  
August 2nd, 2018 **Media Contact: June Podagrosi**

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**Child’s Play Touring Theatre Hosts September 24 Gala**

**at the National Hellenic Museum**

**Honorary Chair, Sondra Healy**

**Co-Chairman of the Board, Turtle Wax, Inc.**

***Proceeds support program promoting peace and anti-violence in schools through children’s writings performed on stage.***

**Honorees:**

This year Child’s Play Touring Theatre-(CPTT) is pleased to be celebrating the 40 anniversary of CPTT founding. WE are honoring 40 key individuals that gave their resources-their time, and or their talents.

The first show created by Victor Podagrosi was in 1978. The honorees this year are going to those closet to Victor.

Victor’s Mother-Katy Podagrosi is receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Katy continues to be a generous contributor. She donated the van we used for many years.

The Victor Award recipients are going to Victor’s brother-Andrew Podagrosi and his son Michael Podagrosi.

Andrew Podagrosi who was the IT person backing up our server for quite a few years. Andrew is a generous financial donor in addition to getting us equipment to ensure the smooth operation of CPTT.

Michael Podagrosi is the invisible glue that keeps us together. Michael created the website many years ago-that he updates with the hope that a new person will emerge to carry the baton.

Sebby Woldt is receiving the Rising Star Award. Sebby first sang our theme song when he was 7 at FXW-was in our summer camo at the Goodman Theatre. He is our publisher now for music and writings.

A new Peace Award is TBA.

**Distinguished Child’s Play Alumni:**

Noteworthy teaching alumni include Tina Fey, Jeff Richmond & Adam McKay

**Sponsorship & Silent Auction**

Sponsorships and a silent auction also are part of the benefit activities to raise funds supporting the *Be a Peace of the Puzzle* program. Theatres, restaurants, retail businesses, travel packages, museums, cultural arts and others are asked to donate items to raise funds that support the in-school programs. While many schools pay Child’s Play to bring in their programs, it is hoped that sufficient donations raised will supplement programming for at-risk schools where a peace-themed program can do the most good, but where the schools have the least capability to pay for them.

“We are loved by kids. Child’s Play connects with kids to share their thoughts and ideas about a current subject through writing and drama arts programs,” said Podagrosi. “Our current theme is to promote peace in the schools through the mouths of children. Other subjects we’ve covered are environmental issues, presidential campaigns, energy consumption and personal loss.”

**Additional Information:**

More information about the September 24th benefit is available at [www.cptt.org](http://www.cptt.org), including purchase of tickets, auction item donations and cash sponsorships.

*Child’s Play Touring Theatre was founded in 1978 by Victor Podagrosi and his wife, June, current Executive Director, who started the Victor Award in his memory. The not-for-profit theatre arts page-to-stage literacy program puts writings of children on stage, which are performed by professional actors performing at schools around the country. More than 16,000 young authors have been represented in Child’s Play productions, reaching more than 4.5 million children, teachers and adults across the country.*

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