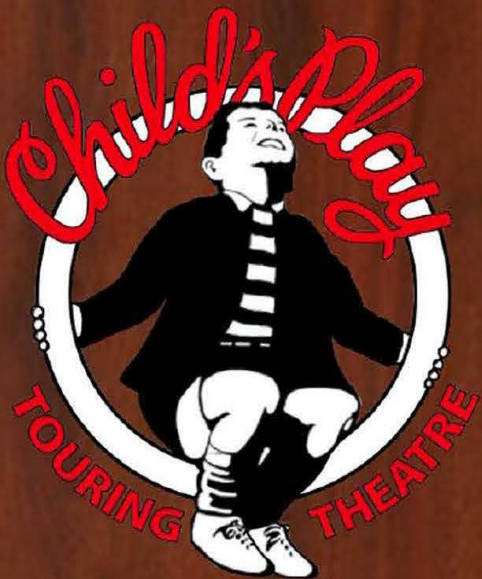


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Child's Play Touring Theatre was the first theatre company to realize the value of children's own writing and perform exclusively stories and poems written by young authors. Combining the important, imaginative writings of children with the craftsmanship of professional theatre artists and educators, we created a unique stage where children's voices can be heard, examined and treasured.

A nationally recognized, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we inspire young people to read, write and think creatively. Our goal is to help children understand the value and significance that writing and reading has on their lives.

Over the years, we have developed multiple partnerships with other arts education organizations to bring enhanced arts curricula to schools and communities throughout the United States. To date, we have reached over 4.5 million children, educators and adults through workshops, residencies, after school programs, and summer camps, and have performed the original works of over 30,000 young writers.

The future dreams of the company include reaching an even greater audience through the website, increased international touring, an educational television program which will give young writers a chance to see their work produced for television, and the publication of their vast repertory in video, and anthology form.

Our Mission

Artistic: To share, encourage, and validate the creativity of children by performing original works of theatre, music and dance adapted from literature written by young authors.

Educational: To motivate children to write and think creatively and to enhance writing education in schools by sharing drama-based approaches to writing instruction.

Organizational: To elevate the status of theatre for young people by providing full time employment to theatre artists.





Letter from June: Welcome to this event celebrating our 46th anniversary. Throughout the years performing the world premiere writings of young authors in show New Voices. We have stayed true to our mission and goals developed many educational and entertaining performances - *The Christmas That Almost Wasn't* was the first repertory show. Along with *Everything Under the Rainbow*. When we moved to Chicago, we created our *Chicago Young Writers* project to raise funding for under privileged neighborhoods. Our *Write on Chicago* did gather many ideas from *ANT- A Ride on the EL*, to *Zoo's*. Our partners from where we began Parkland College - the Illinois Arts Council was a grass root part and continued to fund-to now. We were the busiest company on the Arts Tour roster.

Kids for President! - (1988, 1992, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020.2024) Produced in election years, gives children “a unique opportunity to learn about the issues that are important to them and the election.” We also performed *Kids for President!* at the Chicago Theatre for the book signing of Hillary Clinton's, “*It Takes a Village*.” We are planning to get the best production of 2024.

Kids for President

Child's Play Touring Theatre of Chicago presents a show timed to coincide with children's election year curiosity and excitement. *Kids for President* runs the gamut from silly to serious with campaign speeches, suggestions for improving the world, and kids' own ideas on what it's like to be the President, this show will win the hearts and votes of both children and adults! Join the campaign trail and bring *Kids for President!* to your community or school.

Kids in Charge

To support our belief that children are in charge of the creative process, we have developed our latest project, *Kids in Charge*. This program is designed to give voice to children's feelings about the challenges America and politicians face, and will raise issues of leadership, responsibility and civic duties. Through presentations of speeches, campaigns and mock conferences, *Kids in Charge* will address civic responsibility and how to deal with social problems in an informed, committed, positive and creative manner. By addressing neighborhood problems, young people can explore the role and structure of the governing body that applies to their own lives – local government. A letter-writing campaign to their leaders, senators, representatives will be a major part of this project, encouraging children to ask questions and say, “Educate Us!” as they look at social issues and problems within their own neighborhoods and communities. Writing is about selfexpression and individuality, and students through the *Kids in Charge* program will be writing about their own issues and what matters to them as young Americans.



Child's Play Touring Theatre

May 29, 2024
6:00pm - 9:30pm

Mistress of Ceremonies: Jalitha Brown

6:00 p.m.

Music by Ralph Rivas & Charles Smith
Drinks

Hor d'oeuvres by Unforgettable Edibles
Silent Auction Opens



7:00 p.m.

Welcome

8:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

Child's Play Touring Theatre Performance
Journey Maranto, Kristain Crawford, and
Carl LaMark and Dave Asher

9:30 p.m.

Exit Music





BENEFIT CHAIR: **Sondra Healy**

Sondra Healy is a graduate of the Goodman School of Drama with a B.F.A. She received her Masters of Education and was the Director of Dramatics at the Wilmette School District. Sondra is Chairman of the Board of Turtle Wax.

An Advocate for the arts, Sondra's current involvement re-flects her lifelong love of the theater.

Sondra is Chairman of The Theatre School at Depaul University, and Life Trustee for both DePaul University and the Goodman Theatre.

She has served as past Chairman of the Goodman Theatre and past President of the Woman's Board of the Goodman Theatre. Sondra is also President of Healy Theatricals which is involved in the production of theatri-cal ventures including Broadway Production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Color Purple* recently, nominated and presented with two Tony Awards.

Sondra has been a board member of Midtown Educational Foundation, After School Matters, U.S.O., Ravinia, Chicago Maternity Center, and Northwestern University.

RISING STAR AWARD: **David Asher**



Dave Asher has been a professional musician and improviser for 25 years, working in some of the best spots around the world, including The Second City, iO Improv Olympic and Boom Chicago in Amsterdam.

Note from June: David Asher raised the bar for the Musical directors and was beloved by all the members of all ages of the Audience with a sophisticated Musical wit. He understood that Musical jokes and being in the moment with a ear on the world who has a vast knowledge of how to create inclusiveness and being real heist too modest and I am filling in my part of Dave's talents are genuine and genius to be there ♥ for any kind of music floats and carries all who listen to a wonderful place that he is navigator to any or place.





VICTOR AWARD RECIPIENT: Kristian Crawford

The 2024 Victor Award

In memory of our founding director, Victor Podagrosi, an annual award has been established to honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, generosity and/or service to Child's Play Touring Theatre and the arts community. This year's recipients embody the spirit of giving and support that the Victor Award represents.



Kristian Chanin Crawford is a veteran stage actor and Artistic Director for Child's Play Touring Theater. Kristian studied Shakesporean Arts at Oglethorpe University with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival in 1988. Former chorus member with off-Broadway hit, "Mama, I Want to Sing" starring Doris Troy, Kristian performed on Chicago stages from 1988 through 1993, having performed with Bill Nunn, Harry Lenix, Lamar Alford, Gregory Allen Williams, and Chuck Smith from the Goodman Theater. In 1989, he received strong reviews for his role in Pegasus Theatre's "Fraternity," directed by Jonathan Wilson. In 1990, he was part of the Joseph Jefferson Award winning ensemble of ETA's production of "Among All This You Stand Like a Fine Brownstone."

In 1991 he was listed in Perform Ink as Best Character Actor for his role as Tom Snout in Chicago Theatre Company's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." In 1992, he rocked the house with vocals in the Rose Theatre's production of "Little Shop of Horrors" as the voice of Audrey II. In 2023, Kristian makes his film debut in BYU Motion Picture Studio's release of Season Five of the Book of Mormon video series. Kristian Chanin Crawford will be this year's recipient of the Victor Award for his outstanding work in children's theater.



PEACEMAKER AWARD:

Lynda Lamitee



Lynda Lamitee is an Army veteran, an RV cross-country traveler, an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church & the Rotary Club of Huntsville, Alabama. She is a self-declared art enthusiast, an art museum docent, a member of the Women's Caucus for Art, the National League of American Pen Women, and an art museum docent. She says, that of all the titles she's had over the years, the one she most proud of is "Grandma."

She's currently doing business as Westlawn Cottage, leading small group art activities for gatherings of friends & families, and local Church & civic clubs in Huntsville, Alabama. The Peace Pole Workshop is one of three workshops currently offered. It's proven one the most popular.

With your help, she could very well surpass her goal of planting a 1000 peace poles. Look for her website westlawncottage.art to go live this month. In the meantime please save her email: Lynda@westlawncottage.art.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Martha Hudak

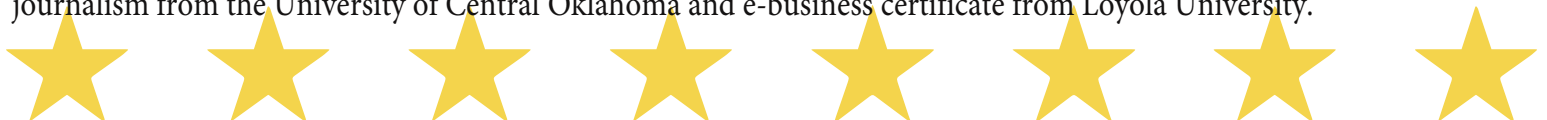


Martha Hudak spent a long career in a variety of arenas, first starting as a journalist and then moving into public relations, corporate communications, marketing communications, marketing, change management for technology implementations and, in retirement, as a tax preparer. Besides telling people she's like a cat with nine lives, she also recognizes that her early training in journalism provided the writing, communications and analytical skills needed for the variety of other positions. Martha has been a long supporter of Child's Play and spent her life volunteering for many professional organizations, non-profits and causes.

In Oklahoma, she was named Outstanding Big Sister of the Year by Big Brothers/Big Sisters, IABC Communicator of the Year and involved in Democrat political campaigns. In Chicago where she was born and moved back in 1987, she currently is a 23-year member of the Jeff Awards Committee as a judge for Chicago area theater and volunteers for Red Door Shelter, Taproot and her condo association. She also has been involved in Democrat party activities. She attended the Democratic convention in Los Angeles in 2000 and has signed up for this year's convention in Chicago.

Martha is always attracted to programs that nurture children and open their eyes to the world. When her nieces and nephews were little and visited her in Chicago from downstate, she took them around to many wonderful places in Chicago, especially museums and theatre.

Martha received her master's degree in mass communications from the University of Oklahoma, bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma and e-business certificate from Loyola University.



A Bit of History

*We are so happy to have the support of two mayors over the years.
Mayor Daley and Mayor Emanuel gave us
support in our Child's Play efforts.
We thought you would enjoy reading their letters.*



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

June 7, 2007

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warmest greetings to all those attending the Child's Play Touring Theatre's Kids for President benefit.

Since 1978, Child's Play has combined the imaginative writings of youth with the skills of professional artists to create exciting and enlightening performances. Over the years, Child's Play has worked with more than four million children and educators and has expanded its offerings to include violence prevention programs as well as bilingual productions and inter-generational collaborations. Tonight's event kicks off the Kids for President campaign, which will highlight our young people's thoughts on government and raise issues of leadership, responsibility and civic duty in our society.

I commend the Child's Play Touring Theatre on its continuing efforts and extend my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

June 14, 2012

Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I offer my warmest greetings to all those gathered to celebrate Child's Play Touring Theatre Annual Benefit and 30th Anniversary in Chicago.

Chicago's rich arts and cultural offerings play a vital role in the quality of life that makes Chicago such a wonderful place to raise a family, start a business, and build a life. Since its establishment in 1982, Child's Play has served as an innovative theatre organization where professional actors take original works written by children and perform them on stage. Through artistic expression, Child's Play has touched over 4 million children by fostering their confidence and cultivating artistic and social accomplishment.

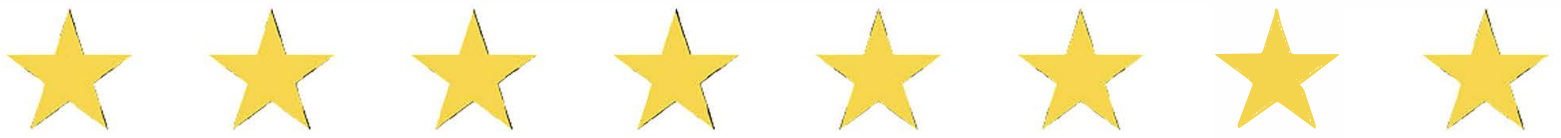
Tonight the Child's Play Touring Theatre presents *Kids for President*. Developed in 1988, the show's concept is still very relevant today. It features current story and poem submissions gathered from schools that partner with Child's Play. I hope the students in attendance this evening will take the opportunity to be inspired by the performance and continue to think critically and creatively.

I join the Child's Play Touring Theatre and everyone gathered here to honor the 2012 *Victor Awards* recipients: Mr. Jeff Richmond and Ms. Marj Halperin. These honorees embody the spirit of determination, strong leadership, and excellence for creating innovative solutions in providing cultural opportunities for our community.

On behalf of the thousands of children and families it serves, I applaud Child's Play Touring Theatre for its commitment to providing outstanding cultural opportunities and I am grateful to serve as this year's honorary chair. Thank you for your generous support of the Benefit, and have an enjoyable evening. Best wishes for much continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor



OUR THANKS TO...

Benefit Chair: Sondra Healy, co-chair of the Bard-Turtle Wax, Inc.

Benefit Committee: Tina Bobor, Jalitha Brown, Grant Priehs, Michelle Ruiz, Gail Lee, all 3 of the Boards of Child's Play Touring Theatre.

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As a not-for-profit organization, Child's Play earns revenues from performance and workshop fees. Additional revenue is provided through government, corporate and foundation grants, as well as the support of many businesses and individuals.

Anonymous

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Lil Moldovanska

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Turtle Wax is proud to support
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The creativity for our young
audiences and their support is
so important!



In Loving Memory of Denis Healy