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**EMERALD CITY THEATRE
BRINGS ADVENTURE WITH A HOOK TO CHICAGO
WITH A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL ADAPTATION OF
PETER PAN, OPENING FEBRUARY 20**

CHICAGO, February 5 – Emerald City Theatre, dedicated to inspiring early learners through play, invites families to join Peter, Tinkerbell, Wendy and Captain Hook on a magical musical adventure with its latest world premiere adaptation, *Peter Pan*. Performing **February 20 – July 22, 2010** at the **Apollo Theater**, 2540 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, this play is best suited for families with children ages 3 to 12 years.

Neverland beckons as Peter Pan and Wendy encounter fairies, mermaids and a ticking crocodile while trying to defeat the nefarious Captain Hook! This musical adaptation by Alyn Cardarelli and Steve Goers, the team behind Emerald City favorites *How I Became a Pirate* and *Cinderella*, will capture the imagination of little pirates and fairies everywhere!

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 world premiere musical adventure with a hook is certain to make a believer out of the entire family!

Show Times

February 20 – July 22, 2010

Run time is approximately 60 minutes.

Thursdays

- April 8 & 22, 10:15am
- June 24, 11:00am
- July 15 & 22, 11:00am

Fridays

- March 26, 10:15am
- April 16 & 30, 10:15am
- May 7, 10:15am

Saturdays

- Feb. 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, 1:00pm
- Feb. 27, March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24, May 8 & 29, 10:30am

Sundays

- Feb. 21, March 7, 21 & 28, 1:00pm
- April 11, 18 & 25, 1:00pm
- May 2, 9, 16 & 30, 1:00pm
- June 6, 1:00pm

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About the Author

Journalist, playwright, and children's book writer James Matthew Barrie was born May 9, 1860 in Kirrjemoir, Angus Scotland. The ninth child of ten, Barrie heard fantastic stories about pirates from his mother when he was young. He was also a small child, only growing to 5 feet 3½ inches as an adult.

Barrie began his early career as a journalist and then switched his attention to writing short stories and novels. He eventually became fascinated with the theatre. Barrie came to attention as a playwright with *Ibsen's Ghost* in 1891. He continued to have great success in the theatre with *Jane Annie*, *Quality Street* and *The Admirable Chrichton*.

The first appearance of *Peter Pan* came in *The Little White Bird*, published in the UK in 1901 and previously published in the United States. *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, debuted as a play on December 27, 1904. Barrie not only created one of the most beloved characters in children's literature, but also introduced the world to a name he created, Wendy. After the success of the stage play, Barrie wrote the book *Peter and Wendy* in 1911.

Some of Barrie's other successful works include *The Twelve Pound Look*, *Mary Rose*, *Dear Brutus*, *What Every Woman Knows* and *The Boy David*. Barrie died on June 3, 1937.

About the Story

Peter Pan and the inhabitants of Neverland have appeared in many different adaptations since Barrie's original play. A musical stage adaptation was created for Broadway starring Mary Martin in 1954. Film adaptations include: a silent film in 1924, Disney's animated classic released in 1953, Director Steven Spielberg's *Hook* in 1991, and a new live action film of *Peter Pan* released in 2003. Peter has even inspired video game creators. He has been featured in such games as *Peter Pan and the Pirates*, *Hook* and *Peter Pan: Return to Neverland*. Tinkerbell has inspired her own games as well, *Tinkerbell* and *Tinkerbell and the Lost Treasure*.

Peter Pan Backstage

Peter Pan is a world premiere musical directed by **Matthew Gunnels** (Artistic Associate) and adapted by Artistic Associates, **Alyn Cardarelli** (book and lyrics) and **Steve Goers** (music). Cast members include **Allison Lind** (Wendy), **Michael Kingston** (Dr. Darling, Captain Hook), **Jamila Turner** (Mrs. Darling, Tiger Lily), **Ryotaro Shiegata** (Peter Pan), **Michael Rieman** (Tootles), **Caleb Probst** (Slightly) and **Zev Steinberg** (Smee). Designers are **Seth Reinick** (Lighting), **Joe Court** (Sound), **Branimira Ivanova** (Costumes), **Jenny Pinson** (Props), **Joshua Lansing** (Scenic) and **Jason Shivers** (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.

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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



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