

**CHILDSPLAY THEATRE PRESENTS**



**By José Cruz González**

**Music and Lyrics by José Cruz González**  
**Music Arranged and Performed by Adam Jacobson**  
**Based on the Book by Pat Mora**

**Directed By: Ricky Araiza**

**Music Director: Tommy Strawser**

**Scenic and Costume Designer: Holly Windingstad**

**Lighting Designer: Bret Reese**

**Stage Manager: Kalie Hagen**

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**FEBRUARY 4 - MARCH 12, 2023**  
**Herberger Theater Center - Stage West**

Produced by special arrangement with  
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, Illinois

*Season Sponsor*

**BILLIE JO  
HERBERGER**

This production is dedicated to the memory Robyn Silverberg, a longtime member of the Childsplay Ensemble.

**Running Time: 60 MINUTES**

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# Welcome!

## Dear Childsplay Friends,

**Dreams can come true.** Whether you are a young music maker who dreams of creating her own sound, a reindeer who dreams of being accepted for who he is, a boy who dreams of creating his own stories, a girl who dreams of being not only the best hula-hooper, but also the best friend and neighbor, or any one of us who dare to dream of a bright future, your dreams can become reality.

At Childsplay, when we put together a season, we think about all the children in our audiences. What are their dreams? What are their stories? How can we give voice to their hopes, their fears, and their dreams? While it is of course impossible to tell everyone's story in a single season, or in a lifetime, we believe sharing different stories opens our eyes to the beautiful diversity in the world, and in that diversity, we share a common humanity that is to be honored and celebrated. And who doesn't love a good story?

Thank you for joining us as we dream of a brighter tomorrow for all of us. Your support enables us to do this challenging and rewarding work. We wouldn't be here without you!

Dreams are powerful. So, we encourage you to dream - and then go out and make that dream a reality. It is our hope that the stories we tell on our stages and the lessons we teach in the classroom reveal the power in every child to dream and to succeed.

Welcome to our 2022-2023 season. Being here with you has been our dream, and dreams can come true.

**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.*

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## THE CAST

*Tomás* .....Hamblet Lemus  
*Library Lady*..... Amanda Lopez-Castillo



**Hamblet Lemus** (*Tomás*) is excited to be joining the cast of his first Childsplay production. Hamblet is a 23-year-old Latine actor based in Phoenix, AZ. He also works as a digital media instructor for SPOT 127 Youth Media Center. He holds an Associate's in Fine Arts Theatre and in Audio Production Technologies.

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**Amanda Lopez-Castillo** (*Library Lady*) is honored to be in her first production with Childsplay Theatre Company. Hailing originally from Tucson, Arizona, some past credits include: *La Ruta* (Straycat) *Antigone* (Borderlands Theater Co.), *You & Me & the Space Between* (Scoundrel & Scamp), *A Christmas Carol* (Flagstaff Shakespeare Co.). Amanda has also

traveled to Saudi Arabia for *Batman: A New Show* that premiered in Saudi Arabia (Warner Bros. & Eventbox). Amanda holds a BA in Spanish with a minor in Theater from Northern Arizona University.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

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**Ricky Araiza** (*Director*) is an Arizona-based theatre artist. A graduate from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Theatre in 2004, Araiza went on to become an ensemble member of Childsplay Theatre in Tempe, AZ beginning with the theatre's production of *The New Kid* in 2004. In 2009 he decided to step away from professional work and study Physical Ensemble Based Theatre at Dell'Arte International in Blue Lake, CA. In 2017, he received his M.F.A. from Arizona State University. He has also done work nationally with the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis, the La Jolla Playhouse in La Jolla, CA and Su Teatro in Denver, CO. Araiza continues to work as a director, actor, and teaching artist throughout the Valley. He serves as Childsplay's Associate Artistic Director - Director of Artist and Community Initiatives as well as the Artistic Director of Teatro Bravo, a Latinx theatre company in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Tommy Strawser** (*Music Director*) began working with Childsplay in 2013, he has been behind the scenes at Childsplay as Music Director for the national tour of *Snowy Day*, Assistant Music Director for the national tour of *Go, Dog, Go!*, and composed the music for *Seen*. Acting highlights include Connor (*Suzette Who Set To Sea*), Wilbur (*Charlotte's Web*), Ulysses (*Flora & Ulysses*), Caterpillar (*Wonderland*), Tooth Fairy (*Goodnight Moon*), and Scott (*Apollo: To the Moon*). Tommy is involved in other Valley arts organizations including Arizona Opera, Phoenix Theatre Company, Showtune Productions, and Detour Company Theatre. He is also a professional singer with the Grammy-Award winning Phoenix Chorale and staff singer at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church. Tommy holds a Master of Music degree in Opera/Musical Theatre Performance from ASU, and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

**Holly Windingstad** (*Set and Costume Designer*) is delighted to be part of the creative team, collaborating with Childsplay for 18 years. Favorite past works for Childsplay include *School House Rock*, *Maddi's Fridge*, *A Thousand Cranes*, *Rock the Presidents*, *Getting Near to Baby*, *Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *The Three Javelinas*. Regionally her work has been seen at Casting Spell Productions (Minneapolis, MN), Stages Theatre (Hopkins, MN), Skylight Opera (Milwaukee, WI), Nebraska Repertory (Lincoln, NE), Still Point Theatre Collective, Equity Library (Chicago, IL), Shakespeare on the Green (Lake Forest, IL) and Magik Theatre (San Antonio, TX). Holly holds an MFA in set and costume design from Northwestern University and BFA studio art from University of Arizona.

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**Kalie Hagen (Stage Manager)** is excited to be joining Childsplay on the touring production of Tomás and the Library Lady! Previous credits include Mesa Community College (*Mad Ones, Gin Mummy, & Antigone*), Order Chaos (*Mala*), Fairmount Scottsdale Princess (*Santa Set Stage Manager*), Combs Performing Arts Center (*Dance Concerts*), Arizona Renaissance Festival (*Area Stage Manager*). Other Credits: *And Then There Were None* (Mesa Community College), *On Your Feet* (The Phoenix Theatre Company), *Seussical the Musical* (Center Stage Academy), *Hamlet* (Southwest Shakespeare Company).

**Bret G. Reese (Lighting Designer)** has worked as an electrician and master electrician with Childsplay over many years and is excited to be designing for the first time. Lighting design credits include *Christmas Carol, SpongeBob the Musical, Hair, and Church Basement Ladies* (Arizona Broadway Theater); *Farinelli and the King* and *The Tempest* (Southwest Shakespeare Company); *Sunset Baby, Trouble in Mind, Breakfast with Mugabee, and Blues in the Night* (Black Theatre Troupe); *Little Women, Madagascar, and Secret Garden* (Valley Youth Theatre); *High School Musical, A Chorus Line, and Tick Tick Boom!* (Desert Stages Theatre); *Sound of Music, White Christmas, Mamma Mia and Big Fish* (Almost Famous Theatre); *Once on This Island, Man of La Mancha, and The Full Monty* (Mesa Encore Theatre); and many others. His latest designs are under the umbrella of Phoenix Lighting and Audio, L.L.C. More information can be found at [PhoenixLightingandAudio.com](http://PhoenixLightingandAudio.com) and [BretReese.com](http://BretReese.com).

**Johnny Pickett (Technical Director)** is a 6'8" mountain man hailing from East Tennessee. He holds an MFA in Design and Technology from UNC-Greensboro. He was a Professor of Design and Technical Theatre at North Carolina A&T State University and the University of Montevallo. To date, his Childsplay credits include: *Selena Maria Sings, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Tomás and the Library Lady*. His early career took him to multiple regional theaters as Lighting Designer, Set Designer and Technical Director. A move out West to Las Vegas working for Siegfried & Roy gave him a new perspective in back stage work in automations. He went on to become a Flying Director for Flying By Foy for over 20 years with multiple productions under his belt including 139 productions of *Peter Pan*. Some of his theatrical credits include: *Spamalot* (Broadway), *Addam's Family* (Broadway), *Ragtime* (Kennedy Center), *Wicked* (Japan), *Peter Pan Ballet* (Australia), *Cher, Artist Residency*, (Las Vegas, NV). Televised Shows: *American Country Music Awards, MTV Awards, BET Awards, Jesus Christ Superstar Live* (NBC, New York), *Super Bowl XLV Halftime Show - Black-Eyed Peas* (Dallas, TX).

**SAVE THE DATE**

# Childsplay's World of Wonder Gala

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Enjoy an evening of imagination and wonder including cocktails, music, silent auction, dinner, entertainment, and more!



**Saturday, April 15**

The Clayton House  
3719 N. 75th St  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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## **Support Childsplay!**

Support opportunities include:

- Event Sponsorships
- Table Hosting
- Purchasing from our Silent Auction
- Purchasing tickets to the event (starting at \$350)



## **BECOME A SPONSOR**

Contact: Jodie Weiss at [jweiss@childsplayaz.org](mailto:jweiss@childsplayaz.org)

For tickets & information: [childsplayaz.org/gala23](https://childsplayaz.org/gala23)

## CHILDSPLAY LEADERSHIP

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**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 in 2016 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 22nd 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 ongoing funding from the US Department of Education for arts education programming and research 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 35 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 at the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Managing Director at Virginia Stage Company in Norfolk, Virginia.



# CHILDSPLAY

THEATRE ACADEMY



## Spring & Summer Classes

**REGISTER NOW!**

You've seen them perform, now learn from them! Spring Break and Summer Break classes are open for registration. Childsplay offers programs for ages 2-18.



**REGISTER NOW! [CHILDSPLAYAZ.ORG/CLASSES](https://childsplayaz.org/classes)**

“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. Ideally, all of these individuals are housed under one roof, allowing for the free and open exchange of ideas and opinions.” —Childsplay’s Strategic Plan 2012

**Dwayne Hartford** .....Artistic Director  
**Steve Martin**.....Managing Director  
**Jenny Millinger** .....Associate Artistic Director  
**Ricky Araiza**.....Associate Artistic Director  
**David P. Saar** .....Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus

### ADMINISTRATION

Ellen Conn, *General Manager*  
 Emily Hopfau, *Bookkeeper*  
 Lindsey Howard, *Office Manager*  
 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*

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Brianna Fallon, *Academy Manager*  
 Thomas Underdal, *Academy Associate*  
 Averi Gutierrez, *Director of Marketing & Media*  
 Megan Mayo, *Marketing & Media Associate*  
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     & *School Programs*  
 Jen Gantwerker, *Education Program Manager*  
 Sonia Rodriguez Wood, *School Performance*  
     *Booking Associate*  
 Ernesto Ortiz, *Director of Development*  
 Karen Peirce, *Development Associate*  
 Jodie Weiss, *Events & Volunteer Manager*  
 MaryLisa McCallor, *Education & Development*  
     *Associate*

Jane Gerke, *Company Graphic Artist*  
 Kaitlyn Palmer, *Program Graphic Artist*  
 Tim Trumble, *Company Photographer*

### COSTUMES & WARDROBE

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

### PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGEMENT

Calvin Legassie, *Production Manager*  
 Phoenix Jacob, *Resident Stage Manager*  
 Kalie Hagen, *Stage Manager*

### SCENERY & PROPERTIES

Montana Thompson, *Master Carpenter*  
 Joel Segraves, *Properties Master*  
 Johnny Pickett, *Technical Director*

### SOUND

Kenseye Fort, *Sound Supervisor*

### ASL INTERPRETERS

Judy Robbins  
 Dawn Schoenberger

(Continued)

# ASK AN ACTOR!

We asked the cast from *Tomás and the Library Lady*:  
What was your favorite book as a child? Why?



## Here's what they said:

**Hamblet:** “When I was a kid, my favorite book was one just called *Dinosaurs*. It was a picture book that showed off a big collection of various dinosaurs, all of them accompanied by a beautiful painting. It’s the book that got me to start reading and practicing English, and it was about something that I really loved.”

**Amanda:** “My favorite book to read was *Corduroy*. It taught me that despite all the materialistic things in this world, at the end of the day we all want the same things: love, acceptance, family, and friendship.”

## CHILDSPLAY COMPANY AND STAFF *(Continued)*

### 2022-2023 ACTING COMPANY

Amanda Lopez-Castillo	Carlos Sanchez Beltran	Izabella Montes	Melissa Gonzalez
Beau Heckman	Debra K. Stevens	Jillian Sainz	Ryan Ardelt
Brandon Brown	Frederick Alphonso Hamblet Lemus	Jon Gentry	Thomas Strawser
	Issie Ocampo	Katie McFadzen	Wesley Bradstreet
		Lillie Richardson	
		Luz Navarro	

### 2022-2023 TEACHING ARTISTS

Alejandro Bastien Olvera	Bertha Cortes	Ericca Rose	Rachel McCabe
Alex Frost	Briannah Simmons	Jacob Buttry	Sam Briggs
Alexis Nomorosa	Cam Blackwell	Jason White	Sarah Chanis
Alli St. John	Cam Oakes	Jen Gantwerker	Sarah Dolens-Moon
Amanda Slade	Christina McSheffrey	Kim Manning	Sean Medlin
Becca Levy	Clara Kundin	Lillie Richardson	Stephanie Clark
	Dan Stoddard	Mary Ellen Loose	Thomas Underdal
	Dorian Peterson	Mitchell Glass	Zoe Tyler
	Dylan Prentis	Natalie Earley	
	Emily Burritt	Nickela Rooney	



480-921-5700 | [CHILDSPLAYAZ.ORG](http://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.”*
- › Childsplay launched its first national tour in 2007, with *Tomás and the Library Lady*. Since then the company has completed 10 more national tours throughout the United States and Canada. Next season, Childsplay will send *Tomás and the Library Lady* out on its third national tour!
- › Childsplay's administrative offices, classrooms, rehearsal halls, prop and costume shops are located in the Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park, 900 S. Mitchell Drive, in 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 US Chapter of ASSITEJ, the international organization for theatre for young audiences; the Tempe Chamber of Commerce; the 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 December 19, 2022.*

*\*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\*  
US Department of Education

### **INNOVATOR: \$500,000 AND ABOVE**

Arizona Commission on the Arts\*  
The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation  
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Target  
The Steele Foundation

### **ENERGIZER: \$250,000 & ABOVE**

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*(Continued)*

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## SOCIETY FOR IMAGINATION AND WONDER ANNUAL MEMBERS

*Childsplay gratefully acknowledges our Annual Members, who have contributed annual gifts of \$1,000 or more as of December 19, 2022.*

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Bossung  
Joanie Flatt  
Flinn Foundation  
Dora and Louis Fox Charitable Trust  
Friends of Tempe Center for the Arts  
Giggling Gwen Foundation, in loving memory of Gwen Van Kirk  
Glendale Arts Commission  
Susan and Rich Goldsmith  
Dr. Cheryl Mandala  
Molly Blank Fund  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Neavitt/Thomas Endowment Fund  
Salt River Project  
Scottsdale Arts  
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Thrivent Financial  
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