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**HERBERGER THEATER ANNOUNCES
ADDITION OF THREE RESIDENT COMPANIES
--Arizona Opera, Childsplay Theatre and Arizona Broadway Theatre
Named as Resident Companies--**

PHOENIX, November 13, 2017 – Today the Herberger Theater Center (HTC) announced the addition of three resident companies beginning with the 2018-2019 season: Arizona Opera, Childsplay Theatre and Arizona Broadway Theatre. They will join current resident companies, Arizona Theatre Company, Center Dance Ensemble and iTheatre Collaborative. These new companies will add to the extraordinary offerings of performing arts, as the Herberger Theater Center fulfills its vision to provide and support significant and relevant experiences and to serve as a premier performance venue, “Where Audience Meets Art.”

“We are excited and proud to welcome these wonderful organizations to join the amazing resident companies who call the Herberger Theater Center home,” said Mark Mettes, President and CEO of the Herberger Theater Center. “Each of these new companies have a long history of quality productions for audiences throughout the valley and I can’t wait to see their performances on our stages. Together, the diverse offerings of the resident companies of the Herberger Theater Center will entertain and inspire audiences of all ages, providing more reasons than ever to live, work and play in downtown Phoenix.”

Arizona Opera is entering an exciting new chapter of artistic vibrancy and community engagement. Beginning in the 2018-19 Season, the organization will enhance its programming with an innovative new season model. “With this program expansion, we are increasing our commitment to presenting an adventurous, gutsy, and compelling repertoire of diverse works to inspire new audiences, while continuing to meaningfully invest in the cherished traditional operas known and loved by so many,” said Joseph Specter, President and General Director of Arizona Opera. In addition to Arizona Opera’s Main Stage Series in the winter and spring—which will feature two big and beloved works from the classic repertoire along with one Modern Masterwork—Arizona Opera will launch a new fall series entitled Arizona Opera RED. Arizona Opera RED will be presented in the Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix and the Temple of Music and Art in Tucson. “With the RED Series, we are thrilled to partner with the Herberger, to inspire curiosity among audiences new to the art form, and create an impact beyond the traditional borders of opera,” said Specter. The winter/spring Main Stage Season will continue to be presented in Phoenix’s Symphony Hall and at Tucson Music Hall.

“Childsplay is very happy to be performing at a more central Valley location and we are a thrilled to be a member of the Herberger Theater Center’s outstanding family of resident companies,” commented Steve Martin, Managing Director of Childsplay.

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Looking to expand its brand of Broadway-style musicals to an ever-growing audience in the Valley of the Sun, Arizona Broadway Theatre (ABT) plans a continued partnership with the Herberger Theater Center – co-presenting a number of blockbuster productions at the Herberger Theater Center in 2018-19. “As founder of Arizona Broadway Theatre, I am thrilled the Herberger Theater Center’s Board of Directors has accepted ABT as one of its newest resident companies. With our recent success at HTC of *A Christmas Carol* last December and Disney’s *Beauty and The Beast* this past summer, we know there is an audience in central Phoenix and the East Valley for ABT’s brand of entertainment,” said Kiel Klaphake, CEO & Executive Producer of Arizona Broadway Theatre. “As we foster new relationships with the other resident companies, working together to offer audiences a variety of exciting productions, ABT is eager to advance the mission of the Herberger Theater – bringing the ‘art’ to the ‘audience.’ I applaud the leadership of the Herberger Theater for their vision.”

Herberger Theater Center: Where Audience Meets Art

The Herberger Theater Center is a 501(c)(3) Arizona non-profit organization that supports and fosters growth of the arts in Phoenix as the premier performance venue, arts incubator and advocate. Opened in 1989 and fully renovated in 2010, the Herberger Theater offers three theater venues, art gallery, plaza and rentable event space for a variety of community uses. The Herberger Theater hosts a diverse range of dramatic, dance and musical performances; is home to local theater and dance companies; its gallery provides a venue for Arizona artists to present their works; and a plaza that hosts civic and arts events. Proceeds from annual fundraising benefits its Youth Outreach Programs, designed to give Arizona children (ages 3-19) opportunities to excel, learn and heal through experience with the arts. Over the last 28 years, 4.2 million patrons have enjoyed more than 15,000 performances at the Herberger Theater. HerbergerTheater.org

Arizona Opera elevates the transformative power of storytelling through music—cultivating community and strengthening a state and people as adventurous and diverse as the place they call home. AZOpera.org

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." ChildsplayAZ.org

Arizona Broadway Theatre (ABT), Arizona’s leader in Musical Theatre, is a professional theatre located in Phoenix’s West Valley that showcases locally and nationally acclaimed artists. Known for its elaborate sets, stunning costumes and talented casts, ABT also provides palate-pleasing sit-down table service at their West Valley venue. From the locally produced Mainstage Musicals and robust “Encore” line-up of internationally acclaimed concert artists and specialty acts, to the community driven Theatre for Young Audiences programming and Academy for Young Performers arts-education camps, ABT has become one of the highest attended LIVE theatre venues in Arizona and continues to play a uniquely pivotal role in the vibrant arts scene here in the Valley of the Sun. AZBroadway.org