

CHILDSPLAY THEATRE

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CHILDSPLAY ANNOUNCES WORLD-PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF ONE-WOMAN SHOW



**The Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix
Weekends, Oct. 27 through Nov. 18, 2018**

(Tempe, Ariz.) One actor, multiple characters, and a set made of junk—literally. The second show in Childsplay’s 2018-19 season at the Herberger Theater Center is a one-woman show featuring Kate Haas and will be the world-premiere of the play by Eric Coble.

Haas plays the narrator, who will use ordinary objects on stage and transform them into characters, places and things in order to take audiences on a desert adventure with Sheila and her friends.

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When the kids meet a walking, talking and surprisingly well-dressed coyote, they find themselves on the journey of a lifetime! Filled with magical realism and surprises and every turn, this funny story of friendship and imagination will bring the desert landscape to life.

“One of the fantastic things that really drew me to the script was the fact that its about creative play. They have this amazing field full of junk and they create all kinds of adventures with it,” said Director Debra K. Stevens. “Particularly now that we are all kind of glued to our devices and our electronics, it is fun to see how you can create a story out of nothing but what’s around you.”

Tickets start at \$12 and are on sale now at www.childsplayaz.org or at the Herberger Theater Center Box Office (602) 252-8497. The play is recommended for ages 5 and up. The Herberger Center is located at 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Like the kids in the script, Haas and Stevens will do a lot of creative playing during the rehearsal process to bring the story and its numerous characters and settings to life.

“I think all of the characters have a different voice, a different experience, something they are bringing to the story,” Haas said. “Playwrights put each character in there for a very specific reason. They’re all important so it is about finding that importance of each character and making them different. Even though there is only one person on stage, I would hope that by the end the audience is like ‘Wow! We saw a lot of different people, not just one performer.’”

The 1 p.m. performance on Sat., Oct. 27 is a special \$12 Storybook Preview performance, sponsored by The Steele Foundation. Each family that attends this General Admission preview performance will receive a free book. The American Sign Language performance is Sun., Nov. 18 at 1pm.

The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus features Kate Haas as *Dust Cloud*.

Director: Debra K. Stevens

Scenic Design: Jeff Thomson

Costume Design: D. Daniel Hollingshead

Lighting Design: Cody Soper

Original Music & Sound Design: Christopher Neumeyer

Stage Manager: Rebekah Carriere

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The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus was written by Eric Coble. Childsplays 2018-2019 Season is sponsored by The Herberger Foundation (Billy Jo and Judd Herberger).

This play is presented in collaboration with Metro Theater Company as a Rolling World Premiere. It was workshopped and presented as a rehearsed reading in April 2018 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of New Visions/New Voices 2018.

For interviews or media appearances, please contact Samantha Johnstone at (480) 921-5703 or sjohnstone@childsplayaz.org. High-resolution images are available for download from Childsplay's website at www.childsplayaz.org/press.

About Childsplay:

Childsplay, Inc. is a nonprofit theatre company of professional, adult artists who perform for and teach young audiences and their families. The mission of Childsplay 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, the hallmarks of childhood which are keys to the future." For more information, visit www.childsplayaz.org.

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