

REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

NEWS RELEASE

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THIS HALLOWEEN, WORLD-RENOWNED PIANIST CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY JOINS AUTHOR MARK Z. DANIELEWSKI FOR *THE FIFTY YEAR SWORD* AT REDCAT



THE FIFTY YEAR SWORD

By Mark Z. Danielewski
Featuring Christopher O'Riley

October 31, 2012 at 7:30 pm & 9:30 pm

LOS ANGELES, CA—This Halloween, REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, brings back internationally bestselling author Mark Z. Danielewski (*House of Leaves*) and his powerfully chilling novella, *The Fifty Year Sword*. Timed with the Pantheon Books release this October, and culminating a nationwide book tour, performances of *The Fifty Year Sword* will be held back-to-back at the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater on October 31, 2012 at 7:30 & 9:30 pm. These performances will mark the third annual and final time *The Fifty Year Sword* is performed at REDCAT.

Celebrated author Danielewski once again casts his wicked spell with an eerie theatrical presentation of his ghost story for grown-ups. Christopher O'Riley, concert pianist and host of NPR's *From The Top*, performs original music for an evening of harrowing visuals, and special guests—including a gravedigger and a Cirque du Soleil dancer. The event will also showcase 826LA, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6-18 with their creative and expository writing skills.

The tale unfolds in East Texas, where a local seamstress named Chintana finds herself responsible for five orphans who are not only captivated by a storyteller's tale of vengeance, but by the long black box he sets before them. As midnight approaches, the box is opened, a fateful dare is made, and the children as well as Chintana come face to face with the consequences of a malice retold and now foretold.

These performances of *The Fifty Year Sword* at REDCAT mark the culmination of a three-year journey for Danielewski. Originally published seven years ago in Holland as a large-size limited edition of only 1,000 copies, the novella was first performed on the REDCAT stage on October 31, 2010 as a live shadow show. On October 16, 2012, *The Fifty Year Sword* becomes available in the United States as a hardcover and an animated eBook —published by Pantheon Books—complete with newly stitched illustrations (by the author and three seamstresses) and autumnal quotation marks.

Said Danielewski, "Over the last three years, REDCAT has granted me a residency of sorts—a Halloween residency—where for one night I have been able to explore and develop *The Fifty Year Sword*. That chorus of five narrators, all the time cutting one another off, and yet at the same time always holding one another together, not only helped solidify in my mind the layout of the book but also allowed me to conceive of the artwork comprised mainly of thread (Claire Kohne, one of the artists in the show, went on to stitch many of those pieces). Working with the material so closely while just as closely working with others (not a usual habit for novelists) helped me finally realize and see published this little book about how we stitch together the narratives of ourselves, our delusions, our desires, our losses, and occasionally our greatest moments of compassion."

To request press accommodations, interviews, additional information, media or images, please contact Diana Wyenn at 213 237-2873 or dwyenn@calarts.edu.

Event webpage on REDCAT.ORG:

<http://www.redcat.org/event/mark-z-danielewski>

Full listing of Danielewski's tour appearances:

<http://www.facebook.com/MarkZDanielewski/events>

Mark Z. Danielewski pushed the boundaries of bestselling fiction with his experimental and phenomenal *House of Leaves* (2000), and with *The New York Times* bestseller *Only Revolutions*, his novel in verse that became a National Book Award Finalist in 2006. He is currently writing *The Familiar*, a 27-volume novel about a 12-year-old girl who finds a kitten.

[\[More info\]](#)

Christopher O'Riley, an internationally renowned, award-winning pianist, has received acclaim for his Radiohead, Nick Drake and Elliott Smith piano interpretations, in addition to his performances with orchestras around the world. He is also the host of National Public Radio's *From the Top*, where he works and performs with the next generation of brilliant young musicians. He appears in *The Fifty Year Sword* thanks to an ARC grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation. [[More info](#)]

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TICKETS & INFORMATION

Mark Z. Danielewski: *The Fifty Year Sword*

Performances:

Wednesday, October 31 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 31 at 9:30 pm

Tickets:

\$20 general (\$16 students & members)

Seating is general admission and tickets are available for purchase in-person at REDCAT Box Office, by phone at 213-237-2800, or online at www.redcat.org.

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ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a modular theater, a 3,000-square-foot gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit www.redcat.org.

Location/Parking: REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

Street Address: 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

THE LOUNGE | Open to the public six days a week, the Lounge is a great place to spend an

afternoon or grab a drink pre- and post-performance.

Lounge Hours:

Tuesdays–Fridays from 9am until 8 pm or post-show;

Saturdays from noon until 8 pm or post-show;

Sundays from noon until 6pm or post-show

THE GALLERY | REDCAT's Gallery presents 5 major exhibitions each year, and publishes artist books and catalogues. Admission to the Gallery is FREE.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesdays–Sundays from noon until 6 pm or through intermission

THE THEATER | Tickets for programs held in the theater are available through the REDCAT Box Office, by phone 213-237-2800 or online at www.redcat.org. Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

Box Office Hours:

Tuesdays–Saturday from noon until 6 pm or two hour prior to curtain

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Photo caption: Christopher O'Riley and Mark Z. Danielewski rehearse *The Fifty Year Sword* at REDCAT as Halloween edges ever closer. (Photo by Lindsey Best)