

**Childsplay Theatre
in Association with
Rockefeller Productions Presents**



**Created by Jonathan Rockefeller
Based on Eric Carle's Books**

Directed by Dwayne Hartford

Costume Design: D. Daniel Hollingshead

Set Design: David Goldstein

Lighting Design: Cody Soper, Inspired by David Goldstein

Composer: Nate Edmonson

Stage Manager: Phoenix Jacob

**FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 13, 2022
Herberger Theater Center-Stage West**

Special Support for this Production Provided by

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Season Sponsor

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Storybook Preview Sponsor

 **THE
STEELE
FOUNDATION**

Running Time: 50 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. 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.

More than 45,000 students enjoyed our virtual field trips over the 2020-21 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 on to a brave new future.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, 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,

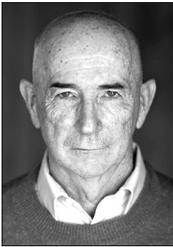
Dwayne Hartford, *Artistic Director*

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



Jon Gentry (Actor) 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.



Katie McFadzen (Actor) 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.

(Continued)

THE CAST *(Continued)*



Lillie Richardson (Actor), a professional Regional Theatre Actress, joined Childsplay's ensemble in 1988 touring with the company for several seasons and has continued to work as a teaching artist for the company. Ms Richardson's theatrical career began in such Childsplay productions as *Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Embroidered Yarns*. Her regional theatre credits include: *Detroit 67*, *Lines in the Dust*, *Sunshine Boys*, *Rasheeda Speaking*, *The Women*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Fences* (AriZoni Best Actress), *Wedding Band* (AriZoni Best Actress), *Angels in America Part I and II*, *Doubt*, *King Hedley II*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Wit* and *Speed the Plow*. Film and television credits include: *Running with the Devil* (with Laurence Fishburne), *Crash* (Starz original series), *This Bitter Earth*, *Truth about Jane*, *Young Riders*, *Seduced and Betrayed*, and *The Fugitive* (with Harrison Ford). She recently completed shooting a TV series pilot for HBO.



Debra K. Stevens (Actor) 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.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

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.

D. Daniel Hollingshead (*Costume Designer*) has previously designed 26 of Childsplay's productions and served for 21 seasons as the Director of Costuming and Wardrobe at Childsplay. Mr. Hollingshead's designs have been seen both locally and across the country and he has been honored with AriZoni awards for both his costume and wig designs. Mr. Hollingshead holds a BFA in Performance and Choreography and currently operates Dancing Light Unlimited and freelances as a Creation Consultant, Dancer, Performer, Artist, Designer, Healer, Channel, Teacher, Energy Practitioner and Energy Facilitator. Mr. Hollingshead holds Level II certification in the Spontaneous Transformation Technique as well as training in Conscious Creation and many other healing and energy modalities. May we all always be the brightest expression and creation of ourselves beyond any and all limitations placed upon us. Shine bright and the whole world shines back at you.

Cody Soper (*Lighting Designer*) is thrilled to be returning to Childsplay to design *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* for the second time. He is currently working as the Electric Supervisor and Staff Lighting Designer at Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) in Santa Maria, CA. Childsplay design credits include: *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Go, Dog. Go!*. Other design credits include *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at PCPA, *Simply Simone*, and *The Wiz* at Black Theatre Troupe. For a full portfolio please visit codysoperlightingdesign.com.

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.



ABOUT ROCKEFELLER PRODUCTIONS

Rockefeller Productions is the acclaimed creative and production company that offers bespoke high-quality entertainment on a global scale. Based in New York, Rockefeller Productions has a strategic presence in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe and Australasia. While our perspective is worldwide, we remain focused on our individual partners and their unique objectives. We create, produce and present celebrated stories, both long-established and contemporary, with our productions achieving both critical acclaim and commercial success. Our desire is to make the highest-quality productions available to your community. Through our unique approach, we both produce and present; including touring, co-productions, remounts, licensing and rental of our exquisite and beguiling puppets.

Eric Carle (Author) is the acclaimed and beloved as the creator of brilliantly illustrated and innovatively designed picture books for very young children. His best-known work, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has nibbled its way into the hearts of literally millions of children all over the world and has been translated into 62 languages and sold over 41 million copies. Since the Caterpillar was published in 1969, Eric Carle has illustrated more than 70 books, many best sellers, most of which he also wrote, and more than 132 million copies of his books have sold around the world.

Jonathan Rockefeller (Creator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*) is the co-founder of Rockefeller Productions, a company that combines film, theatre, animation, puppetry and television. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, created by Jonathan, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Show. Beyond the stage, Jonathan and Eric Carle teamed up to produce and direct an animated version of *10 Little Rubber Ducks* based on Eric Carle's book of the same name and narrated by Bernadette Peters. *10 Little Rubber Ducks* is available on iTunes.

“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*

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 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*

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 Megan Mayo, *Marketing & Media Assistant*
 Katie Brantley, *Director of Education
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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

Gail Wolfenden-Steib, *Costuming &
Wardrobe Director*
 Emma Jackson, *Wardrobe Supervisor/Stitcher*

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGEMENT

Rachel Solis, *Production Manager*
 Mara Nadolski, *Associate Production Manager*
 Kody Hernandez, *Stage Manager*
 Ryan Clark, *Stage Manager*
 Phoenix Jacob, *Stage Manager*
 Ryan Bowman, *Stage Manager*
 Joshua Vern, *Assistant Stage Manager*

SCENERY & PROPERTIES

Montana Thompson, *Master Carpenter*
 David Singleton, *Properties Master*
 Julia Rogge, *Scenic Charge Artist*

LIGHTING

Bret Reese, *Master Electrician*

ASL INTERPRETERS

Judy Robbins
 Dawn Schoenberger

(Continued)

ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*: **What were your favorite puppet characters when you were growing up? What made them special to you?**

Here's what they said:



Lillie: "My favorite puppets were on *Sesame Street*. I love everything Jim Henson created. I always said that someday I would get to *Sesame Street* and this show is as close as it gets!"

Katie: "I was (and still am) a BIG fan of Count von Count on *Sesame Street*. He always made me laugh and I loved to imitate him... 1, 2, 3... ah, ah, ah! Runners up: Animal, Janice, and Dr. Teeth (again, so funny)."

Debra: "There was a noon cartoon break on TV with a puppet host named Charlie Horse. I used to watch him and the 10 minutes of cartoons prior to walking to school for afternoon Kindergarten. He was silly and put me in a happy mood for the rest of the day. Also, Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop were amazing!"

Jon: "Hmm... my first memory would be Mr. Bunny Rabbit and Mr. Moose, Dancing Bear and Grandfather Clock puppets from *Captain Kangaroo* (ALL done by Cosmo Allegretti so you know). Why? I'm not sure... But I think it had to do with Mr. Moose and the falling ping pong balls:

Mr Moose: Knock, Knock..

Captain: Who's there?

Mr Moose: Candy.

Captain: Candy who?

Mr Moose: Candy ping pong balls be held back this time?
(A rain of ping pong balls drop)..."

CHILDSPLAY COMPANY AND STAFF *(Continued)*

2021-2022 ACTING COMPANY

Matravius Avent	Andréa Morales	Michael Salinas	Ugene Titus
Tommy Francesco	Celena Morgan	Kariana Sanchez	Sedona Valdez
Anissa Garza	Luz Navarro	Anna Sera	Marshall Vosler
Jon Gentry	Greta Perlmutter	Debra K. Stevens	
Jermame Jackson	Jonny Ramirez	Thomas Strawser	
Katie McFadzen	McKenzie Reese	Bruno Streck Rodrigues	
Lauren McKay	Lillie Richardson	Michael Thompson	

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).

CHILDSPLAY

is honored to recognize

Jon Gentry and Debra K. Stevens
for 40 years of imagination and wonder on our stage!



*Childsplay's
"Clarissa's Closet,"
1987. Jon Gentry,
Debra K. Stevens,
far right.*



*Childsplay's
"Montana Molly
and the Peppermint
Kid." Jon Gentry,
Debra K. Stevens,
bottom right.*

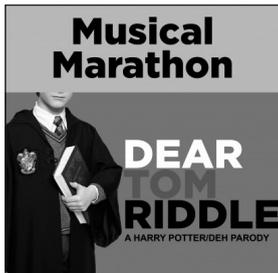


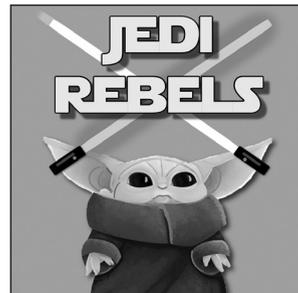
Register Now!

Spring Break Theatre Classes for Ages 4-17

Start your theatre journey here at Childsplay where young people develop acting skills, build confidence, and make new friends!

SPRING BREAK CLASSES • MARCH 7-18, 2022

 <p>Musical Marathon</p>  <p>DEAR TOM RIDDLE <small>A HARRY POTTER/DEH PARODY</small></p>	<p>Dear Tom Riddle <i>the Musical</i> AGES 8-15</p> <p>Tom feels like he's always on the outside looking in.</p>
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 <p>JEDI REBELS</p> 

<p>For Real Life! AGES 4-6</p> <p>Explore your imaginations in real life!</p>	<p>FOR REAL</p>  <p>LIFE!</p>
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<p>Jedi Rebels AGES 6-10</p> <p>Join a motley group of rebels taking a stand against an evil galactic empire.</p>

CHILDSPLAY
THEATRE ACADEMY

Register: childsplayaz.org/classes

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*
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(Continued)

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Susan and Rich Goldsmith
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in honor of their first grandchildren,
River and Margo
Caleb Reese
Leslie Dashew and Jack Salisbury

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James and Debra Larson

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Linda and Richard Warren
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Barb and Barry Zemel

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Linda Reidenbach.....	<i>Thrivent Financial</i>
Nelson Ross	<i>Salt River Project</i>
Revan McKinnon Rottach.....	<i>Wells Fargo</i>
Heather Stratz.....	<i>Community Arts Advocate</i>
Jennifer Van Kirk	<i>Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie</i>
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