

**CHILDSPLAY THEATRE PRESENTS**

# RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER™

**Based on the animated television special:**  
“*Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*” adapted from the  
story by Robert L. May and the song by Johnny Marks

**Music and Lyrics by:** Johnny Marks

**Script Adaptation by:** Robert Penola

**Developed by:** Character Arts Creations, LLC

**Originally produced, directed and conceived by:**  
Jeff Frank and First Stage

**Original scenic and puppet designs by:** Brandon Kirkham

**Arrangements by:** Timothy Splain

**Orchestrations by:** William C. White

**Directed by:** Dwayne Hartford

**Choreographer:** Kat Bailes

**Projection Design:** Jake Pinholster

**Music Director:** Randi Rudolph

**Scenic Designer:** Aaron Jackson

**Costume Design:** Connie Furr

**Sound Design:** Connor Adams

**Lighting Design:** William Kirkham

**Stage Manager:** Phoenix Jacob

**NOVEMBER 7 – DECEMBER 24, 2021**  
**Herberger Theater Center – Stage West**

*Storybook Preview Sponsor*



*Season Sponsor*

*Billie Jo & Judd*  
**HERBERGER**

**Running Time: 60 MINUTES**

# CHILDSPLAY THEATRE

## Dear Friends,

It is so wonderful to see you! When the world came to a stop in March 2020, most of us thought we would be back to “normal” in a matter of weeks, or at most a few months. Little did we know what the pandemic and world events had in store. There has been so much suffering and loss, including within our own families. To those who have experienced loss, we offer our deepest sympathies.

Theatre is by its definition a communal and collaborative art form. It pained us not to be able to gather in one place with you to celebrate imagination and wonder, as we have done since 1977. But, the thoughtful and creative people at Childsplay didn't let a global pandemic stop us from pursuing our mission.

When theaters closed, we explored different ways to share stories with you. We created digital content for families and schools, our Academy and residency programs went virtual, and we learned how to teach drama classes over Zoom. We also developed ways to engage families with YouTube videos featuring stories, games, and activities.

45,000 students enjoyed our virtual field trips over the 20/21 school year. We created and filmed four one-person plays, which we offered online to schools at no cost. In partnership with the Maricopa County Library District, we also offered these plays as a series of live drive-in performances at their library parking lots, where families could watch from the safety of their automobiles. Finally, with strict safety protocols and a dose of creativity, we produced *A Christmas Carol* at the Herberger Theater Center's temporary outdoor stage.

Now we are back inside the theater, and you are here with us. We don't take either of those two facts lightly. Thank you for trusting us to provide strikingly original theatre for your family in an environment that is safe for all involved. Together we will get the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and move onto a brave new future.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, along with many other productions you will see in the coming years, are all part of our commitment to children—to their stories, their lives, their concerns, and their dreams. Thanks to your support, Childsplay will be here, nurturing and preserving imagination and wonder when this global pandemic is a distant memory.

With gratitude,

**Dwayne Hartford**, *Artistic Director*  
**Steve Martin**, *Managing Director*  
**Matthew Benjamin**, *President, Board of Trustees*

*Childsplay acknowledges that modern-day Phoenix, including the Herberger Theater Center, sits on the traditional lands of the Akimel O’odham (Pima) and the Tohono O’odham and before that their ancestors (Hohokam) as well as the Pee-Posh (Maricopa).*

*This place where we live and work has been and continues to be the home of indigenous peoples since time immemorial. Our desert metropolis exists today thanks to the ingenuity of these people in creating a vast system of irrigation canals.*

## THE CAST

*Donner/Misfit Toy/Elf*..... Matravius Avent  
*Mrs. Claus/King Moonracer/Young Reindeer* ..... Jacqui Castillo  
*Hermey/Young Reindeer*.....Tommy Francesco  
*Sam* ..... Jon Gentry  
*Coach Comet/Yukon Cornelius/Elf*..... Katie McFadzen  
*Clarice/Misfit Toy/Elf*..... Anna Sera  
*Mrs. Donner/Boss Elf/Misfit Toy*..... Debra K Stevens  
*Rudolph* .....Thomas (Tommy) Strawser  
*Fireball/Elf/Misfit Toy-Charlie-in-the-Box*..... Michael Thompson  
*Santa Claus/Misfit Toy/Elf*..... Marshall Vosler



**Matravius Avent** (*Donner/Misfit Toy/Elf*) is elated to be making his Childsplay debut in *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Credits include: *Big Band Beat* (Tokyo Disney Resort), *Camelot*, *Something Rotten*, *Elf* (The Phoenix Theatre Company), *Sister Act*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *Swing!* (Dutch Apple Dinner Theater). Matravius also performs as a concert vocalist throughout the valley. BM University of Denver, MM Arizona State University. Instagram @matravius [www.matravius.com](http://www.matravius.com)



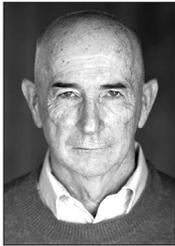
**Tommy Francesco** (*Hermey/Young Reindeer*) is thrilled to be making his stage debut with Childsplay this season! Over the last few years, Tommy’s main focus has been on teaching artistry and graduate school. He can also be seen locally as a drag performer and lounge singer. Previous projects include: *Jurassic Fight Night* (Land of Pangea), *Today the Archive Told Me* (MFA Applied Project), *Light Rail Plays* (Rising Youth Theatre),

(Continued)

## THE CAST *(Continued)*

*Breath* (Parachute Theatre), *The Music Man* (PHX Orpheum), *A Hometown Christmas* (JR Productions), *Is He Dead?* (Hale Center Theatre), *Babes in Arms*, *Man of La Mancha* (SVU). IPAY Jim Rye Fellowship Recipient, 2018. Tommy holds a BA in Theatre from Southern Virginia University and an MFA in Theatre for Youth and communities at ASU.

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**Jon Gentry (Sam)** began working full time for Childsplay in 1982 as an actor/teacher. He is now an Associate Artist with the ensemble. Childsplay shows include *The Yellow Boat*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Charlotte's Web*. During the pandemic, he appeared on screens in schools across the state in *SEEN*. Jon spent six months in residency in the Netherlands when the Childsplay show *Scissors Rock, Paper* was reimaged as the Dutch play *Stein, Papier, Schaar*. Jon has performed in *Angels In America*, parts

1 and 2, *The Producers*, *The Pillowman* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. In 2009, Jon was awarded a Lunt/Fontanne Fellowship.

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**Katie McFadzen (Coach Comet/Yukon Cornelius/Elf)** is an Associate Artist with Childsplay and has worked as an actor, teaching artist, and director with the company since 1993. Favorite Childsplay acting credits include: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Flora & Ulysses*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Seussical*, *The BFG*, and *Getting Near to Baby*. Additional acting credits include: *Mamma Mia*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *The Women* with

Phoenix Theatre; *Good People*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, and *Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show* with Actors Theatre; *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Great Gatsby*, and a one-woman version of *A Christmas Carol* with Arizona Theatre Company (also produced at Childsplay); *Rasheeda Speaking* and *The Wedding Band* with Black Theatre Troupe; ... *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Speech and Debate*, and *The Year of the Rooster* with Stray Cat Theatre. Katie holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University. She is a Faculty Associate in ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law where she co-teaches Persuasive Speech.



**Luz Navarro** (*Mrs. Claus/King Moonracer/Young Reindeer*)

is honored and thrilled to be in her first Childsplay production. Previous credits include: *Antigona 3.0* (Borderlands Theater/Teatro Bravo), *Antigone at the Border* (Borderlands Theatre), *Little Women* (Arizona Regional Theatre), *In The Heights* (Mesa Encore Theatre), *Return To Rosie's Pub* (Brelby Theatre Company) and *In The Heights* (Desert Foothills Theater). Luz, originally from Guaymas, Mexico, also serves as a core ensemble member

in Phoenix's first Latinx theater company, Teatro Bravo. She hopes this production brings you joy and makes your holiday season merry and bright.

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**Anna Sera** (*Clarice/Misfit Toy/Elf*) is thrilled to be making her Childsplay performing debut. Previous productions include *Woman 1/Ensemble in Songs for a New World* (Zao Theatre), *Sophie U/S in Mamma Mia* (Almost Famous Theatre), *Jenny Hildebrand in Street Scene* (ASU Musical Theatre and Opera), *Melissa in Runaways* (ASU Musical Theatre and Opera), and *Wednesday Addams in The Addams Family* (NDP Players). In 2016, Anna was awarded the ASU Gammage

High School Musical Theater Award for Best Vocalist for her performance as Sandra Bloom in *Big Fish*. Anna will be graduating with a BM in Musical Theatre from Arizona State University in Spring 2022.

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**Debra K Stevens** (*Mrs. Donner/Boss Elf/Misfit Toy*) is an Associate Artist who has been with Childsplay since 1982, where her acting credits include *Charlotte's Web*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Pandora's Box*, *Still Life with Iris*, *The Yellow Boat*, *The Belle Of Amherst*, *The Miracle Worker*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and more.

Other acting credits include *It's Only a Play*, *Calendar Girls*, and most recently *Dr. Ruth* in the one-woman show

*Becoming Dr. Ruth* (TPTC); *Next Fall*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *The Archbishop's Ceiling* (Actors' Theatre); and *Fuddy Meers* (Nearly Naked Theatre).

Debra has directed world premieres of *Junie B Jones is Not a Crook*, *The Smartest Girl in the World*, *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*, and *Girls Who Wear Glasses* (Childsplay). She has also directed extensively around the Valley for Theatreworks, GCU, MCC, Greasepaint, The Bridge Initiative, and TPTC later this season. Debra holds a Bachelor's degree from Western KY University and a Master's degree from ASU.

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## THE CAST *(Continued)*



**Thomas (Tommy) Strawser (*Rudolph*)** has been an Actor and Teaching Artist with Childsplay since 2013. Favorite past Childsplay highlights include Connor (*Suzette Who Set To Sea*), Wilbur (*Charlotte's Web*), Ulysses (*Flora & Ulysses*), Caterpillar (*Wonderland*), Tooth Fairy (*Goodnight Moon*), Myron (*Sideways Stories from Wayside School*), and Scott (*Apollo: to the Moon*). He has also been behind the scenes as Music Director for the national tour of *Snowy Day*, Assistant Music Director for the national tour of *Go Dog. Go!*, and Music Coach for *Tomás and the Library Lady*, and composed the music for Childsplay's online show *SEEN*. Tommy has been involved in other Valley arts organizations including Arizona Opera, Phoenix Theatre Company, Showtune Productions, Arizona Broadway Theatre, and Detour Company Theatre. He is also a professional singer with the Grammy-Award winning Phoenix Chorale and staff singer at Pinnacle Presbyterian. Tommy holds a Master of Music in Opera/Musical Theatre Performance from ASU and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

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**Michael Thompson (*Fireball/Elf/Misfit Toy-Charlie-in-the-box*)** is excited to be back at Childsplay. His previous Childsplay productions were *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Goodnight Moon*, *The Yellow Boat*, and *Go, Dog. Go!* National Tour. Some of his other credits include: *The Antipodes* (Stray Cat Theatre), *Rock of Ages* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *Scottsboro Boys* (Phoenix Theatre), *MilkMilkLemonade* (Stray Cat Theatre-ariZoni Award), *Responsible* (Space 55), *The Brothers Size* (Stray Cat Theatre-ariZoni Award), and *Hairspray* (Phoenix Theatre, Valley Youth Theatre and Arizona Broadway Theatre). He received his BA in Theatre from Arizona State University.

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**Marshall Vosler (*Santa Claus/Misfit Toy/Elf*)** is positively stoked to be returning to the Childsplay stage. *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* marks Marshall's fourth production with the company. Previous Childsplay credits include *Pete, or the Return of Peter Pan*, *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, and *Suzette Who Set to Sea*. Through an apprenticeship with Zarco Guerrero, Marshall studies the art of mask making and puppetry, and does puppet and mask-oriented performances in various festivals

throughout the year with Cultural Coalition, in events such as Mask Alive and Mikiztli (Cultural Coalition's Dia de los Muertos celebration). Marshall is an Arizona State University alumnus, with a BA in Theatre.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM .....

**Dwayne Hartford (Director/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 in 2016 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.

**Randi Ellen Rudolph (Music Director)** is a music director, collaborative pianist, and conductor who recently moved to Phoenix to pursue her DMA in Conducting at Arizona State University. She works as a music director on musicals and operas throughout the country, and she has performed at The Phoenix Theatre Company, Red Mountain Theatre, Highlands Playhouse, and Moonlight Stage Productions. She received the Louis J. Sudler Prize in Music for conducting and was named a semi-finalist in the national American Prize competition for her work in musical theater conducting. As a teacher and educator, Randi has a private vocal coaching, audition prep, and piano studio. She holds a MM in Opera and Musical Theater Conducting from Ithaca College and a BA in Music from Stanford University. [randiellenrudolph.com](http://randiellenrudolph.com)

**Kat Bailes (Choreographer)** is thrilled to celebrate the holidays with Childsplay! A born-and-raised Arizonan and graduate of ASU and AMDA, Kat performs and choreographs at theaters all around the Valley. She last appeared at Childsplay as Olive in *Ella Enchanted* and as a Squirrelle in *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Other recent productions she has performed in or choreographed 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 Theater), and *Bullets Over Broadway*

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## THE CREATIVE TEAM *(Continued)*

(The Phoenix Theatre Company). Currently she can be found doing the Time Warp in *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Phoenix Theatre Company.

**Connie Furr (Costume Designer)** Returning to Childsplay, her theatre credits include: *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), *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, and *Goodnight Moon* (Childsplay Theatre), *The Nearly True Story of the Mamas and Papas* (premiere) (Phoenix Theatre Company), *Seven Seasons* (Palm Springs Follies). Opera: *Pique Dame* (Syracuse Opera), *La Cenerentola* and *Fidelio* (Orlando Opera). Television: *Salsa*. Exhibitions: 2003, 2007 Prague Quadrennial, 2005 USITT World Stage Design and 2015 Bakhrushin Museum, Publishing: *Liberace, Extravaganza!*

**William C. Kirkham (Lighting Designer)** Previously at Childsplay: *Ella Enchanted*, *Flora and Ulysses*, *The Yellow Boat*, *Pete*, and many others. Regional Credits include: Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, ArtsWest Playhouse, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Lookingglass Theatre Company, The Hypocrites, Portland Center Stage, Sideshow Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. His work has received Joseph Jefferson and Suzi Bass Awards. When William is not making art, he is spending time with his husband Travis, his dogs Benson and Theo, and teaching at Arizona State University where he is a faculty member. [wckirkham.com](http://wckirkham.com)

**Jake Pinholster (Projection Designer)** Associate Professor of Media Design and Associate Dean at the ASU Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, head of design training program specializing in projection/media design for performance. Founding director of the ASU @ Mesa City Center emerging media technologies center. Associate artist with Les Freres Corbusier. Childsplay: *Chato's Kitchen*. Broadway: *The Pee Wee Herman Show*. Off-Broadway: *Escape from Bellevue*, *Boozy* (LFC). New York: David Dorfman Dance's underground (BAM), *Hoover!*, *Dance Dance Revolution*, *HeddaTRON* (LFC), *Dixie's Tupperware Party*. Regional: *Most Beautiful Home Maybe* (Mixed Blood), *Riders of the Purple Sage* (AZ Opera), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Center Theater Group), *Current Nobody* (La Jolla Playhouse, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). TV: *Carrie Fisher: Wishful Drinking* (HBO), *The Pee Wee Herman Show* (HBO).

**Aaron Jackson (Scenic Designer)** has been designing for Childsplay for many years. Some of his favorite designs include *Ella Enchanted*, *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, *Robin Hood*, *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Miss Nelson is Missing*. Other area credits include *Once*, *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, *Rent*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Daddy Long Legs* and most recently *Camelot* for the Phoenix Theatre Company. Aaron spent 14 seasons as the resident designer for Shakespeare by the Sea in Los Angeles designing for over 28 productions and has designed for numerous cruise lines including Holland America Line, Celebrity Cruises, Oceania and Regent. He was a Design Producer for the final season of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* (ABC) and worked as a Layout Designer for *Star Wars: A Galactic Extravaganza* at Disney Hollywood Studios (Orlando, FL). Aaron is a co-founder of 2 Creative Entertainment which creates and produces live productions for various entertainment venues. Most recently, he created and directed *Soulbound* and *Voodoo Moon* for Carnival Cruise Lines which can be found on numerous ships in their fleet including the brand-new Carnival Mardi Gras. He is also a co-founder of Wild Hare Escapes and serves as their art director creating digital worlds for their online escape rooms. Aaron resides in Long Beach, CA and holds a MFA from Rutgers University. Websites: [ajacksondesigns.com](http://ajacksondesigns.com); [2CreativeEntertainment.com](http://2CreativeEntertainment.com); [WildHareEscapes.com](http://WildHareEscapes.com)

**Connor Adams (Sound Designer)** has been working as a Sound Designer and Engineer in the Valley and nationwide for over a decade. He aims to bring an elevated sense of musicality and intelligibility to the work that he creates and is thrilled to be making theater again. Some of his proudest work includes engineering/mixing last years' *A Christmas Carol* (Childsplay) and designing/mixing *The Addams Family*, *The 39 Steps* (Fort Peck Summer Theatre), and *35mm* (Arizona State University).

**Phoenix Jacob (Stage Manager)** is a freelance stage manager and theatrical technician based in Phoenix, Arizona. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Communications specializing in Design/Technical Theatre from Bowling Green State University in 2017, and during that time was awarded three certificates of merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for his work as production stage manager on *Middletown* (2016), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2016), and *Twelfth Night* (2017). He was also granted the 2017 Outstanding Senior Award in Theatrical Production. He further pursued a Master of Arts in Theatre from Bowling Green State University in 2018-19, where his research focused on transgender theatre and adaptations of Shakespeare for contemporary cultural contexts. He relocated to the valley in the summer of 2019, and has since worked with several companies including Stage Dreams Youth Theatre, the Phoenix Symphony, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Teatro Bravo, and (of course) Childsplay.

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## THE CREATIVE TEAM *(Continued)*

**Robert Penola (*Playwright*)** For more than 25 years, Bob has been in the business of show. After touring the world as a performer, Bob settled in NYC and was accepted into the prestigious BMI Lehman-Engel Musical Theatre Workshop as a lyricist. While there, he wrote many adaptations for children's stories which toured extensively with American Family Theatre (Philadelphia). A proud member of the SDC, Bob naturally brings theatrical storytelling to any project he touches, and has helped transform corporate events into moving experiences—as a result, Bob has conceived, created and directed literally hundreds of corporate meetings, events, product launches and commercial theatrical productions for a wide variety of satisfied clients, including Oprah Winfrey (LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE Tour). In addition to his corporate work, Bob is an award-winning playwright. His musical revue *Heartbeat It's a Lovebeat* won the Bistro Award in NYC as Outstanding Musical Revue, and played to sold-out houses in NYC and London for over three years. Bob has also created and directed custom musical shows for Regent Seven Seas and Seabourn luxury cruise lines, and for Busch Gardens, Opryland and SeaWorld Entertainment theme parks. Bob's favorite project has been adapting and bringing to life the beloved holiday classic *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* on stage as a live musical. Bob splits time, on or near the water, between NYC, NJ and Brazil, from which his partner Oswaldo hails.

## CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP .....

**Steve Martin (*Managing Director*)** is in his 20th 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 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.

**RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER  
SONG LIST**

*Overture*

*A Holly Jolly Christmas*

*Jingle, Jingle, Jingle*

*We Are Santa's Elves (instrumental)*

*We're a Couple of Misfits (Intro)*

*Jingle, Jingle, Jingle (Reprise)*

*There's Always Tomorrow*

*We're a Couple of Misfits (Continued)*

*We Are Santa's Elves*

*We're a Couple of Misfits*

*Fame and Fortune*

*Entr'acte*

*Silver and Gold*

*The Most Wonderful Day of the Year  
(The Island of Misfit Toys)*

*There's Always Tomorrow (Reprise)*

*The Snowstorm*

*We Are Santa's Elves (Reprise)*

*A Holly Jolly Christmas (Reprise)*

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

“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*

**Dwayne Hartford** ..... *Artistic Director*  
**Steve Martin** ..... *Managing Director*  
**Jenny Millinger** ..... *Associate Artistic Director*  
**David P. Saar** ..... *Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus*

**ADMINISTRATION**

Ellen Conn, *General Manager*  
 Emily Hopfauf, *Bookkeeper*  
 Ricky Araiza, *Office Manager & Gala Assistant*  
 Greg Estrada, *Custodian*  
 Dawn Brown, *Finance Consultant*  
 Molly Miller, *Office Volunteer*

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTS**

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

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Brianna Fallon, *Academy Manager*  
 Thomas Underdal, *Academy Associate*  
 Averi Gutierrez, *Director of Marketing & Media*  
 Megan Mayo, *Marketing & Media Assistant*  
 Katie Brantley, *Director of Education  
& School Programs*  
 Jacqui Castillo, *School Relationship and  
Booking Coordinator*  
 Sonia Rodriguez Wood, *School Relationship  
& Booking Coordinator*  
 Ernesto Ortiz, *Director of Development*  
 Karen Peirce, *Development Associate*  
 Jodie Weiss, *Events Coordinator*  
 MaryLisa McKallor, *Education &  
Development Associate*  
 Jane Gerke, *Company Graphic Designer*  
 Tim Trumble, *Company Photographer*

**COSTUMES & WARDROBE**

Emma Jackson, *Wardrobe Supervisor/Stitcher*  
 Gail Wolfenden-Steib, *Cutter/Draper*  
 Lydia Harmon, *Cutter/Draper*

**PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Rachel Solis, *Production Manager*  
 Mara Nadolski, *Associate Production Manager*  
 Kody Hernandez, *Stage Manager*  
 Ryan Clark, *Stage Manager*  
 Phoenix Jacob, *Stage Manager*  
 Emma Walz, *Assistant Stage Manager*  
 Sarah Ayers, *Stage Crew*  
 Dan Cocca, *Stage Crew*

**SCENERY & PROPERTIES**

Daniel Williams, *Technical Director*  
 David Singleton, *Properties Master*  
 Julia Rogge, *Scenic Charge Artist*

**LIGHTING**

Bret Reese, *Master Electrician*

**ASL INTERPRETERS**

Judy Robbins  
 Dawn Schoenberger

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# ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*: **What is something from the holidays that makes you feel nostalgic?**

**Here's what they said:**

**Tommy:** "Ugly sweaters, eggnog, cinnamon-scented pine cones, and tamales are pretty much my favorite things about the holidays!"

**Marshall:** "Christmas trees make me feel nostalgic every holiday season. As a kid, I always enjoyed going with my family to pick out a Christmas tree for our living room."

**Matravius:** "Driving around looking at house decorations and listening to Christmas music."

**Anna:** "Something that makes me nostalgic is my mom's biscotti. She only makes it for the holidays and when I was little she would always let me eat the end pieces."

**Thomas:** "Definitely the lights! As a kid, we would drive around the neighborhoods and take in all the beautiful lights and decorations. And if it snowed that day, they would look magical! I am very excited to take my own kid out to look at holiday decorations this year."

**Katie:** "Holiday nostalgia? I could write an entire essay! But here's a brief list: The smell of the live Christmas tree and evergreen scented candles, my mom's pecan cookies (we would sneak these out of the special 'for guests only' Tupperware container when she wasn't looking), and the vintage lights and ornaments that went on the tree year after year. AND of course, watching Rudolph on TV every year!"

**Debra:** "I think something that makes me nostalgic is remembering all of the rituals and traditions my family had when we were all able to be together—decorating the tree and dancing, eating my sister's homemade cinnamon bread on Christmas Eve, and a very silly rendition of *Sleigh Ride* by Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme horribly lipsynched by my brother and me!"

**Luz:** "Driving around looking at lights and then falling asleep to Christmas music playing on the radio."

## CHILDSPLAY COMPANY AND STAFF *(Continued)*

### 2021-2022 ACTING COMPANY

|                 |                  |                   |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Matravius Avent | Lauren McKay     | Lillie Richardson | Rodrigues        |
| Tommy Francesco | Andréa Morales   | Michael Salinas   | Michael Thompson |
| Anissa Garza    | Celena Morgan    | Anna Sera         | Sedona Valdez    |
| Jon Gentry      | Luz Navarro      | Debra K. Stevens  | Marshall Vosler  |
| Jermame Jackson | Issie Ocampo     | Thomas Strawser   |                  |
| Katie McFadzen  | Greta Perlmutter | Bruno Streck      |                  |

### 2021-2022 TEACHING ARTISTS

|                |                  |                   |                     |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Emily Burritt  | Isabel Julazadeh | Julia Murphy      | Julio-César Saucedo |
| Sarah Chanis   | Kendra Kahl      | Cam Oakes         | Alli St. John       |
| Jen Gantwerker | Molly Lajoie     | Dorian Peterson   | Emily-Rae Tietz     |
| Keath Hall     | Mary Ellen Loose | Elizabeth Polen   | Thomas Underdal     |
| Kate Haas      | Kim Manning      | Calli Rasmussen   | Lauren Westphal     |
| Garrett Hicks  | Rachel McCabe    | Lillie Richardson | Jason White         |
| Katie'B Jarvis | Maddy Moreland   | Ericca Rose       | Mikayla Wilkerson   |



480-921-5700 | 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, 2021.*

*\*Indicates Annual Society Membership as well*

### VISIONARY: \$2,000,000 & ABOVE

Sybil B. Harrington Trust  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust\*

### TRANSFORMER: \$1,000,000 & ABOVE

City of Tempe\*  
US Department of Education

### INNOVATOR: \$500,000 AND ABOVE

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The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation  
Flinn Foundation\*  
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Target  
The Steele Foundation\*

### ENERGIZER: \$250,000 & ABOVE

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### ORIGINATOR: \$100,000 & ABOVE

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*in loving memory of Gwen Van Kirk*  
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### PIONEER: \$50,000 & ABOVE

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*(Continued)*

## SOCIETY FOR IMAGINATION AND WONDER LIFETIME MEMBERS

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## SOCIETY FOR IMAGINATION AND WONDER ANNUAL MEMBERS

*Childsplay gratefully acknowledges our Annual Members, who have contributed annual gifts of \$1,000 or more as of June 30, 2021.*

### **ADVENTURER: \$5,000 AND ABOVE**

#### **EXPLORER: \$2,500 AND ABOVE**

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