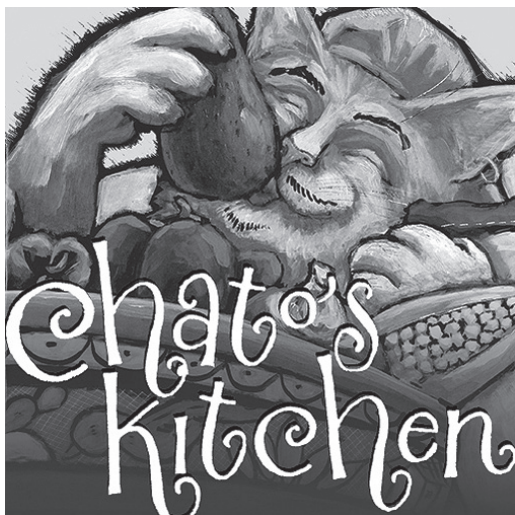


Childsplay Theatre Presents



By **Mark Valdez**

Based on the book by **Gary Soto**

Directed by **Mark Valdez**

Scenic Design: Tanya Orellana

Costume Design: Connie Furr

Lighting Design: William Kirkham

Sound Design: Christopher Neumeyer

Projection Design: Jake Pinholster

Stage Manager: Mo Labiaga Treviño

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 24, 2019
THE HERBERGER THEATER CENTER - STAGE WEST

Season Support Provided by

Storybook Preview Sponsor

Season Sponsor



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ACT I: 50 MINUTES

ACTOR TALK BACK: 10 MINUTES

CO-COMMISSIONED AND WORLD PREMIERE PRESENTED AT NEW JERSEY PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER (NEWARK, NEW JERSEY) AND CHILDSPLAY, INC. (TEMPE, ARIZONA)



*Chato's Kitchen is a professional production employing
members of Actors' Equity Association.*

Welcome to the second 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 world-premiere production of *Chato's Kitchen*.

At Childsplay, we believe in the power of “strikingly original theatre” and a major part of that commitment is developing new plays. Over the years, many of our most notable and widely recognized productions have been world premieres. Plays like *The Yellow Boat* by Childsplay Founder David Saar in 1992 redefined expectations of theatre for young people across the world. More recently, plays like *Maddi's Fridge* introduced complex themes including food insecurity, empathy and compassion—all told through a young person's point of view.

We know that new theatre for young audiences needs to be constantly generated to best reflect the changing needs of our communities. I am thrilled your family is here to experience how this imaginative book by Gary Soto has been transformed into a brand new staged production. And not only will students and families in Arizona experience this world premiere—we will be taking this story to The New Jersey Performing Arts Center in December for even more students and families to enjoy.

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

Chato	Moises Castro
Novio Boy	Ricky Araiza
Father/Junior	Jon Gentry
Mother/Rosie	Liz Neitge

WHO'S WHO IN CHATO'S KITCHEN



Moises Castro (*Chato*) was born and raised in L.A. He is thrilled to represent his community through the eyes of the coolest low-riding

cat. Recent credits include: *The Hungry Woman* (UCSB Multicultural Center), *Evangeline: The Queen of Make Believe* (About Productions), *Valley of the Heart* (Mark Taper Forum), *Brown & Out* (CASA 0101), *The Hotel Play* (Playwrights Arena), *Guards at the Taj* (A.C.T), *Milton* (PearlD'Amour), *Brooklyn Bridge* (Seattle Children's Theater), *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* (WET), and *John Baxter is a Switch Hitter* (Intiman). Education: UW, NYU, and AMDA. themoisescastro.com



Ricky Araiza (*Novio Boy*) 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.



Jon Gentry (*Father/Junior*) has been a member of Childsplay's acting company since 1982. Childsplay shows include: *Charlotte's Web*,

Robin Hood, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *The Yellow Boat*, and *Rock, Paper, Scissors*. Other roles: Maurice in *Disney's Beauty And The Beast*, Frankie Cavalier in *Pageant*, Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*, Passpartout in *Around The World In 80 Days*, Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, Tupolski in *The Pillowman*, Roy Cohn in *Angels in America*, *Parts One and Two*. Jon was awarded a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship by the Ten Chimneys Foundation, one of 10 actors in the United States to participate in the Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program.

WHO'S WHO IN CHATO'S KITCHEN CONTINUED



Liz Neitge (*Mother/Rosie*) is thrilled to be making her debut with Childsplay! Most recently, she was seen as Rosalia in *West Side*

Story at Seacoast Repertory in New Hampshire and Rosa Santiago in *Ghost The Musical* at Winnepesaukee Playhouse. Now a Brooklyn resident, Liz graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Performance from Arizona State University. She is so excited to be back in the valley of the sun working on this new show! Some local credits include *Anything Goes* (Phoenix Theatre), *Hair* (Desert Stages), *The Fantasticks*, and *RENT* (ASU). Instagram: @lizneitge | www.lizneitge.com

Mark Valdez (*Director*) is an artist, organizer, and consultant based in Los Angeles. His work has been seen at theaters that include the Alliance Theatre, Cornerstone Theater Company, East West Players, La Peña Cultural Center, Mark Taper Forum, MACLA, Mixed Blood, and Trinity Rep, among others. For over 20-years, Valdez has produced and created community engaged projects in his home state of California and around the country. During his tenure as the Executive Director of the Network of Ensemble Theaters, Mark designed and implemented the MicroFest USA project, hyper-local events that

were part performance festival, part think-tanks celebrating cultural community development. Presently, Mark is working on Exiled in America, a multi-year, multi-city project that aims to impact housing policy utilizing performance, cultural organizing, and creative community development strategies. He is also creating a new performance piece commissioned by Trinity Rep, with and for the Latinx population of Rhode Island called #latinxox.

Tanya Orellana (*Scenic Designer*) designs performance spaces for Theater, Dance, Opera and Puppetry. From San Francisco, she is a core member of the award-winning ensemble Campo Santo, participating in their New Work Process, conceptualizing and designing sets alongside the writing process. Design collaborations include: Mexico Premiere of *Angels in America* directed by Martín Acosta (Teatro Juan Ruiz de Alarcón), *Casa de Spirits* written and directed by Roger Guenveur Smith (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, San Francisco, CA), world premiere of *The Heath* by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Sean Daniels (Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell, MA), and *Nogales: Storytellers in Cartel Country* by Richard Montoya (Borderlands Theatre, Tucson, Arizona and The Magic Theatre, San Francisco, CA). Tanya received her MFA in Scenic Design from CalArts (2017) and is the 2016 recipient of the Princess

WHO'S WHO IN CHATO'S KITCHEN CONTINUED

Grace Fabergé Theatre Award. Her design work on *Angels in America* was presented in the US Emerging Designers Exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial 2019.

William Kirkham (*Lighting Designer*) is an award-winning Lighting Designer for Theatre and Live Events. He is also the Professor of Lighting Design at Arizona State University. Previous Childsplay credits include: *Flora & Ulysses*, *Yellow Boat*, and *Pete, or the Return of Peter Pan*. Regional credits include: Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, ArtsWest Playhouse, Chicago Children's Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Childsplay, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Contemporary American Theater Festival, The Hypocrites, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Phoenix Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Sideshow Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. William attended Northern Arizona University, Northwestern University, and is a proud member of Local USA 829. www.wckirkham.com

Christopher Neumeyer (*Sound Designer*) works as Sound Designer and Composer for many theater companies in Phoenix and abroad. Amongst 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.

Connie Furr (*Costume Designer*) Theatre: *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), *Rock and Roll Alice in Wonderland*, and *Goodnight Moon* (Childsplay Theatre), *The Nearly True Story of*

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT SHOWS!



WHO'S WHO IN CHATO'S KITCHEN CONTINUED

the Mamas and Papas (premiere) (Phoenix Theatre), *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!*

Jake Pinholster (*Projection Designer*) is an Associate Professor of Media Design and Associate Dean in the ASU Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, head of design training program specializing in projection/media design for performance. An Associate artist with Les Freres Corbusier. Broadway credits: *The Pee Wee Herman Show*. Off-Broadway credits: *Escape from Bellevue, Boozy* (LFC). New York credits: *David Dorfman Dance's Underground* (BAM), *Hoover!*, *Dance Dance Revolution, HeddaTRON* (LFC), *Dixie's Tupperware Party*. Regional credits: *Riders of the Purple Sage* (AZ Opera), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Center Theater Group), *Current Nobody* (LJP, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). TV: *Carrie Fisher: Wishful Drinking* (HBO), *The Pee Wee Herman Show* (HBO).

Mo Labiaga (*Stage Manager*) is a Stage Manager of Spanish citizenship. She has lived in Mexico, Texas, and Colorado, and soon she'll be moving to Spain. She received her BA in Theatre Design and Technology with an

emphasis in Stage Management and an Arts Entrepreneurship Certificate from the University of Northern Colorado. During her free time, she enjoys reading, going out with friends on adventures, finding new restaurants, and attending the circus. She loves traveling, exploring new places, and explaining her knowledge in the performing world. This is why she is so excited to be working with Childsplay. Some of her favorite shows that she has worked on as a stage manager are *Clybourne Park, Major Barbara, Dance Suite: Appalachian Spring*, and *She Kills Monsters*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*.

Please check houseboards for any program changes. Taking pictures and/or making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden.



CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP

Dwayne Hartford (*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.

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 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.



ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from Chato's Kitchen

What food would you like to share with your friends?

Here's what they said:

Ricky: I would like to share tamales with my friends. It's like unwrapping a little delicious present every time.

Jon: I would share my puttanesca and my enchiladas (cheese or chicken)—these are things I make!

Liz: Being a Midwesterner, I'm always happy to introduce a friend to the joys of Oreo balls! They're basically as delicious as they sound.

Moises: Enchiladas! I love making enchiladas for my friends. It's one of my best dishes. When I was a kid I would observe my mom, aunts, or grandma make enchiladas; that's how I learned to make them. Our family in New Mexico would ship boxes full of chili pods that would be mainly used for making enchiladas or pozole. We make our enchiladas with just cheese, Monterey Jack cheese to be exact.

CHILDSPLAY

IMAGINE TOGETHER



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

Ages 4-15!



Cook up more delicious drama at Childsplay Academy!

Learning the actor's tools is a recipe for fun!
Add a dollop of your creativity to develop acting
skills, build confidence, and make new friends!

Register online at www.childsplayaz.org!

CHILDSPLAY
THEATRE ACADEMY

“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

Finance Consultant
General Manager
Bookkeeper
Custodian

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Jon Gentry
José Cruz González
Katie McFadzen
Debra K. Stevens

Associate Artist
Playwright-in-Residence
Associate Artist
Associate Artist

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MaryLisa McKallor
Korbi Adams
Katie Brantley
Brianna Fallon
Jane Gerke
Samantha Johnstone
Averi Gutierrez
Laura Berger
Ellen Beckett
Sonia Rodriguez Wood
Molly Miller
Tenneille Choi
Ernesto Ortiz
Tim Trumble

Education & Development Associate
Director of Education and School Programs
Academy Manager
Theatre Academy Associate
Company Graphic Artist
Director of Marketing & Media
Marketing & Media Associate
Education Programs Manager
Education Project Coordinator
School Relationship and Booking Coordinator
Office Volunteer
Director of Development
Development Associate
Company Photographer

COSTUMES AND WARDROBE

Athena Arena
D. Daniel Hollingshead

Wardrobe Supervisor
Costuming & Wardrobe Director

COSTUMES AND WARDROBE

Elizabeth Ihlenfeld
Gail Wolfenden-Steib

Cutter/Draper/Stitcher
Cutter/Draper/Stitcher

ELECTRICS

Ryan Clark
Joanna Emmott
Ella Enchanted: The Musical
Cody Downing

Chato’s Kitchen Master Electrician
Master Electrician
Elephant & Piggie’s
“We Are In A Play!” Master Electrician

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Rachel Solis
Mara Nadolski
Aidan Hammer
William Vanderhoof

Production Manager
Associate Production Manager
Production Intern
Production Intern

SCENERY AND PROPERTIES

Julia Lee Rogge
Anthony Lee
Alex Seifried
Joslyn Settle
Rachel Bath

Scenic Artist
Technical Director
Master Carpenter
Property Master
Assistant Property Master

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Ambar Dominguez
Cat Dragon
Phoenix Jacob
Mo Labiaga
Shelly Lewis
Jordan Mattson
Madi Mays
Lauren McKay
Alex Skaar

Assistant Stage Manager
Stage Manager
Run Crew
Stage Manager
Stage Manager
Stage Manager
Stage Manager
Run Crew
Stage 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

Liz Neitge
Moises Castro
Lynzee Forman

ASL Interpreters:
Judy Robbins
Dawn Schoenberger

2019-2020

TEACHING ARTISTS

Emily-Rae Abang
Korbi Adams
Oliverio Balcells
Laura Berger
Britain Bhattan
Katie Brantley
Shelly Boucher
Sarah Chanis
Michelle Chin
Nina Coble
Caleb Crawford

Brianna Fallon
Jennifer Gantwerker
Jon Gentry
Carmen Guerrero
Kate Haas
Keath Hall
Ben Harris
Marcos Hernandez
Garrett Hicks
Kristina Kirkham
Carlos A. Lara
Tony Latham
Mary Ellen Loose
Kim Manning
Rachel McCabe
Katie McFadzen
Racquel McKenzie
Sean Medlin
John Moum
Jenna Nilson
Molly Lajoie Plutnicki
Elizabeth Polen

Angelina Ramirez
Claire Redfield
Julio-César Saucedo
Sarah Schalick
Alli St. John
Lauran Stanis
Debra K. Stevens
Tommy Strawser
Thomas Underdal
Carlos Uterby
Karilyn Veres
Jodie L. Weiss
Cam Oakes
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Kathleen Berger
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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*

VISIONARY - \$2,000,000 AND ABOVE

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Ella Enchanted: The Musical (2018)



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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Jacque Radke, *PreK, Kenilworth Elementary, Phoenix Elementary School District*

Jo Hanken, *Vice-Principal, Kyrene de la Paloma, Kyrene School District*

Katie Syracuse, *Retired, Language Arts, Western Valley Middle School, Fowler School District*

Kellie Taylor, *Theatre, St. Mary's High School, Phoenix*

Kerri Tornow, *Kindergarten, Awakening Seed School, Phoenix*

Lisa Wyatt, *Upper Elementary, Montessori Day School, Chandler*

Mary Spangenberg, *2nd Grade, Davidson School, Cartwright School District*

Nicole Aragon, *PreK Teacher, Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College Preschool, Arizona State University*

Teresa Minarsich, *Theatre Specialist, North Valley Arts Academies, Paradise Valley School District*

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