

# CHILDSPLAY THEATRE

**Media Contact:**

Samantha Johnstone

(480) 921-5703

[sjohnstone@childsplayaz.org](mailto:sjohnstone@childsplayaz.org)

**For Immediate Release**

Thurs., March 7, 2019

## **CHILDSPLAY THEATRE BRINGS ERIC CARLE'S ICONIC BOOKS TO LIFE ON THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR**



**The Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix  
Weekends, March 17 through April 21, 2019**

(Tempe, Ariz.) It's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's* 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and Childsplay Theatre is celebrating with a puppet show for the ages! The 42-year-old theatre company for young audiences will use 75 puppets to transform four of Eric Carle's iconic stories to life on stage at The Herberger Theater Center March 17 through April 21, including *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*, *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, *The Very Lonely Fire Fly* and, of course, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

-- MORE --

Tickets start at \$12 and are on sale now at [www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org) or at the Herberger Theater Center Box Office (602) 252-8497. The play is recommended for ages 3 and up. The Herberger Center is located at 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix, AZ 85004.

The 4 p.m. performance on Sun., March 17 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., April 14 at 1 p.m. Audio Description services will be available at the 1 p.m. performance on Sat., April 13.

Families can expect the puppets featured in the show to closely resemble Carle's classic illustrations. Paired with a script that reads closely with the books, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* will captivate very young theatregoers as well as the adults who grew up reading Carle's books themselves or to their children.

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* features Childsplay Associate Artists Debra K. Stevens, Katie McFadzen and Jon Gentry as the puppeteers and storytellers.

**Director:** Dwayne Hartford  
**Costume Design:** D. Daniel Hollingshead  
**Set Design:** David Goldstein  
**Lighting Design:** Cody Soper, Inspired by David Goldstein  
**Composer:** Nate Edmondson  
**Stage Manager:** Rebekah Carriere

Before its premiere in Arizona on March 17, this play has already toured to states around the country, The United Kingdom, and Australia, receiving praise throughout:

“Bedazzling! Will mesmerize audiences”-*The New York Times*

“Colorful, engaging, charming”-*The Huffington Post*

“Your favorite small person will be changed forever” -*Live Theatre UK*

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* was created by Jonathan Rockefeller, based on the book by Eric Carle. This production is sponsored by First Things First and Childsplay's season sponsor is The Herberger Foundation.

-- MORE --

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

**####**