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**EMERALD CITY THEATRE
PRODUCES THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC
A NUTTY NUTCRACKER CHRISTMAS
BY RALPH COVERT AND G. RILEY MILLS
STARTING NOVEMBER 14**

CHICAGO, October 13 – Emerald City Theatre, dedicated to inspiring early learners through play, celebrates this holiday season with a **re-imagining of Ralph Covert and G. Riley Mills’ contemporary musical, *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas***. Coinciding with the opening at the **Apollo Theater** on **November 14, 2009**, is the **national release of the children’s book** also by Covert and Mills and **inspired by this Emerald City production**. This is the first time a major children’s book has been adapted from a Chicago stage production.

Hailed by **Chicago Parent** as, “**A great holiday outing for families**”, this work by Jeff Award-winning co-writers Ralph Covert (of *Ralph’s World* fame) and G. Riley Mills was commissioned by and premiered at Emerald City Theatre in November 2005. Taking its source material from **ETA Hoffman’s** tale and the famous ballet, *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas* remixes the story for a whole new generation of theatergoers. This new spin follows Fritz, a video game obsessed boy, and a heroic female Nutcracker as they chase down and stop the dastardly Mouse King from ruining Christmas. Its rockin’, contemporary score by the **Disney™** recording artist, former **Grammy™** nominee and leader of indie rock band **The Bad Examples** boasts favorites such as “Welcome to Christmas Wood,” “The Wind-Up Toy Ballet,” and crowd favorite “Let’s Ruin Christmas”.

Tickets start at \$15 (adults), and \$12 (kids). For tickets and further information, call the Apollo Theater box office at **(773) 935-6100** or visit **emeraldcitytheatre.com**. Children are invited to meet the actors following each weekend performance. This hit contemporary adaptation is certain to rock you into the holiday spirit!

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Show Times

November 14, 2009 – January 2, 2010

Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri	Sat.	Sun.
27	28	29 Mouse 10:15 AM	30 3 PIGS 10:15 AM	31 JOLLY 10:00 AM	1 Nov
3	4	5	6	7	8
10 ●	11	12	13	14 NUT 1:00 PM	15 NUT 1:00 PM
17	18	19 NUT 10:15 AM	20 NUT 10:15 AM	21 NUT 10:30 AM	22 NUT 1:00 PM
24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 NUT 1:00 PM	29 NUT 1:00 PM
1 Dec	2 NUT 10:15 AM	3 NUT 10:15 AM	4 NUT 10:15 AM	5 NUT 10:30 AM 1:00 PM	6 NUT 1:00 PM
8	9 NUT 10:15 AM	10 NUT 10:15 AM 12:00 PM	11 NUT 10:15 AM 12:00 PM	12 NUT 10:30 AM 1:00 PM	13 NUT 1:00 PM
15	16 NUT 10:15 AM	17 NUT 10:15 AM 12:00 PM	18 NUT 10:15 AM	19 NUT 10:30 AM 1:00 PM	20 NUT 1:00 PM
22 NUT 10:30 AM	23 NUT 10:30 AM	24	25 Christmas	26 NUT 1:00 PM	27 NUT 1:00 PM
29 NUT 10:30 AM	30 NUT 10:30 AM	31	1 Jan	2 NUT 1:00 PM	3

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

Magnificent Mile Lights Festival

Audiences can see a free live performance of the show stopping celebratory number “Welcome to Christmas Wood” on **Saturday, Nov. 21** as Ralph Covert and the cast perform as the **parade’s opening musical performance**. The Festival will be broadcast live on the **ABC Network (WLS-TV 7 locally)**.

About the Book

Illustrated by **Wilson Swain** and based on Ralph Covert and G. Riley Mills’ hit holiday musical, ***A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas*** – featured at The Emerald City Theater in Chicago – is a rollicking Christmas adventure. A **6-track CD-EP** of songs from the musical (including a read-along version) is included with the book.

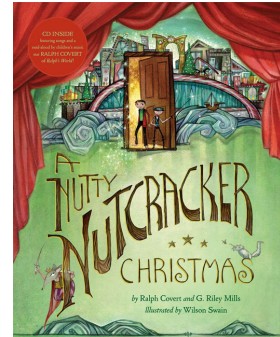
About Chronicle Books

One of the most admired and respected publishing companies in the U.S. Chronicle Books was founded in 1967 and over the years has developed a reputation for award-winning, innovative books. Recognized as one of the 50 best small companies to work for in the U.S. (and the only independent publisher to receive this award), the company continues to challenge conventional publishing wisdom, setting trends in both subject and format, maintaining a list that includes illustrated titles in design, art, architecture, photography, food, lifestyle and pop culture, as well as

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much-admired books for children and ancillary products through its gift division. Chronicle Books' objective is to create and distribute exceptional publishing that's instantly recognizable for its spirit, creativity, and value. For more information about Chronicle Books, visit www.chroniclekids.com.

A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas
ISBN: 978-08118-6111-3
By Ralph Covert and G. Riley Mills
Illustrated by Wilson Swain
Price: \$18.99, Ages 4 to 8
Publicity Date: November 2009



Special Events for *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas*

Gingerbread House Workshops

Saturdays, November 28, December 12, 19, 26
Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 27
3:00pm-4:30pm

at Emerald City Theatre School
2933 N. Southport Ave.
paid parking in lot across the street

Back by popular demand! Make your own candy house and then join in on *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas* theater games! Our 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.

Workshop Schedule:

- You and your child create a gingerbread house with gingerbread and creative candy supplies we provide
- Together we'll read *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas* and enjoy a healthy snack
- *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas* theater games for children while grown-ups watch and enjoy coffee

Adult only (includes refreshments) \$15

Child only (ages 2 & up) * \$30
(Includes 1 set of gingerbread house materials,
story time snacks and theater games)

- *Each child (ages 2 & up) requires a ticket, which includes the house materials. You may take the house materials home should you chose not to create the house at the workshop.*

Make a Day of It!

- 1pm – 2pm catch our performance of *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas* at Apollo Theater (adjacent paid parking available)
- 3pm-4:30pm, drive 4 blocks north and treat your family to the Gingerbread Workshop.

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A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas Backstage

A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas is directed and choreographed by **Ernie Nolan** (Associate Artistic Director). Cast members include **Patrick Byrnes** (Father/Fairy), **Lara Mainier** (Sister/Fairy), **Shea Coffman** (Mouse King), **Troy Baughman** (Fritz), **Melissa Harrison** (Nutcracker), **Julia Gordon** (Mother), **Daniel Riley** (Mayor). Designers are **Katie Schweiger** (Scenic), **Nathan Rohrer** (Costumes), **Patrick King** (Lighting), **Joe Court** (Sound), **Jenny Pinson** (Props), **Joshua Lansing** (Technical Director), **Dave Herzog** (Marionettes), **Sarah Bendix** (Puppet Designer) and **Caitlin Parrish** (Stage Manager).

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 theater. 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 theater. See transitchicago.com for times and routes.

About Emerald City Theatre Company

Awarded the **2009 Nickelodeon Parents’ Pick Award for Chicago’s “Best Theater for Kids”**, Emerald City Theatre is a leader in theater for young audiences. Its mission is to produce family theater experiences that serve as a **Child’s Gateway to the Arts, inspiring early learners through play**. One of Chicago's most attended non-profit theaters, the company serves over 80,000 (35,000 in attendance at its performance home at Apollo Theater, 45,000 on tour).

Emerald City is proud to be the home of **twenty-three world premiere productions** including *A Nutty Nutcracker Christmas*, *How I Became a Pirate* and *If You Take a Mouse to School*. Developing a reputation for creating high quality plays uniquely suited for the early learner, **Emerald City-created works will be produced at 18 theaters in 13 cities** across the country this year including Dallas, Washington D.C. and Milwaukee.

The company’s year-round programming includes **live productions** at the 425-seat Apollo Theater (2540 N. Lincoln Ave), **theater class** and **summer theater camps** at its own Theatre School (2936 N. Southport Ave), 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/Artistic Director, Karen Cardarelli, Associate Artistic Director, Ernie Nolan and Education Director, Jacqueline Stone. Board President is Len Shankman. Corporate support is generously provided by KPMG, Katten, Deloitte, Wildman Harrold, Burke Warren MacKay and CVS Caremark. Additional funding support is provided by Chicago Community Trust and Illinois Arts Council.

For more information, visit emeraldcitytheatre.com

