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## **Emerald City Theatre celebrates the holidays with the opening of *Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!***

**CHICAGO** – Emerald City Theatre continues its 16<sup>th</sup> season and celebrates the holidays with the opening of ***Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!*** by Allison Gregory, adapted from the book series by **Barbara Park** and directed by **Jacqueline Stone**. It will play at the Apollo Theater, located at 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., from November 17-January 8, 2012, with an invited press opening on Saturday, November 19 at 1pm.

In Junie B. Jones' world, things are very clear – Christmas means you get presents, elf costumes are awesome, and May is a blabbermouth tattletale. Things are going so well, until Junie B. pulls May as her Secret Santa! With Santa watching her like a hawk, what will Junie B. do? *Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* is an adaptation based on the best-selling Junie B. Jones books.

This holiday season Junie B. Jones will explore the **Gateway Theme of Giving**. The Gateway Theme is the main educational focus for each Emerald City Theatre show. Each production seeks to access a life skill that is relevant to early learners and their grownups. **A preshow activity in the lobby and the unique Parent Guide** in every production Playbill let families connect with the show and the Gateway Theme throughout their experience. *Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* will explore how families can practice being generous and giving, even when it can be challenging, during this holiday season

***Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!***  
**November 17 – January 8, 2012**  
**Recommended for ages 3+**

By Allison Gregory  
Adapted from the book series by Barbara Park  
Directed by Jacqueline Stone

**Invited Press Opening:** Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 1pm  
**Tickets:** Starting at \$13 for kids and \$16 for adults  
**Location:** Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave.

## **Show Times**

November 19 – January 8, 2012

Run time is approximately **60 minutes**.

### **Wednesdays**

- Dec. 7, 14, 21 @ 10:15am
- Jan. 4 @ 10:30am

### **Thursdays**

- Dec. 8, 15, 22 @ 10:15am and 12pm
- Dec. 29 @ 10:30am and 1pm
- Jan. 5 @ 1pm

### **Fridays**

- Nov. 25 @ 10:30am
- Dec. 9, 16, 23 @ 10:15am
- Dec. 30 @ 1pm
- Jan. 6 @ 10:30am

### **Saturdays**

- OPEN-Nov. 19 @ 1pm
- Nov. 26 @ 1pm
- Dec. 10, 31 @ 10:30am and 1pm
- Dec. 17 @ 1pm
- Dec. 24 @ 10:30am
- Jan. 7 @ 1pm

### **Sundays**

- Nov. 20, 27 @ 1pm
- Dec. 11(ASL), 18 @ 1pm
- CLOSE-Jan. 8 @ 1pm

### **Girl Scout Day – Friday, January 6 at 10:30am**

Bring your Girl Scout Troop to a performance of *Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells* followed by activities and a chance to meet the cast.

### **Junie B. Jones Backstage**

*Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells Batman Smells* adapted by Allison Gregory and directed by Jacqueline Stone. The cast includes Amber Robinson (Junie B. Jones), Samantha Perry (May), Kaitlyn Griggs (Lucille/Elf Ellen), Anderson Lawfer (Mr. Scary), Aaron Lawson (Herb/Granpa Miller), Michael Leon (Jose/Mr. Toot), Ricky Harris (Sheldon/Philip Jonny). The production staff includes Navid Afshar (Stage Manager), Catherine Smyka (Dramaturg), Michelle Lilly (Set Design), Keith Parham and Margaret Hartman (Lighting Design), Joel Lambie (Prop Design), Joe Court (Sound Design), Branimira Ivanova (Costume Design).

### **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, Producing 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](http://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 in 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](http://www.emeraldcitytheatre.com)  
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