

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 22, 2006



Presents

## ***The Empress and Her New Clothes***

**A Fantastic Fashion Musical for Kids!**

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

Music by **Rachael Lawrence**

Directed by **Joseph Leo Bwarie**

**OPENS Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 @ 1pm**

This spring, the Falcon Theatre is proud to present the long-awaited return of its children's series with the World Premiere musical, ***The Empress and Her New Clothes***.

Break out your berets! This colorful clothing caper takes us to **Paris, France** and the "Passion for Fashion" competition for teenage clothing designers. *Ooh la la!* Empress Genevieve goes undercover, only to find that a pushy girl from Malibu has a sneaky trick up her sleeve. Things start to unravel when her clothing designs are stolen and "invisible" outfits dance down the runway in this fashionable new musical. *Sacré bleu!*

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**Joseph Leo Bwarie (Director / Playwright)** With collaborators Lori Marshall and Rachael Lawrence, Joe has taken us to a magical, tropical island in the original musical *Thumbelina*, a western township in *The Root Beer Bandits: A Rootin' Tootin' Wild West Musicale*, an enchanted fairytale forest in *Rapunzel*, and back in time to the 1970s in *Cindy and the Disco Ball*. Other favorite Falcon children's shows include: the "little" big-top extravaganza *Funky Punks in Bright Ideas*, the storybook comedy *3 Little Pigs* and the spooky, kooky *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Joe holds a BFA in Theatre from Emerson College in Boston and works in LA as writer/director/performer.

**Lori Marshall (Playwright)** is pleased to be a returning author at the Falcon after writing adaptations of *Rapunzel*, *Snow Queen*, *Beanstalk*, *Rumpelstiltskin* and *Hansel & Gretel*. She also co-wrote the Falcon Theatre's productions of *Cindy and the Disco Ball*, *Thumbelina*, *The Root Beer Bandits: A Rootin' Tootin' Wild West Musicale* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* with Joseph Leo Bwarie. Lori earned her B.S. and M.S.J. degrees in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School, and has contributed to six nonfiction books.

**Rachael Lawrence (Composer)** For the Falcon, Rachael has composed *Cindy and the Disco Ball*, *Thumbelina* and *The Root Beer Bandits: A Rootin' Tootin' Wild West Musicale*, and created music for *3 Little Pigs* and *Rapunzel*. Receiving her BA in Theatre Arts from USC, Rachael works as a musical director, composer and voice coach.

**Brad DeLima (Giorgino)** performed on Broadway in the Tony Award winning revival of *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*. Other recent theatrical credits include playing 'Mike' in *Applause* with Reprise! LA, directed by David Lee, and starring as 'Ren' in last summer's Southern California production of *Footloose*. Some of Brad's television credits include appearances on the CBS sitcom *Out of Practice*, *Saturday Night Live*, MTV and *The Today Show*. Brad is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**Tom Hines (Marcus McManus/Charles Whitaker)** was last seen at the Falcon Theatre as 'Sheriff Bailey' in *The Root Beer Bandits: A Rootin' Tootin' Wild West Musicale*. Previous film credits include *Raising Helen* and *Princess Diaries 2*. He can next be seen in Scott Marshall's soon-to-be-released film *Keeping Up With the Steins*.

**Beth Kennedy (Madame Mauve)** received the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Natalie Shaffer Award for Emerging Comic Actress. Her numerous theatre credits include frequent appearances with Troubadour Theater Company in *Hamlet*, *the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark*, *Little Drummer Bowie*, *Funky Punks in Bright Ideas*, *The Comedy of Aerosmith*, *Santa Claus is Comin' to Motown* and many more. She has also appeared on *Gilmore Girls* and *Judging Amy* and in the film *Greener Mountains*. She recently performed in Garry Marshall's production of *The Grand Duchess* at the Los Angeles Opera.

**Christine Lakin (Alexis)** is best known for her role as 'Al' on *Step By Step*, and can be seen on MTV's *Wild 'N Out* and ABC's *Sons & Daughters*. Christine just starred as 'Joanie Cunningham' in *Happy Days*, "Aaay!" *It's a Musical!*, *Cindy and the Disco Ball*, *Wrong Turn at Lungfish*, and in the critically acclaimed new musical *The Breakup Notebook*. TV/Film: *The Cutting Edge II*, *Veronica Mars*, *Rodney*, *3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun*, *Boston Public*, *Whatever It Takes*, *Who's Your Daddy*.

**Selah Victor (Genna/Empress Genevieve)** comes from a long line of fairy tale royalty including Storybook Theater's 'Beautiful Princess' in *Aladdin* and the 'Princess Carly' in *Rumplestiltskin*, as well as 'Queen Esther' in the new musical *Esther*. Selah's voice can also be heard as the voice of 'Thumbelina' at the San Diego Zoo and in several children's books on tape.

<b>WHEN:</b>	OPENS	<b>Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 1pm</b>
	RUNS THRU	<b>Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 1pm</b>
	PERFORMANCES	<b>Saturdays at 1pm &amp; 3pm, Sundays at 1pm</b>
	PRICES	<b>KIDS \$10, Adults (ages 13+) \$12</b>

\*\*\* Additional information at [www.falcontheatre.com](http://www.falcontheatre.com). \*\*\*

THE FALCON THEATRE is located at 4252 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, in Burbank.

**For ticket reservations, call 818.955.8101**

To arrange PRESS SEATS, schedule interviews or request editorial information or photographs, please contact Wesley Horton at 818.955.8004.