

# Berkeley Playhouse

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR  
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## **Grammy Nominee Frenchie Davis to Appear in Cinderella, Enchanted**

Davis will play Fairy Godmother in unique interpretation of Rodgers & Hammerstein classic



BERKELEY, CA - Berkeley Playhouse has announced that Frenchie Davis will play the role of the Fairy Godmother in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Enchanted Edition) in the Fall. The play will be the second show in the 2010-2011 season.

Frenchie Davis rose to fame as a finalist in season six of Fox's *American Idol*. Following *Idol*, Davis starred in *RENT* on Broadway for four years. During that time, she also became involved in supporting several charities, and helped raise thousands of dollars for HIV/AIDS through Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

In 2004, Davis was cast in the West Coast touring production of *Dreamgirls*, winning critical acclaim for her powerful portrayal of the lead role, Effie. She also began a recording career, including collaborations with world-renowned DJ/producer Tony Moran, and has had two singles rise to the top ten on the Billboard dance charts.

In 2008, Davis reprised the famous Nel Carter role in a national 30th anniversary touring production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* starring with fellow *Idol* alum, Ruben Studdard. She won rave reviews from critics and audiences, and was nominated for a Grammy Award for the cast album recording.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* was remade into a 1997 television movie starring Whitney Houston, Bernadette Peters, Jason Alexander. The "Enchanted" version incorporates new, additional music, and Berkeley Playhouse's interpretation will include aerial dance, a chorus children-animals, and a beautiful, multicultural cast - featuring many of the leads from its past two highly successful seasons. The show will be directed by Artistic Director Elizabeth McKoy, with choreography by Kimberly Dooley, and music direction by Executive Director Jerry R. Foust and Amy Dalton.

The show opens November 6, and runs through December 5 at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, the Playhouse's new permanent home. Tickets are on-sale now.

For more information, visit the Berkeley Playhouse website at: [www.berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org)

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The mission of The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts is to foster the development of an artistic community where children and youth create, experience and are transformed by the performing arts. Berkeley Playhouse, a program of The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, provides children and families with unique music theatre experiences. From classes and workshops to youth company performances to professional mainstage shows, Berkeley Playhouse provides something for everyone - from age 2 to 102. Beginning in 2009-2010, Berkeley Playhouse will make its permanent performance home at the Julia Morgan Center stage.

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