Childsplay Theatre Presents

ELLIANT & PIGGIE’S
“WE ARE IN A PLAY!”

Book and Lyrics by Mo Willems
Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma
Based on the Elephant & Piggie book series by Mo Willems

Directed by Debra K. Stevens
Music Direction: Alan Ruch    Choreography: Mollie LaJoie
Scenic Design: Brunella Provvidente
Costume Design: Addy Diaz
Lighting Design: William Kirkham
Sound Design: Esteban Armenta Jr.
Stage Manager: Mo Labiaga

JANUARY 26 – MARCH 8, 2020
HERBERGER THEATER CENTER – STAGE WEST

lephant & Piggie’s “We Are in a Play!” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com
Welcome to Childsplay Theatre’s production of *Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are In A Play”*. As Childsplay’s Board President, I would like to welcome you to the Herberger Theater Center for another magical production in our 43rd season.

At Childsplay, we are committed to creating powerful theatre experiences for all Arizona children. Whether we are performing here in downtown Phoenix, setting up a stage in a school cafeteria in Yuma, or using drama to unpack a math lesson in a third grade classroom, our mission never changes.

When our 43rd season comes to a close in May, our commitment to imagination and wonder continues at our Campus in Tempe. This summer at Childsplay Theatre Academy, young people in more than 40 classes will work with professional Teaching Artists to develop acting skills, build confidence and make new friends.

We offer classes for ages 4-17 with themes that every explorer, entertainer and creator out there will love! Classes will fill up quickly so be sure to visit childsplayaz.org to register for your first choice of classes soon. We can’t wait to continue Imagining Together with your family this summer.

We are so grateful you are here today to celebrate the joy of Mo Willems’ hilarious characters with us. Please enjoy the show!

**Lisa Coulter**
President, Board of Trustees
THE CAST

Elephant ................................................................. Jon Gentry
Piggie ................................................................. Katie McFadzen
Squirrelle .............................................................. Kat Bailes
Squirrelle ............................................................... Hannah Bentley
Squirrelle .............................................................. Sedona Urias-Ramonett

THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Jon Gentry (Elephant) 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.

Katie McFadzen (Piggie) has been with Childsplay as an Associate Artist, actor, and teaching artist since 1993. Childsplay credits include: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, Ella Enchanted: The Musical, Flora and Ulysses, The Yellow Boat, A Hairy Javelina Holiday, Wonderland, and Pete or The Return of Peter Pan. Other Phoenix credits include: Mamma Mia, Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson, and The Women (Phoenix Theatre); Good People, The Pursuit of Happiness, and Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show (Actors Theatre); How the Other Half Loves, A Christmas Carol (one woman version), and The Great Gatsby (Arizona Theatre Company); Speech and Debate, Year of the Rooster, and Small Mouth Sounds (Stray Cat Theatre); and The Wedding Band and Rasheeda Speaking (Black Theatre Troupe). Katie holds a BFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin,
THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM CONTINUED

Whitewater and an MFA in Theatre for Youth from ASU.

Kat Bailes  *(Squirrelle)* is thrilled to return to Childsplay and the Kingdom of Frell! A native Arizonan and graduate of ASU and AMDA, Kat regularly performs and choreographs at theaters all around the Valley. Some favorite recent productions include *American Psycho* (Stray Cat Theatre), *The Toxic Avenger* (Mesa Encore Theatre), *The Wild Party* (A/C Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (Theater Works), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *Bullets Over Broadway* (Phoenix Theatre), and *Church Basement Ladies* (ABT).

Hannah Bentley  *(Squirrelle)* is very excited to be a part of her first production with Childsplay! She was born and raised in Arizona and graduated with a degree in Voice from Arizona State University. Hannah has performed locally with Phoenix Theatre (*Hairspray!, Nine*), Arizona Broadway Theatre (*Les Miserables, A Christmas Carol*), and is currently living her disco dreams with BrockPro Entertainment in *Voulez Vous*. She spent summers performing in Maine with Quisisana (*A Grand Night for Singing, Forbidden Broadway*) and in Montana with Fort Peck Theatre (*Man of La Mancha*). Hannah spends summers in Alaska performing with Alaska Cabin Nite Dinner Theater. She currently lives in Phoenix.

Sedona Urias-Ramonett  *(Squirrelle)* is very excited to be joining *Elephant and Piggie’s “We Are in a Play!”* as a Squirrelle! She was last seen on stage with Childsplay as Sofia in the national tour of *Maddi’s Fridge* and previously as Fern in *Charlotte’s Web*. Other favorite roles include Rose Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie* with Desert Foothills Theatre and Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy in *Shrek The Musical* at Arizona State University. Sedona has a Bachelors degree in Music with a focus on Musical Theatre Performance and a minor in Business from Arizona State University (Barrett The Honors College).

Debra K. Stevens  *(Director)* is an Associate Artist and Artist-in-Education who has been with Childsplay since 1982. Childsplay credits: *Charlotte’s Web, The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, A Tale of Two Cities, The Color of Stars, Still
Life With Iris, The Yellow Boat, The Miracle Worker, The Belle of Amherst. Other: You Can’t Take It With You, Calendar Girls, It’s Only a Play (Phoenix Theatre); Fuddy Meers (Nearly Naked Theatre); Next Fall, Rabbit Hole, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Archbishop’s Ceiling, Dinner with Friends (Actors Theatre). Directing credits: Frog and Toad (Grand Canyon University), world premieres of The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus, Junie B Jones Is Not a Crook, The Smartest Girl in the World, Interrupting Vanessa, Girls Who Wear Glasses (Childsplay); The Revolutionists (Women’s Bridge Initiative), The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Southwest Shakespeare Company); 3 No Trump (Theaterworks); Mother Hicks, The Crucible, Wiley and the Hairy Man (Mesa Community College); Romeo and Juliet, The Bare Bones Project (Greasepaint Youtheatre); The Good Doctor (YETi). She holds a BA in Speech and Theatre (Western Kentucky University) and MA in Theatre (ASU).

Molly Lajoie (Choreographer) is an Ari-Zoni award-winning choreographer for her work on The Producers at Phoenix Theatre. Her Childsplay choreography credits include Rock the Presidents (Ari-Zoni nomination), Click Clack Moo (Ari-Zoni nomination), Peter and the Wolf, Go! Dog! Go!, Busytown and Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse (Ari-Zoni nomination). Other Valley credits include Gypsy (Ari-Zoni nomination), Curtains (Ari-Zoni nomination), The King and I, Nunsense, and One Mo’ Time. Molly has also directed and choreographed Valley Youth Theatre’s production of Snow White, Greasepaint’s School House Rock Live and Pennsylvania Youth Theatre’s Seussical, Jr. Some of Molly’s acting credits include White Christmas (Judy), A Chorus Line (Cassie), The Will Rogers Follies (Ziegfeld’s Favorite—Ari-Zoni Award nominee), Cats (Victoria), Beauty and the Beast (Babette) and Seussical (Bird Girl). She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. Molly currently teaches in the LOT department at ASU and well as classes for Childsplay and a professional musical theatre dance class for Phoenix Theatre.

Brunella Provvidente (Scenic Designer) earned her MFA in Performance Design from Arizona State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Directing by Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Recent productions as scenic designer include Breakfast with Mugabe, Blues in the Night, and And In This Corner Cassius Clay with Childsplay. Brunella is currently resident scenic designer for The Black Theatre Troupe 2019-2020 season, and she is thrilled to be part of the design team for Elephant and Piggie’s: We are in a Play!. 
Addy Diaz (Costume Designer) is always thrilled to get to work with Childsplay. Her previous Childsplay productions include Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook, Charlotte’s Web, and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Adriana has had the pleasure to work for many companies in the Phoenix area. Her design credits include Florencia en el Amazonas and Rusalka at Arizona Opera, and Calendar Girls, Evita, Over the Rainbow, Anything Goes, Memphis, Ruthless, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Love Makes The World Go Round and Altar Boys (Phoenix Theatre), Fairyworlds (Desert Botanical Garden and Southwest Shakespeare), King Lear, Equivocation, Taming of the Shrew, Christmas Carol (Southwest Shakespeare). As well as 9 to 5, Little Women, Hairspray, South Pacific (Hale Center Theatre), The Big Meal (Studio Theatre D.C), and Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (Adventure Theatre, MD). Adriana has her MFA from University of Maryland.

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

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 is 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, She Kills Monsters, and Disney’s Beauty and the Beast.
ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are In A Play!”
What do you think makes a great friend?
Here’s what they said:

Katie: There are so many things that make me feel brave! I feel brave when I perform on stage, when I’m up high in an airplane, or on a ski lift (I’m scared of heights), but I feel especially brave when I stand up and speak out in support of people who may need help.

Jon: Someone that you feel better talking with when you have a problem. Even when the subject of your problem never comes up.

Hannah: A great friend is someone who will enjoy the good parts of life like a good movie or dessert and also shows up when you need a hug or shoulder to cry on!

Sedona: I think what makes a great friend is spending quality time with your friends, and supporting them with love and encouragement!

Kat: One of my favorite things about being an actor is the new friends I make in every show! I think four of the most important ingredients to a great friendship are: trust, loyalty, acceptance, and SILLINESS! Laughter with a good friend can solve lots of problems!
ELEPHANT & PIGGIE SONG LIST

Lucky to See You
Skipping Ping-Pong Hats
Swimmy! Fancy!
Swimmy! Fancy Playoff!
Best-Off
Don’t Go
Ice Cream Hero
Ode to Toy
Toy Toss
Toy Breaker
Elephant in the Room
We’re in a Play!
We’re in a Playoff
We’ll Be Friends
We’ve Been Lucky
Ice Cream Bows

The Magic of Drama Continues at Childsplay Academy!

All year long, students ages 4-15 develop acting skills, build confidence, and make new friends in Saturday drama classes, weekday workshops, and school break camps. View the full list of programs at childsplayaz.org/classes.
CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP

Dwayne Hartford (Childsplay 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.
“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
CHILDSPLAY COMPANY AND STAFF CONTINUED

2019-2020
ACTING COMPANY
Savannah Alfred
Ricky Araiza
Kat Bailes
Shelly Boucher
Sara Bruton
Moises Castro
Michelle Chin
David Dickinson
Lynzee Forman
Jon Gentry
Kate Haas
Shawn Hansen
Beau Heckman
Katie McFadzen
Lauren McKay
Liz Neitge
Kerry Paige
Diego Salinas
Sarah Schalick
Kyle Sorrell
Debra K. Stevens
Tommy Strawser
Michael Thompson
Sedona Urias-Ramonett
Clinton Vance
Marshall Voiser
ASL Interpreters:
Judy Robbins
Dawn Schoenberger

2019-2020
TEACHING ARTISTS
Emily-Rae Abang
Korbi Adams
Oliverio Balcells
Laura Berger
Britain Bhattan
Katie Brantley
Shelly Boucher
Sarah Chanis
Michelle Chin
Nina Coble
Caleb Crawford
Brianna Fallon
Jennifer Gantwerker
Jon Gentry
Carmen Guerrero
Kate Haas
Keath Hall
Ben Harris
Marcos Hernandez
Garrett Hicks
Kristina Kirkham
Carlos A. Lara
Tony Latham
Mary Ellen Loose
Kim Manning
Rachel McCabe
Katie McFadzen
Racquel McKenzie
Sean Medlin
John Moum
Jenna Nilson
Molly Lajoie Plutnicki
Elizabeth Polen
Angelina Ramirez
Claire Redfield
Julio-César Saucedo
Sarah Schalick
Alli St. John
Lauran Stanis
Debra K. Stevens
Tommy Strawser
Thomas Underdal
Carlos Uterby
Karilyn Veres
Jodie L. Weiss
Cam Oakes
Kat Bailes
Kathleen Berger
Mandy Tompkins
Anne-Lise Koyabe
Mikayla Wilkerson

ABOUT CHILDSPLAY
480-921-5700 ★ WWW.CHILDSPLAYAZ.ORG

★ Childsplay, founded in 1977, is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, teaching and performing for young audiences and families.

★ Childsplay’s mission 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, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

★ This season, Childsplay expects to give 700 performances for nearly a quarter million young people in schools and on public stages throughout the state and country.

★ Childsplay launched its first national tour in 2007, with Tomás and the Library Lady. Since then the company has completed 11 more national tours throughout the United States (including Alaska!) and Canada. This season, Childsplay will send both Maddi’s Fridge and The Snowy Day out on national tour!

★ Childsplay’s administrative offices, classrooms, rehearsal halls, prop and costume shops are located at the Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park, 900 South Mitchell Drive, Tempe.

★ Childsplay is a constituent of Arizona Citizens for the Arts, East Valley Partnership, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre; TYA/USA, the U.S. Chapter of ASSITEJ, the international organization for theatre for young audiences; the Tempe Chamber of Commerce; the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Alliance of Arizona Non-Profits; and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE).
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

VISIONARY - $2,000,000 AND ABOVE
Sybil B. Harrington Trust

TRANSFORMER - $1,000,000 AND ABOVE
City of Tempe*
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Childsplay gratefully acknowledges our Annual Members, who have contributed annual gifts of $1,000 or more as of June 30, 2019.

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Find out more about our field trips, in-school performances, after school and professional development programs at: childsplayaz.org/schools