

Press Release:

For the whole family, a Cinderella story set to a disco beat!

Press Contact: **Cheryl Games, 818.955.8004**

cheryl@falcontheatre.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2008

Falcon Theatre

presents

A Retro Retelling of Cinderella for the Whole Family

Cindy and the Disco Ball

Book & Lyrics by **Lori Marshall** and **Joseph Leo Bwarie**

Music by **Rachael Lawrence**

Directed by **Joseph Leo Bwarie**

OPENS Saturday, March 1st at 1pm

The Falcon Theatre is thrilled to bring back the retro retelling of Cinderella, *Cindy and the Disco Ball*. This all new 2008 production is bursting with more songs, more dancing and more magic— it's more '70s fun than you can shake a tail feather at! Co-written and directed by **Joseph Leo Bwarie**, who plays Frankie Valli in the new Las Vegas production of *Jersey Boys*, with music by **Rachael Lawrence** from VH1's *I Hate My 30's*, and co-written by **Lori Marshall**, the co-author of *Wake Me When It's Funny*, *Cindy and the Disco Ball* is the acclaimed Falcon Theatre's funky family musical that offers something for the whole gang from the *dyno-mite* decade!

Cindy and the Disco Ball takes us back in time to the gum-smacking flavor of the 1970s! We're talkin' 1975 and Cindy is stuck scrubbing the linoleum while the rest of the school is getting decked out for the dreamy Disco Ball. But with a little magic and a whole lotta glitter, Cindy gets a sparkling makeover from her Soul Sister Diva Fairy Godmother! It's a *Cinderella* story with a boogie-oogie beat! The cast stars **Christine Lakin** as 'Cindy', well-known as 'Al Lambert' on the ABC comedy *Step By Step*, **Connie Jackson** of *Dreamgirls* on Broadway, **Chris Prinzo** of *Mama Mia!* on Broadway, **Melissa Strom** of the first National Tour of *Jersey Boys*, and **Alex Miller** as the dashing Prince Charming in this retro retelling of everyone's favorite story: *Cinderella*.

With twelve super-fly original songs and dance moves inspired by the disco days of the '70s, *Cindy and the Disco Ball* will have the entire audience ready to get down and boogie! Moms and dads slip on those bellbottoms and platform shoes, grandmas and grandpas break out those record albums and get the kids ready to "hustle" down to the Falcon Theatre for a fab-u-lous good time!

Cindy and the Disco Ball opens on Saturday, March 1st, with a special '70s Disco Costume Party, for kids *and* adults, following both the 1pm and 3pm shows!

*

*

*

Joseph Leo Bwarie (Director/Book & Lyrics) is opening this spring as 'Frankie Valli' (select shows) in the new Palazzo Hotel Las Vegas Production of *Jersey Boys* after playing San Francisco, Seattle and Houston with the 1st National Tour. Other writing collaborations with Marshall and Lawrence include: *The Empress and Her New Clothes*, *Thumbelina*, *The Root Beer Bandits*, *Rapunzel* and *The Enchanted Nightingale*. Other Falcon Theatre projects: *Funky Punks: Bright Ideas*, *3 Little Pigs* and *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. He is a longtime member of the acclaimed Troubadour Theater Company and was recently seen on VH1's *I Hate My 30's* and in the 2008 Sundance Film Festival's *Chronic Town*.

Lori Marshall (Book & Lyrics) is pleased to be a returning author at the Falcon. With her long time writing partner Joseph Leo Bwarie, Marshall has co-authored *The Enchanted Nightingale*, *Thumbelina*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Empress and Her New Clothes* and *The Root Beer Bandits*. In addition, she has written stage versions of *Rapunzel*, *Snow Queen*, *Beanstalk*, *Rumpelstiltskin* and *Hansel & Gretel*. She is co-author of Garry Marshall's book *Wake Me When It's Funny* and a noted journalist in the Bay Area.

Rachael Lawrence (Composer/Musical Director) is an actress, voice coach and composer in Los Angeles. Composing music for Falcon Theatre children's musicals has been one of her favorite projects, including the shows *The Root Beer Bandits*, *Thumbelina*, *The Enchanted Nightingale* and *The Empress and Her New Clothes*. Her original songs can be heard on *General Hospital* and on the 2007 VH1 scripted comedy series *I Hate My 30's*, in which she also was a series regular. Rachael musically directs many shows in and around the Los Angeles area and has worked on many shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

Christine Lakin (Cindy) A two-time Ovation nominee, Christine originated the role of "Cindy" in 2005. She has since starred in several Falcon Theatre productions including *Happy Days: A New Musical* and *Alice In One-Hit Wonderland*. Audiences grew up watching Christine on the hit sit-com *Step By Step*, but may remember her more from recent films *Georgia Rule* and Disney's *The Game Plan*. In February 2008 she starred opposite Paris Hilton as half the title role in the romantic comedy, *The Hottie And The Nottie*, and can be seen in the 2008 Sundance Film Festival drama, *Chronic Town*.

Melissa Strom (Eleanor) originated the role of 'Eleanor' in *Cindy and the Disco Ball* at the Falcon Theatre in 2005. She played 'Francine' in the First National Tour of *Jersey Boys*, which was recently awarded the 2007 LA Ovation Award: Best Tour, Ahmanson. National tours include: *Jersey Boys*, *The Music Man*, Nickelodeon's "All That" *Music and More*. Regional: *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* and *A Chorus Line*. Television credits: *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *The OC*, *Eve* and *American Dreams*.

Alex Miller (Tommy) is a native of Chicago where his credits include *Oliver* and *Mame* (Candlelight Theatre). Other Midwest shows include *Anything Goes*, *Lion in Winter*, and *Blood Brothers*. A graduate of Mountview Theatre School in London, Alex appeared in *Assassins* (Westminster Theater), *Nine* (Cochrane Theater) and *West Side Story* (Watford Coliseum). Alex is also a regular at South Coast Repertory where he was seen in *The Adventures of Por Quinly*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. TV credits: *Las Vegas* and *Killer Instinct*. Alex is also a twin and can be seen with his brother in commercials for Pizza Hut and Dr. Scholl's.

Chris Prinzo (Buddy) played 'Pepper' in *Mamma Mia!* on Broadway. Off-Broadway, he was featured as a lead in *The Gorey Details*. LA theatre credits include: 'Chachi' in *Happy Days: A New Musical* written and directed by Garry Marshall at the Falcon Theatre; *Zorba*, *Applause* and *Kismet* with Reprise!; *South Pacific* at the Hollywood Bowl starring Reba McEntyre, at The Roxy with Donovan Leech in a workshop of Brian DePalma and Paul Williams' *Phantom of the Paradise*; and *The Id and Bob* at the Lillian Theatre. Television and film credits include *Las Vegas*, *Scrubs*, *Eli Stone*, *Help Me Help You*, *American Dreams*, *Passions*, *Mulberry Park* and the Lion's Gate feature *House of the Dead 2*.

Connie Jackson (Soul Sister) is a singer/actress with credits ranging from the Tony-nominated *Dreamgirls* on Broadway to various television appearances. She has toured the world as a background vocalist on Phil Collins' First Final Farewell Tour. If her face seems familiar, you've probably seen her in numerous television commercials including those for Jack in the Box, Mutual of Omaha, VISA, Epon, Campbell's Soup and Kmart. Recent television credits include a guest spot on the popular NBC series, *Heroes*.

Cindy and the Disco Ball

Book & Lyrics by **Lori Marshall** and **Joseph Leo Bwarie**

Music by **Rachael Lawrence**

Directed by **Joseph Leo Bwarie**

OPENING	Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 1pm
DISCO COSTUME PARTY	Saturday, March 1, 2008 following the 1pm and 3pm shows
SHOW CLOSES	Sunday, May 18, 2008
PERFORMANCES	Sat. 1pm & 3pm, Sun. 1pm
PRICES	\$12 for kids, \$15 for adults

**THE FALCON THEATRE is located at 4252 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, in Burbank.
For ticket reservations, call 818.955.8101.**

For press seats and photos please contact Cheryl Games at 818.955.8004., ext. 133.

www.FalconTheatre.com

*

*

*