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Christmas That Almost Wasn't

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THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Governors State University

Presents

Child's Play Touring Theatre
**The Christmas That
Almost Wasn't**



Saturday, December 2, 2000
11:00 AM

Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL. 60466

2000/2001 Season sponsored in part from an Arts Tour grant from:



The Christmas That Almost Wasn't

Dinky The Dancing Reindeer

By Marci Eichelberger

Grade 5

Fisher, IL

How Santa Got Well

By Emily Marie Butcher

Grade 4

Waukegan, IL

Santa & The Witch

By an anonymous 1st grader

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Artistic Staff Biographies Child's Play Touring Theatre

June Podagrosi, Executive Director and Founder

June oversees the development of programming and fundraising efforts of Child's Play. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Brooklyn College and received a Master's degree in Dance at the University of Illinois, where she was a featured soloist with the Beverly Blossom Dance Company. She founded the Downtown Performing Arts Center in Champaign and served as Executive Director for three years. As an advocate for children's theatre, June served on the Board of the Illinois Theatre Association as Children's Theatre Chairperson. Recently, she served as Chairperson for an Arts in Education panel for the Arts Midwest Conference in Chicago. Also, June served as a Peer Review Panelist for both the National Endowment for the Arts Professional Theatre Program and the Illinois Arts Council's Arts in Education Program.

Janet Brooks, Director

Janet toured with Child's Play Touring Theatre 4 1/2 years before taking on the role of Director. Janet received her MFA in Acting in 1982 from Western Illinois University. Along with her Chicago stage

credits, she has also done work on cable and commercial television in Chicago and Kansas City, MO, where she was in numerous theatrical productions as well. She spent several years in Branson, MO, where her credits include entertaining, writing, directing and choreographing at Silver dollar City and area shows. Janet's teaching experiences include creative dramatics, dance, stage movement and writing at different venues in Missouri, Chicago and nationally with Child's Play. Janet serves on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Theatre Association, representing the Children's Theatre Division.

Perry Cavitt, Associate Director

Perry toured with Child's Play Touring Theatre from 1991 through 1996. His comic characters and precise timing made him a favorite with children and sponsors across the country. Perry currently works with Child's Play as an Associate Director, as well as a member of Child's Play's educational company, directing residency programs in the Chicago-land area. Perry holds a bachelor degree from the Theatre School at DePaul University.

Tamara Walker, Associate Director & Choreographer

Tamara is happy to be back with Child's Play Touring Theatre for her sixth season. She has recently retired from touring and is excited to hang out in town helping to direct the acting companies. She is a graduate of Milikin University, where she received a BFA in Musical Theatre and Dance. Some of her favorite credits include: Minnie Faye (voicer) in Hello Dolly at Centerlight Theatre for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Isabella in Androcles and the Lion, and Mary Jane in Big River. Tamara has performed internationally in An American Fair at Many Beach Hotel in Okinawa, Japan. She also dances with James P. Productions.

George Howe, Musical Director

George Howe is pleased to be working at Child's Play Touring Theatre. He has been the musical director for several productions, most recently Second City's Hamlet: The Musical. After 7 years of touring with Child's Play, George has retired from the road, and is happy to be creating new music, and acting as musical director for Child's Play's artist-in-residency company.

Actor Biographies - Red Company Child's Play Touring Theatre

Kimberly Johnson – Kimberly is glad to be working with Child's Play. She is from Alton, Illinois. She attended the American Music & Dramatic Academy in New York City. Her favorite credits include Sister Rober Anne and Sister Huber in Nunsense, Tituba in The Crucible, Ammelia in Ain't Misbehavin', and Asaka in Once On This Island.

Phillip McFarlane – Phillip has been acting professionally for four years. He began at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre with In White America. He then moved to Chicago and worked with HeathWorks Theatre teaching A.I.D.S. education. He has now found a home with Child's Play Touring Theatre playing many many many roles involving production and performance.

Ty Perry – A company member with Circle Theatre for over 10 years, Ty's work as an actor/director/choreographer has been seen all over Chicago stages. Some of his favorite roles include Fleetwood in The Life (BTA award), Ben in Rags, Daniel in Once On This Island, and Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in Into The Woods. Directing credits include Merrily We Roll Along, Hair, Jeffrey, Eating Raoul (Jeff nominated), and Lemon Sky.

Nicole Rohr – Nicole returns to Child's Play this year, excited to play many more moms and fishes. She hails from Arlington Heights, Illinois, and earned a B.A. in Theatre from St. Olaf College, Minnesota. Nicole studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland, where she performed Beckett's Come And Go and Brien Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa, and Faith Healer.