



EMERALD CITY THEATRE

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EMERALD CITY THEATRE PRESENTS AN ALL-NEW HOLIDAY MUSICAL FROM RALPH COVERT AND G. RILEY MILLS - *HANSEL AND GRETEL*

CHICAGO, November 7, 2008 – Emerald City Theatre will present *Hansel & Gretel*, a world premiere musical by **Ralph Covert** (of “*Ralph’s World*”) and **G. Riley Mills**. Performing **November 20, 2008 – January 4, 2009** at the **Apollo Theater**, 2540 N. Lincoln Avenue. This musical is one of the only holiday musicals in Chicago for families with children ages 3 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 holiday classic is filled with **rockin’ songs** and **eye-popping visuals** that are sure to warm you up this winter!

Following select performances, audiences can head over to Emerald City Theatre School for a **Gingerbread House Workshop** (details below). Audiences can also preview a performance from the show as the cast of *Hansel & Gretel* opens the Magnificent Mile Festival of Lights on Saturday, November 22 (details below).

Show Description

Christmas is coming and Hansel and Gretel dream of a sweet-filled holiday, but things aren’t easy when you’re a poor woodcutter’s child. Trying to have some fun, the duo breaks the rules and stumbles upon a gigantic candy house along with a silly witch and rambunctious forest creatures. Little do they know an unforgettable adventure awaits that will teach them the **power of teamwork and love**. *Hansel & Gretel* was especially created for Emerald City audiences by **Grammy-nominated Ralph Covert** of **Disney** kids’ rock band “**Ralph’s World**” and **G. Riley Mills**, the creators of the perennial musical, *A Nutcracker Christmas*.

Show times

Press Opening is Saturday, November 29 @ 1pm

- November 20 – December 18 (no performance November 27)
 - Thursdays @ 10:15am
- November 21 – December 19 (no performance November 28)
 - Fridays @ 10:15am
- November 22 – January 3
 - Saturdays @ 1:00pm
- December 6 – 27
 - Saturdays @ 10:30am
- November 23 – January 4

- Sundays @ 1:00pm

Run time is approximately **60 minutes**. Suited for families with children ages 3 and up.

Gingerbread House Workshop

Make your own candy house and join in on *Hansel & Gretel* theater games!

- December 13, 14, 20 and 21*

*Limited Availability! **Several workshops are SOLD OUT!** Please visit **emeraldcitytheatre.com** for the latest availability information.

Emerald City Teaching Artists will help you and your child **make your own scrumptious creation**. Create a centerpiece for your holiday table, a unique gift or a lifelong family memory!

Adult + Child Package (includes 1 set of gingerbread house supplies)	\$35
Adult only	\$15
Child only (ages 2 & up) (includes 1 set of gingerbread house supplies)	\$25

Purchase Gingerbread House Workshop Tickets at emeraldcitytheatre.com or call 773-529-2690.

Magnificent Mile Lights Festival

This year, the **Magnificent Mile Lights Festival on Saturday November 22**, will feature Emerald City Theatre's world premiere musical *Hansel & Gretel* to kick off the festivities. The cast will perform live Ralph Covert's new song "That's What I Want for Christmas" to begin the annual holiday event. As Mickey and other Disney characters wave to the tens of thousands of spectators, more than one million lights illuminate the 200 trees along Michigan Avenue between Oak Street and the Chicago River. The festival will reach a nationwide TV audience through ABC's live syndicated broadcast beginning at 6:00PM.

Hansel & Gretel Backstage

Hansel & Gretel is directed by **Matt Gunnels** and created by **Ralph Covert** and **G. Riley Mills**. Cast members include **Ian Daniel McLaren** (Hansel), **Teresa Scalise** (Gretel), **Sam Buti** (Josef), **Trish Austin** (Witch), **Adam Shalzi** (Boris), and **Zev Steinberg** (Naal). Designers include **Josh Lansing** (Technical Director), **Patrick King** (Lighting Design), **Brani Ivanova** (Costume Design), **Joe Court** (Sound Design), **Emily Guthrie** (Scenic Design), **Melissa Turner** (Charge Artist), **Jenny Pinson** (Properties Master), **Elizabeth Doyle** (Music Director) and **Jason Blitman** (Choreographer/Asst. Director).

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.**

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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