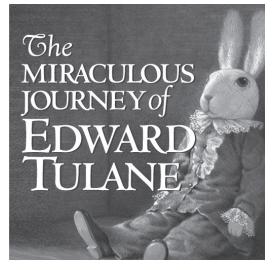
## Childsplay Theatre Presents



## By Dwayne Hartford Based on the book by Kate DiCamillo Directed by Dwayne Hartford Based on the original direction by David Saar

Assistant Director: Michelle Chin Scenic Design: Jeff Thompson Costume Design: Adriana Diaz Lighting Design: Rick Paulsen Music Director & Composer: Kyle Sorrell Sound Design: Christopher Neumeyer Stage Manager: Cat Dragon

## SEPTEMBER 8 – OCTOBER 13, 2019 THE HERBERGER THEATER CENTER – STAGE WEST

Production Support Provided by



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ACT I: 45 MINUTES ACT II: 30 MINUTES INTERMISSION: 15 MINUTES ACTOR TALK BACK: 10 MINUTES

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# 

Welcome to the first 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 Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

At Childsplay, we believe in the power of stories. This year's plays have a mix of new adventures and beloved favorites. From book adaptations like *Ella Enchanted* and *Elephant & Piggie* to brand new plays like *Suzette Who Set To Sea* and *Chato's Kitchen*, this season has a story for everyone.

As a long-standing board member with Childsplay, I am particularly excited to be bringing *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* back to the Childsplay stage. When we originally produced this show, written by our very own Artistic Director Dwayne Hartford, we were blown away by the audience's responses. We knew this show was both magical and important, but we did not realize it would be a life-changing experience for so many people. After bringing her daughter to the show, one parent sent us this comment:

"My 7-year-old daughter has seen most Childsplay performances. She is always entertained, usually laughs, often is educated and sometimes cries, but after the discussion we had on our way home after seeing The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane I saw her become a better person. From the very bottom of my heart – thank you!"

This is why we believe in the power of stories. I am so grateful your family is here to experience this beautiful story and I hope the discussions you have on your way home today will be just as impactful.

I say this not just as a board member but also as a parent experiencing the magic of theatre together is 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

## THE CAST

The Musician, Voice of Edward	Kyle Sorrell
The Traveler	Katie McFadzen
The Woman	Debra K. Stevens
The One Man	David Dickinson
The Other Man	Ricky Araiza

## **THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM**



Kyle Sorrell (The Musician, Voice of Edward, Music Director, & Composer) is thrilled to return to Childsplay where past productions include The Yellow

Boat. Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure, Charlotte's Web, and Eric and Elliot, Kyle also performs locally at Phoenix Theatre Company (Once, Million Dollar Quartet, Mamma Mia, Twist Your Dickens), Arizona Theatre Company (Romeo and Juliet. Xanadu. Around the World in 80 Davs, Twelfth Night), Strav Cat Theatre (Trainspotting). and Southwest Shakespeare Company (As You Like It. The Merchant of Venice. Pride and Prejudice, King Lear), California credits include North Coast Repertory Theatre (The Lion in Winter, Fox on the Fairway) and Ion Theatre (Angels in America, The Lieutenant of Inishmore). In addition to Childsplay, Kyle's original music has been featured at Black Theatre Troupe and Southwest Shakespeare Company—where he will play the title role of Macbeth later this fall.



Katie McFadzen

(The Traveler) has been with Childsplay as an Associate Artist, actor, and teaching artist since 1993. Childsplay

credits include: The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Ella Enchanted, Flora and Ulysses, The Yellow Boat, A Very Hairy Javelina Holiday, Wonderland. Pete or The Return of Peter Pan, and Pero or The Mysteries of the Night. 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 (Strav 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.



**Debra K. Stevens** (*The Woman*) is an Associate Artist and Artistin-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 Hairv 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).



David Dickinson (The One Man) has been privileged to be a part of the Arizona theatre community for the past 12 years as an actor and director. He

has performed for Childsplay, Davisson Entertainment/ BLK BOX PHX. A/C Theatre Company, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Southwest Shakespeare, Shakespeare Sedona, Class 6 Theatre and Desert Foothills Theatre. David's work with Childsplay includes appearances in Miss Nelson is Missing, Rock Paper Scissors, Honus and Me. Androcles and the Lion. The Borrowers, Recipe for Disaster, Steen Papier Schaar and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. He recently spent three vears as a proud member of Phoenix Theatre's Partners That Heal soothing patients at the Phoenix Children's Hospital and the Banner Thunderbird Medical Center. On camera, David has appeared in regional commercials, television and films and is represented by the Ford Robert Black Agency. He trains and coaches at the Megaw Actors Studio, www. davidjdickinson.com



**Ricky Araiza** (*The Other Man*) 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.

Michelle Chin (Assistant Director) is honored to be collaborating with the Childsplay Ensemble in a new capacity. Previous Childsplay credits include: Ella Enchanted, A Thousand Cranes, Goodnight Moon, and Wonderland, Recent credits include: Assistant Director for The Antipodes (Strav Cat Theatre); Girl in Once, Nina in Airness, "Day by Day" Soloist in Godspell (The Phoenix Theatre Company); and Sally Bowles in Cabaret (Fort Peck Summer Theatre). Michelle is also a teaching artist with Childsplay and recently returned from teaching musical theatre in China. In addition to her theatre credits. she is also a percussionist and pianist and enjoys making music throughout the Valley and around the country. She holds a BM in Music Theatre Performance from ASU.

David Saar (Director Emeritus) has directed and taught for Childsplay since establishing the company in 1977. Some favorite Childsplay productions include Still Life with Iris, A Year with Frog and Toad, and Perô or the Mystery of the Night. Directing credits: The Miraculous Journev of Edward Tulane (Coterie Theatre): Around the World in 80 Days, The Origins of Happiness in Latin (Arizona Theatre Company): Charlotte's Web. The Yellow Boat. Tomás and the Library Lady (Seattle Children's Theatre), and BFG (Chicago Theatre for Young Audiences), Awards: Governor's Arts Award (1989), National Winifred Ward Dare to Dream Fellowship Recipient (1991), Phoenix Futures Forum Dream Weavers Vision Award (1993), the first ASU Herberger College of Fine Arts Notable Achievement Award (2002), United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Thomas DeGaetani Award (2007), recognition by the National Society of Arts and Letters (2009), Children's **Theatre Foundation Medallion** Award (2010), and Arizona Citizen's for the Arts Shellev Award (2016). He currently spends his retirement consulting for The Magik Theatre in San Antonio, Texas,

### **Dwayne Hartford** (Author,

*Director, and Artistic Director)* see page 7.

**Jeff Thomson** (Scenic Designer) has designed several productions for Childsplay including The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, A Year with Frog and Toad, Goodnight Moon and The Velveteen Rabbit. Jeff has designed scenery and lighting in 13 states for regional theatre companies in the past 52 years including, Cirque Du Soleil, The Laguna Playhouse, The Fulton Opera, Arizona Theatre Company, Actors Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, The Hilberry Repertory, 6th Street Playhouse, American Stage, The Arkansas Repertory and Dream Street Films. He was a Set Designer for two feature films: Dinner at Eight for TNT and Mother Goose Rock 'N Rhyme for Disney. Jeff has also designed for HBO, MTV, General Motors, Delta Airlines, Coca Cola and Airbus International. He is the Scene/Production Design Professor for the School of Film Dance & Theatre at ASU and an All-Category member of The United Scenic Artists 829 since 1974.

**Rick Paulson** (*Lighting Designer*) is pleased to return to Childsplay. His lighting for *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* has been seen twice at the Tempe Center for the Arts where the design was recognized with an AriZoni Award. Other work for Childsplay includes *Charlotte's Web, Honus and Me, The BFG, A Tale of Two Cities, Still Life with Iris* (AriZoni Award), *Busytown* and others. Rick's work has been seen across the country in over 200 productions over the past 39 years. He makes his home in Seattle and is devoted to his wife Roberta and daughter Paige.

Christopher Neumever (Sound Designer) works as Sound Designer and Composer for many theater companies in Phoenix and abroad. Amonast 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.

Adriana Díaz (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 Amazons and Rusulka 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), Charlotte's Web and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (Childsplay), 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.

**Cat Dragon** (*Stage Manager*) began stage managing at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts in 1979. Since then she has managed for countless companies including the Old

Globe Theater in San Diego, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Actor's Theatre Phoenix, AZ Women's Theater, managed two tours for American Family Theater across the US and Canada, and even Stage Managed the Academy Awards in 1991. Most recently, she returned from New York City after managing events for the International Model and Talent Association. She is enjoying her retirement from College Theater Management with her husband Matthew and currently only takes on projects that touch her heart. "Childsplay is a model of inclusive educational magic and I am thrilled to be a part of this production! It is great to be back home at the Herberger."

## **CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP**

Dwayne Hartford (Author, Director, and 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. Dwavne 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 Journev 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

## What was your favorite childhood toy?

Here's what they said:

**Kyle**: When I was 7 years old I loved using my Lego set to create everything from castles to spaceships—but my favorite thing I ever made was a great, big guitar. I pretended to strum it and dreamed of the day I would have a real guitar to play, like the one in our play!

**Katie**: I had so many favorite toys growing up! I spent hours building houses with Lincoln Logs and then knocking them down. Being a competitive bunch of 6 siblings, we played many board and card games. But one of my favorite things to do was to tie a jump rope to the handle bars of my bike (or any of the many bikes in our family) and pretend it was a horse because there was nothing I wanted more than a horse. Yup, I did that. Debra: When I was five. my Mother and I went to a neighborhood garage sale together. I saw the most adorable stuffed skunk and immediately fell in love with it. The lady who hosted the sale came over to where we were and told my Mom that the skunk belonged to her daughter who was away at college so she was selling it. I felt so sorry for the daughter and knew I must have the skunk to make sure it was well taken care of and loved. It was my favorite of all my stuffed animals. I have always wondered how that girl felt when she discovered her mother had gotten rid of it. I have it with me still.

## ASK AN ACTOR CONTINUED

**David**: My favorite toy growing up (when I was really little) was Barry the Bear. He was cuddly, soft and brown with a hard black nose and brown eyes. Barry wasn't your typical teddy bear. Oh no! He looked more like the bear on the California state flag, and he had little bit of attitude and serious paws. Still, he was really great to hang out with and just chill. We didn't talk, but I liked having him around. He would sleep with me at night, but, unlike Edward Tulane, he didn't have a wardrobe of clothes that came along with him. He was a wild animal after all!

**Ricky**: My favorite childhood toy was my Teddy Ruxpin doll. You could put a cassette tape in it and it would talk to you and tell stories. I also used to have fun and put my favorite pop or hip-hop tape in so it looked like Teddy was singing the hits of the 80's.

## CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Steve Martin continued 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.







# 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

Company and Staff 2018-2019 Season

"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 Steve Martin Jenny Millinger David P. Saar

## Artistic Director Managing Director Associate Artistic Director Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dawn Brown Ellen Conn Emily Hopfauf Greg Estrada

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

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

Finance Consultant

General Manager

Bookkeeper

Custodian

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MaryLisa McKallor

Education & Development Associate Korbi Adams Director of Education and School Programs Katie Brantlev 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 Rodriguez Wood School Relationship and Booking Coordinator

Molly MillerOffice VolunteerTenneille ChoiDirector of DevelopmentErnesto OrtizDevelopment AssociateTim TrumbleCompany Photographer

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D. Daniel Hollingshead Costuming & Wardrobe Director Elizabeth Ihlenfeld Gail Wolfenden-Steib Cutter/Draper/Stitcher

#### PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Anthony RunfolaDirector of ProductionRachel SolisAssociate Director of Production

#### SCENERY AND PROPERTIES

Karen ButlerScenic ArtistAnthony LeeTechnical DirectorAlex SeifriedMaster CarpenterJoslyn SettleProperty Master

#### STAGE MANAGEMENT

Ambar DominguezAssistant Stage ManagerCat DragonStage ManagerMo LabiagaStage ManagerShelly LewisStage ManagerJordan MattsonStage ManagerLauren McKayRun CrewAlex SkaarStage Manager

## CHILDSPLAY COMPANY AND STAFF CONTINUED

2019-2020 ACTING COMPANY

Savannah Alfred Ricky Araiza Kat Bailes Sara Bruton Michelle Chin David Dickinson Jon Gentry Kate Haas Shawn Hansen Beau Heckman Katie McFadzen Kerry Paige Diego Salinas Sarah Schalick Kyle Sorrell Debra K. Stevens Tommy Strawser Michael Thompson Sedona Urias-Ramonett Marshall Vosler

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**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

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# Miraculous journeys continue at Childsplay Academy!

Stretch imaginations at a drama class, where young people develop acting skills, build confidence, and make new friends. Register online at www.childsplayaz.org! Want to Visit? Drop-in for the Academy Open House on Saturday, October 21st to tour the campus, meet teaching artists and discover some of what happens during a theatre class.



## THE SOCIETY FOR IMAGINATION AND WONDER CONTINUED

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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