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**Emerald City Theatre kicks off its 2011-2012 Season with the
World Premier of
*If You Give a Cat a Cupcake***

CHICAGO, July 27, 2011 – Emerald City Theatre begins its 16th season of inspiring early learners through theatre with the World Premiere of *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff and adapted and directed by Emerald City Theatre Producing Artistic Director, **Ernie Nolan**. *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*, another of the books in Laura Numeroff's book series, follows Emerald City's popular run of *If You Take a Mouse to School*. It will play at the Apollo Theatre, located at 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., from September 17-January 7, 2011, with an invited press opening on Saturday, September 17 at 1pm.

It is important to be hospitable when making news friends. But you might want to be careful, if that new friend is Cat – or soon your entire day will be filled with chasing Cat all over town! What starts with just a cupcake quickly turns into a full-fledged fiasco as Cat leads an escapade from the kitchen to the beach and back again. *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* is an Emerald City original play based on the picture book from Laura Numeroff's *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series.

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake

September 17 - January 7, 2012

World Premiere

Recommended for ages 3+

Based on the book by Laura Numeroff

Adapted and Directed by Ernie Nolan

Invited Press Opening: Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 1pm

Tickets: Starting at \$13 for kids and \$16 for adults

Location: Apollo Theatre, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave.

Show Times

September 17 – January 7, 2012

Run time is approximately **60 minutes**.

Wednesdays

- Nov. 30 @ 10:15am

Thursdays

- Oct. 20, 27 @ 10:15am
- Nov. 3 @ 10:15am
- Dec. 1 @ 10:15am

Fridays

- Oct. 21 @ 10:15am
- Oct. 28 @ 10:30am
- Nov. 4 @ 10:15am
- Nov. 11 @ 10:30am
- Dec. 2 @ 10:15am
- Dec. 30 @ 10:30am

Saturdays

- OPEN-Sept. 17 @ 1pm
- Sept. 24 @ 10:30am
- Oct. 1, 15, 22 @ 10:30am
- Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29(ASL) @ 1pm
- Nov. 5, 12 @ 10:30pm and 1pm
- Dec. 3 @ 1pm
- Dec. 17 @ 10:3am
- CLOSE-Jan. 7 @ 10:30am

Sundays

- Sept. 18, 25 @ 1pm
- Oct. 2, 9, 23, 30 @ 1pm
- Nov. 6, 13 @ 1pm
- Dec. 4 @ 1pm

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake Backstage

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake is a World Premier adapted and directed by Ernie Nolan. The cast includes Joe Goldammer (Cat), Leah Raidt (Girl) and Kyle Rehder (Multiple Roles). The production staff includes Shea Coffman (Set Design), Nathan Rohrer (Costume Design), Christian Gero (Sound Design), D.J. Reed (Prop Design), Jeff Glass (Lighting Design), Ken Sprouls (Puppet Design) and Naví Afshar (Stage Management).

About Emerald City Theatre

Named the 2009 and 2010 Nickelodeon Parents' Pick Award for Best Theater Group for Kids, Emerald City serves as a Child's Gateway to the Arts, inspiring early learners through play. Emerald City Theatre is one of Chicago's most attended non-profit theaters with an annual attendance of nearly 70,000 between its performance home at Apollo Theater and regional tours. Emerald City is proud to be the home of 28 world premiere productions. Emerald City employs nearly 100 of Chicago's top artistic and teaching talent to bring magical, interactive productions, and programs that entertain children and their grown-ups in all parts of Chicagoland. The company's year-round programming includes live productions at the Apollo Theater and other venues, theatre class offerings, summer theatre camps, an extensive touring program, and literacy initiatives.

Emerald City continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Executive Director Karen Cardarelli, Associate Artistic Director Ernie Nolan, and a twenty-member Board of Directors. Emerald City is a non-profit company, supported by Beermann Swerdlove, Chicago Community Trust, City Arts, Deloitte, Illinois Arts Council, Katten, KPMG, BeechTree Partners, La Rabida Children's Hospital, The MacArthur Fund for the Arts and Culture, National Endowment for the Arts, Winston & Strawn, and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

Emerald City's performance home is the Apollo Theater, located at 2540 N. Lincoln Ave in Lincoln Park. Subscriptions are on sale now for the 2011-2012 Season. Four Ticket Subscriptions begin at \$43 for children and \$55 for adults. Single tickets for 2011-2012 go on

sale in July 2011; prices begin at \$16 for adults and \$13 for children. A limited number of \$10 tickets are available for each performance. Subscriptions can be purchased online at www.emeraldcitytheatre.com or by calling the Administrative Office at 773-529-2690. Single tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Apollo Theater Box Office at 773-935-6100.

The 2011-2012 Mainstage Season includes *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*; *Junie B. Jones: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells*; *Snow White*; and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Don't miss the opening of the Emerald City Playhouse, a performance space for the very young, with the world premier of *Goodnight Gorilla* in May 2012.

For more information, visit www.emeraldcitytheatre.com
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