## *Childsplay Theatre on Tour presents*

## *The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats*

## Adapted for the stage by Jerome Hairston

## Based on the book by Ezra Jack Keats

Directed by Katie McFadzen

Scenic Design: Douglas Clarke

Costume Design: Gail Wolfenden-Steib

Sound Design: Christopher Neumeyer

Lighting Design: William Kirkham

Puppet Design: Liz Ihlenfeld

Projection Design: Dallas Nichols

Stage Manager: Ryan Clark

Assistant Stage Manager: Ambar Dominguez

*Produced by special arrangement with*

*Plays for Young Audiences*

**All playbills must include this biography of Ezra Jack Keats:**

*Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) was a pioneer in American children’s literature. He based the lives of his multicultural characters on his childhood but added loving parents, friends and pets. He wanted no child to be an outsider. More at* [*www.ezra-jack-keats.org*](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org)*.*

**THE CAST**

Woman…Savannah Alfred

Man 1…Michael Thompson

Man 2… Abraham Shaw

**Savannah Alfred** (*Woman*) is beyond thrilled to be on her first national tour with Childsplay. Previously with the company she has played the Evil Stepsister Hattie in *Ella Enchanted: The Musical*, Mother/Daisy in the local tour of *Eric and Elliot*, Tootie Tickham in the stage adaptation of *Flora and Ulysses*, and also was a part of the original cast of *The Snowy Day* in 2018. She is an Arizona-based singer, dancer, and actress who performs all around the Valley. Some of her other most notable rolls include Ensemble in *Kinky Boots* at The Phoenix Theatre Company, Alice in *Big River* at The Hale Centre Theatre and Woman 1 in *And The World Goes ‘Round: The Songs of Kander and Ebb* at Scottsdale Center for the Arts. Along with performing, she is also a Teaching Artist with Childsplay and teaches various classes throughout the year.

**Michael Thompson** (*Man 1*)is ecstatic to be returning to Childsplay for his fourth season. Previous Childsplay productions: *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Goodnight Moon*, *Yellow Boat*, and the national tour of *Go, Dog. Go!* as the Red Dog. Other Arizona credits: *Scottsboro Boys*(Phoenix Theatre)*, Rock of Ages*(Arizona Broadway Theatre)*, Milk Milk Lemonade* (Stray Cat Theatre -- AriZoni for Best Supporting Actor in a Play), *Gutenberg! The Musical!* (A/C Theatre Company), *Australia*(Space 55), *Kinky Boots*(Phoenix Theatre), *Rent* (Desert Stages Theatre), *Toxic Avenger* (Mesa Encore Theatre), *Brothers Size*(Stray Cat Theatre -- AriZoni for Best Actor in a Play)*, closet.drama* (Progressive Theatre Workshop), *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Black Theatre Troupe), *Heathers: the musical*(Stray Cat Theatre), and *Hairspray* (Phoenix Theatre, Valley Youth Theatre, Arizona Broadway Theatre). He graduated from Arizona State University with a BA in Theatre.

**Abraham Shaw** (*Man 2*)is thrilled to be working with Childsplay Theater. Some of his favorite credits include It's A Wonderful Life (George Bailey), Dreamgirls (Curtis Taylor,Jr.), The Crucible (Rev. John Hale), and The Drowsy Chaperone (Aldolpho). He is the first African American to win 1st Place in the St. Louis Chapter's National Society of Arts and Letters' Drama Competition. He was also awarded Second Place in Drama at the national level in Washington D.C. Much love to Mom for her continued support! [www.abrahamshaw.com](http://www.abrahamshaw.com/).

**THE CREATIVE TEAM**

**Gail Wolfenden-Steib** (*Costume Designer*)is an award-winning theatrical costume designer based in Phoenix, Arizona and is delighted to be designing for Childsplay this season. She has been the resident costume designer for Stageworks at the Mesa Arts Center, Phoenix Theatre and Phoenix Theatre’s Cookie Company. Her design and construction work has been seen on numerous stages around the valley since 1994. This past summer marked her 21st season as the costume painter/dyer for the Tony Award Winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. In 2007 she presented the sold out professional development workshop on costume distressing at the USITT national conference in Phoenix. She has been working as a draper in the Childsplay costume shop the past 5 seasons.

**Douglas Clarke** (*Scenic Designer*) Recent designs: *The Phantom Tollbooth, Interrupting Vanessa, Smartest Girl in the World, & Super Cowgirl* and *Mighty Miracle* (Childsplay), *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook, Knuffle Bunny, Oliver!, & Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (Adventure Theatre), *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook* (Children’s Theatre of Charlotte), *Show Boat, Oliver!, A Christmas Story, & Fiddler on the Roof* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *The Scottsboro Boys, Twist Your Dickens, The All Night Strut, Calendar Girls, & End of the Rainbow* - ariZoni Award (Phoenix Theatre), *Men on Boats, She Kills Monsters, & The Hungry Woman* (Arizona State), *Hairspray & A Christmas Story* (Town Hall Arts Center), *Rabbit Hole & Night Mother* - Henry Award Nominations (Vintage Theatre, CO), *Coffee and Biscuit* (Fallen Swallow/Laughing Pigeon), *Unity 1918,* U.S. Premiere (Project: Theater). Douglas also presented Dead Man’s Cell Phone as part of the World Stage Design 2017 exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan. BFA - ASU, MFA - UMD. douglasclarkedesign.com

**Liz Ihlenfeld***(Puppet Designer)* fell in love with theater when she was seven years old attending Cranbrook Theatre School in Michigan and has always had theater as a part of her life ever since. Liz has a BFA and MFA in Costume Design from Central Michigan and Indiana University respectively. Liz has worked in the valley and Flagstaff as a costume designer, interior designer, teacher and cutter/draper since 1996. She is now a freelance designer and cutter/draper for Childsplay. Some of her favorite designs include the costume and puppet design for *The Grumpist Boy in the World*, puppet/doll design for *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *The Imaginators* for Childsplay, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for Phoenix Theatre and *1940’s Radio Hour* for Scottsdale Community College and NAU. Liz has worked with the Grand Canyon Shakespeare Festival, Actors’ Repertory Theatre of Sedona, Arizona Theater Works (Flagstaff), Cranbrook Theater School, Saginaw Valley Community, Arizona Jewish Theatre, Scottsdale Community College, Childsplay, Cookie Company, Phoenix Theatre and Northern Arizona University.

**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 multimedia projects, corporate DVD’s, and feature films.

**Dallas Robert Nichols** *(Projection Designer)* is a Tempe, Arizona-based Lighting and Video Designer. Previous work includes operating projections for Cirque du Soleil at *Viva Elvis, Iris: A Journey Through The World of Cinema*,and *Michael Jackson ONE*. He is an Associate Artist with the Rogue Artist's Ensemble of Los Angeles and has designed video for their shows *Zen Shorts, Senor Plummer's Final Fiesta,*and received an ovation nomination for his design of *Wood Boy Dog Fish*. In addition, he has had created video alongside the experiential group Little Cinema for the premiere party of TNT's *I Am The Night* and the 2019 Television Critics Awards HBO after party. Dallas received his MFA from Arizona State University and currently works as an Experiential Designer with EMN8 Creative designing visuals for corporate clients like Cognizant, John Deere, and Williams Sonoma. [www.dallasnichols.com](http://www.dallasnichols.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Ambar Dominguez** (*Assistant* *Stage Manager*)is so excited to be working with Childsplay for their national tour of *Snowy Day*! She is currently a sophomore, Theatre & Film major at Mesa Community College. She has been the Stage Manager for *The Sum of Me* (Y.E.T.I); *Top Girls* (MCC);Assistant Stage Manager for *Artist of Promise, Noises Off, The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow,* and *Immersive Total Patient Management Experience* (MCC);and Lighting Designer for *Eurydice,* and*Of Mice and Men*.

**Katie McFadzen** (*Director*) has been with Childsplay as an Associate Artist, actor, and teaching artist since 1993. Recent directing credits include: The Snowy Day (Childsplay), and The Trump Card and The Cake (Stray Cat Theatre). Childsplay acting credits include: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Flora and Ulysses*, *The Yellow Boat*, *A Hairy Javelina Holiday*, *Wonderland*, *Pete or The Return of Peter Pan*, and *Pero or The Mysteries of the Night*. Other Phoenix acting 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, Whitewater and an MFA in Theatre for Youth from ASU.