



EMERALD CITY THEATRE

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EMERALD CITY THEATRE INVITES YOU TO ENTER THE *DR. DOLITTLE* STORY WRITING CONTEST

CHICAGO, January 13, 2009 – The **Emerald City Theatre Company** invites children in 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade to enter the ***Dr. Dolittle* Story Writing Contest**. What if you could talk to the animals? Write a short story about an adventure you might have talking to a dog, a monkey or whatever animals you like most!

How to Enter

- Imagine if you could talk to animals, what kind of adventure might you have? Create a story for us!
- Your story must have a beginning, middle and end.
- It must be about you.
- There must be at least one animal that you “talk to” in your story.
- You must currently be in 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade.
- Maximum length is 500 words.
- Make sure it’s your own original story.
- Deadline for entries – must be postmarked by Friday, February 27, 2009.

How to Submit Your Entry

All entries must be submitted with the entry form which can **downloaded from emeraldcitytheatre.com/animalcontest**.

Mail your entry to:

Dr. Dolittle Story Writing Contest
Emerald City Theatre
2936 N. Southport Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

Prize and Notification

- The winner will be selected by **Associate Artistic Director Ernie Nolan**, director of *Dr. Dolittle*.

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- The winner will be announced on our website by **March 10, 2009** and notified via email or phone.
- The winner and his/her classmates receive **four tickets** to any 2008-2009 Emerald City Theatre production
- “Dr. Dolittle” will **visit the winner’s classroom** to meet the students, read the winning story and deliver the ticket prize.

More Rules

- Only students in **1st through 4th grade** are eligible to enter.
- Stories must have a **maximum of 500 words**.
- Parents/Guardians may help transcribe or type their child’s story if they cannot do it themselves. However, **DO NOT CREATE THE STORY FOR YOUR CHILD!**
- **One submission** per child.
- All stories will be judged based on creativity and originality.
- Maximum of 35 students in the classroom will be receiving the “Classroom Ticket” prize.
- Must be postmarked by Friday, February 27, 2009.

About Dr. Dolittle

The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle, a world premiere **based on the books by Hugh Lofting**. Performing **January 17 – March 14** at the **Apollo Theater**, 2540 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, this production is best suited for families with children ages 5 and up.

Tickets are \$15 (adults), and \$12 (kids). For tickets and further information, call the Apollo Theater box office at **(773) 935-6100** or visit **emeraldcitytheatre.com**. This **world premiere adaptation** promises to incorporate **hand and marionette puppets** in order to **bring the animal world to life!**

Come along and **learn how to talk to the animals!** Follow nine and a half year old Tommy Stubbins as he meets everyone’s favorite animal doctor, John Dolittle and his friends Polynesia the Parrot, Chee Chee the Monkey, Jip the Dog, Gub Gub the Pig, and Dab Dab the Duck. Join them on the **adventure of a lifetime** as they travel from quiet Puddleby-on-the-Marsh to the bottom of the sea to meet The Great Glass Snail. This world premiere production will be a **whirlwind of puppetry, music, and mirth** created by **Associate Artistic Director Ernie Nolan**.

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Show Times

Press Opening is Saturday, January 24 @ 1pm

- February 5 and 19
 - Thursdays @ 10:30am
- February 6, 20 and 27
 - Fridays @ 10:15am
- January 17 – March 14
 - Saturdays @ 10:30am **and** 1:00pm
- January 18 – February 8
 - Sundays @ 1:00pm

*Run time is approximately **60 minutes**. Suited for families with children ages 5 and up.*

Dr. Dolittle Backstage

Dr. Dolittle is directed and choreographed by **Ernie Nolan**. Cast members include **Logan Weeter** (Tommy Stubbins), **Michael Rashid** (Dr. Dolittle), **Sean Patrick Ward** (Matthew), **Christopher Chmelik** (Luke, Gub Gub), **Wardell Julius** (Jip, Longarrow), **Ty Golde** (Chee Chee), **Mary Williamson** (Dab Dab, Miranda), **Melissa Harrison** (Sarah), **Christina Nieves** (Polynesia) and **Caitlin Parish** (Stage Manager). Designers include **Josh Lansing** (Technical Director), **Patrick King** (Lighting Design), **Nick Matonich** (Asst. Lighting Design), **Nathan Rohrer** (Costume Design), **Joe Court** (Sound Design), **Katie Schweiger** (Scenic Design), **Jenny Pinson** (Properties Master), **Allison Daniels** (Puppet Designer) and **Dave Herzog** (Marionette Master).

Directions

Street parking is available. The Apollo Theater is easily accessible by CTA trains and buses. The Fullerton “L” stop (Red, Brown, & Purple lines) is located just south of the theatre. The #8 Halsted, #11 Lincoln, #37 Sedgwick/Ogden, and #74 Fullerton CTA buses all stop at the corner of Fullerton and Halsted, two blocks south of the theatre. See transitchicago.com for times and routes.

About Emerald City Theatre Company

Emerald City Theatre is one **Chicago's most attended non-profit theaters** with an annual attendance of nearly 100,000. **Its mission is to produce family theater experiences that serve as a Child's Gateway to the Arts and readies them for a world of opportunities.**

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Emerald City is proud to be the home of **twenty-three world premiere productions** as well as **four Chicago premieres**. Emerald City employs some of Chicago's top artistic and teaching talent to bring magical, interactive productions and programs that entertain as well as celebrate literacy. The company's year-round programming includes live productions at the Apollo Theater and other venues, theater class offerings, summer theater camps, an extensive touring program, and an annual Celebrate Reading literacy initiative.

Emerald City continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Executive Director Karen Cardarelli, Associate Artistic Director Ernie Nolan an 22-member Board of Directors, a 12-person Administrative staff, and an Advisory Council of nearly 40 civic and business leaders, media personalities and theater professionals. Emerald City is a non-profit company, supported by KPMG, Shore Bank, Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, Chicago Community Trust, Illinois Arts Council and City Arts.

For more information, visit emeraldcitytheatre.com

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