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For Immediate Release

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CHILDSPLAY THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 SEASON



***Childsplay 43rd season begins September 8, 2019 at
The Herberger Theater Center***

(Tempe, Ariz.) Childsplay Theatre announces its 43rd season of plays for families that includes five plays at The Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Choose-Your-Own Play Pack subscriptions and Flex Ticket packages will help families save money on the best seats to all of the shows this season and are on sale now at www.childsplayaz.org or at (602) 252-8497. Single tickets range from \$12 to \$35 with additional box office fees.

CHILDSPLAY'S 2019-2020 SEASON:

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

By Dwayne Hartford, Based on the book by Kate DiCamillo

Weekends, September 8 – October 13, 2019

Recommended for Ages 7 and up

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One of Childsplay's most beloved productions returns to the stage! With his handmade silk suits, wide array of hats and tiny gold pocket watch, Edward Tulane was the most exceptional toy in Abilene's room. He was adored and he was happy. But then, one day, he was lost. Based on Newbery-winner Kate DiCamillo's beloved book, Childsplay presents this breathtaking story of finding friendship, finding yourself, and eventually finding your way home. Follow Edward on a fantastical adventure worthy of literature's greatest heroes.

CHATO'S KITCHEN:

By Mark Valdez, Based on the book by Gary Soto

Weekends, November 1 – November 24, 2019

Recommended for Ages 5+

Gary Soto's hilarious book comes to life in this charming new play about Chato, the coolest low-riding cat in the barrio. When a family of *ratoncitos*, or little mice, moves in next door, Chato invites them over for dinner. What they don't know is that they are on the menu! But things don't go quite as planned for Chato. The mice bring a surprise guest of their own who may be more than this cool cat can swallow.

ELLA ENCHANTED: THE MUSICAL

By Karen Zacarías, Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma, Adapted from the book by Gail Carson Levine

Weekends December 7 – 29, 2019

Recommended for Ages 5+

Back by popular demand! Based on the Newbery-honor book, this *Cinderella* twist follows Ella, a princess who is given the "gift" of obedience at birth by her misguided fairy godmother. As she grows up, Ella must outwit her wicked stepsisters, a hungry ogre, and this troublesome curse to find her own voice and live happily ever after. This charming musical adventure is the perfect fairy tale for the holiday season!

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!"

Book and Lyrics by Mo Willems, Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma, Based on the Elephant & Piggie books by Mo Willems

Weekends, January 26 – March 8, 2020

Recommended for Ages 3+

Gerald the Elephant is cautious and Piggie is...well, NOT. They are the best of friends. Which means they have LOTS of fun together. But sometimes they face tough questions. What do you wear to a fancy party? Should you share your ice cream? Can two friends play with just one toy? Get ready for a hilarious musical experience as two of Mo Willems' most delightfully amusing characters come to life on stage in their very first play. Backed by nutty backup singers, The Squirrelles, Gerald and Piggie will have your family doing the "Flippy Floppy Floory" dance all night long!

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SUZETTE WHO SET TO SEA:

By Finegan Kruckemeyer

Weekends, April 18 – May 17, 2020

Recommended for Ages 5+

In a small seaside village where men build boats and women do not, young Suzette knows she is different – she longs for the sea and believes she is meant for something greater than a life on land. So when a mysterious event occurs, Suzette is forced to do that most difficult thing – prove herself worthy of her destiny. Loading her loved ones onto a boat she has secretly built, Suzette, she sets to sea. What follows is an adventurous, imaginative tale exploring courage, community and the possibility that sometimes it only takes the actions of single person to change everything.

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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