pictures and/or making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden.
CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP

Dwayne Hartford (Artistic Director) moved to Arizona in 1989. He answered an ad in the paper for an acting job. That job was for Childsplay. In 1992, he originated the role of the Father in Childsplay’s world premiere production of The Yellow Boat. Dwayne has directed many shows for Childsplay, including: Ella Enchanted, The Phantom Tollbooth, and Flora & Ulysses. The first play he wrote, Eric and Elliot, received the 2005 Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre & Education (AATE). The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane received the same award in 2018. Dwayne’s plays have been produced professionally around the country including Seattle Children’s Theatre, Dallas Children’s Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, and South Coast Repertory. Dwayne became Childsplay’s Artistic Director upon the retirement of his mentor, the founder of the company, David Saar. Dwayne holds a BFA in musical theatre from the Boston Conservatory. He did graduate work in directing at Boston University. He is from the very small town of Smithfield, Maine.

Steve Martin (Managing Director) is in his 19th season as Managing Director at Childsplay. During this time, the company has moved into the Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder; secured significant funding from the US Department of Education for arts education programming throughout the metro Phoenix area; received funding from national foundations including the Hearst Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Trust, and the Shubert Foundation; received substantial support from local foundations including the Legacy Foundation, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the Flinn Foundation, Steele Foundation, and the Helios Education Foundation; and produced more than 30 world premieres. He is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and a 1983 graduate of the University of Toledo. Martin is currently on the board of East Valley Partnership and formerly served on the boards of Arizona Citizens for the Arts (past President), TYA/USA - the national organization for theatre for young audiences and LORT/League of Resident Theatres. Prior to joining Childsplay, he was Assistant Managing Director of the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Managing Director of Virginia Stage Company in Norfolk, Virginia.
We asked the cast from Chato’s Kitchen
What food would you like to share with your friends?
Here’s what they said:

**Ricky:** I would like to share tamales with my friends. It’s like unwrapping a little delicious present every time.

**Jon:** I would share my puttanesca and my enchiladas (cheese or chicken)—these are things I make!

**Liz:** Being a Midwesterner, I’m always happy to introduce a friend to the joys of Oreo balls! They’re basically as delicious as they sound.

**Moises:** Enchiladas! I love making enchiladas for my friends. It’s one of my best dishes. When I was a kid I would observe my mom, aunts, or grandma make enchiladas; that’s how I learned to make them. Our family in New Mexico would ship boxes full of chili pods that would be mainly used for making enchiladas or pozole. We make our enchiladas with just cheese, Monterey Jack cheese to be exact.
DONATE THROUGH UNITED WAY

Did you know you can designate Childsplay to receive your United Way contributions?

Simply write in the following information on your United Way Donation Form:

Childsplay, Inc.
EIN: 86-0336473
Agency Number: 898
900 S. Mitchell Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85281

THANK YOU!

For questions contact Ernesto Ortiz at 480-921-5774 or eortiz@childsplayaz.org
Cook up more delicious drama at Childsplay Academy!

Learning the actor’s tools is a recipe for fun! Add a dollop of your creativity to develop acting skills, build confidence, and make new friends!

Register online at www.childsplayaz.org!
“One of the underlying core values of Childsplay is the notion of *ensemble*. There is a resident group of theatre artists (our Associate Artists) who, in collaboration with the Artistic Director, are responsible for planning and creating the artistic products that illustrate Childsplay’s mission. But these artists do not create in isolation. Everyone who works at Childsplay — other artists, technicians, educators, administrators and trustees — is a part of this resident ensemble. This mindset guides the way our work is created, the way it is marketed and the way it is delivered.”

— Childsplay’s Strategic Plan 2012

**ADMINISTRATION**
Dawn Brown          Finance Consultant
Ellen Conn          General Manager
Emily Hopfauf       Bookkeeper
Greg Estrada        Custodian

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTS**
Jon Gentry          Associate Artist
José Cruz González  Playwright-in-Residence
Katie McFadzen      Associate Artist
Debra K. Stevens    Associate Artist

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
MaryLisa McKallor   Education & Development Associate
Korbi Adams         Director of Education and School Programs
Katie Brantley      Academy Manager
Brianna Fallon      Theatre Academy Associate
Jane Gerke          Company Graphic Artist
Samantha Johnstone  Director of Marketing & Media
Averi Gutierrez     Marketing & Media Associate
Laura Berger        Education Programs Manager
Ellen Beckett       Education Project Coordinator
Sonia Rodríguez Wood School Relationship and Booking Coordinator

**COSTUMES AND WARDROBE**
Elizabeth Ihlenfeld  Cutter/Draper/Stitcher
Gail Wolfenden-Steib Cutter/Draper/Stitcher

**ELECTRICS**
Ryan Clark          Chato’s Kitchen Master Electrician
Joanna Emmott       Ella Enchanted: The Musical Master Electrician
Cody Downing        Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are In A Play!” Master Electrician

**PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**
Rachel Solis        Production Manager
Mara Nadolski       Associate Production Manager
Aidan Hammer        Production Intern
William Vanderhoof  Production Intern

**SCENERY AND PROPERTIES**
Julia Lee Rogge     Scenic Artist
Anthony Lee         Technical Director
Alex Seifried       Master Carpenter
Joslyn Settle       Property Master
Rachel Bath         Assistant Property Master

**STAGE MANAGEMENT**
Ambar Dominguez     Assistant Stage Manager
Cat Dragon          Stage Manager
Phoenix Jacob       Run Crew
Mo Labiaga         Stage Manager
Shelly Lewis        Stage Manager
Jordan Mattson      Stage Manager
Madi Mays           Run Crew
Lauren McKay        Stage Manager
Alex Skaar          Stage Manager

**THEATRE**
Company and Staff 2019-2020 Season
The image contains a page from a document titled "Childsplay Company and Staff Continued." It lists the names of various individuals associated with the company, including acting company members, teaching artists, ASL interpreters, and other staff. The text provides information about the company, its mission, and activities, including tour dates and locations.

The page also includes a section titled "About Childsplay," which highlights the company's history, mission, and impact on the community. It mentions that Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, teaching and performing for young audiences and families. The text emphasizes the company's commitment to creating theatre that instills respect for the medium and preserves imagination and wonder.

The document concludes with a list of Childsplay's administrative offices and partnerships, including Arizona Citizens for the Arts, East Valley Partnership, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), TYA/USA, and the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
THE SOCIETY FOR IMAGINATION AND WONDER

The Society for Imagination and Wonder honors those who have made a significant investment to Childsplay and in supporting the leaders of the future. Thank you for helping us share imagination, wonder and joy with children of all ages.

Society for Imagination and Wonder Lifetime Members

Childsplay gratefully acknowledges our Lifetime Members, who have made cumulative gifts of $20,000 or more as of June 30, 2019.

*Indicates Annual Society Membership as well

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Sybil B. Harrington Trust

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