

Berkeley Playhouse

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR
IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**
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Berkeley Playhouse Conservatory to present Disney's "The Aristocats"

**Thirteen-week training program will culminate in performances on the
Julia Morgan Center stage**

BERKELEY, CA - The Berkeley Playhouse Conservatory will present a live-action version of the Disney favorite, "The Aristocats," January 15-17, 2011. This fully-produced musical will be the culmination of a thirteen-week training program led by professional directors and designers. Students in the program receive instruction in acting, singing and dancing, and play all lead and supporting roles. The cast consists of 26 students, grades 3-5, from all over the East Bay.

Performances take place on Saturday, January 15 (2:00 pm and 7:00 pm); Sunday, January 16 (12:00 pm and 5:00 pm); and Monday, January 17 (12:00 pm and 5:00 pm). All performances take place at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley.

The show is directed by Berkeley Playhouse/JMCA Executive Director Jerry R. Foust. Amy Dalton ("Cinderella Enchanted" and Disney's "Aladdin") serves as music director. Lynda Bachman serves as assistant director and stage manager.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.berkeleyplayhouse.org. All seats are reserved, and based on the recent successes of the Conservatory performances, the staff expects some performances to sell-out.

ABOUT "THE ARISTOCATS" - The production is based on the 1970 Disney film "The Aristocats," with music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, and Al Rink and Floyd Huddleston. Set in turn-of-the-century Paris, the story finds Madame's jealous butler Edgar cat-napping Duchess and her Aristokittens and abandoning them in the Parisian countryside. Luckily, Thomas O'Malley and his rag-tag bunch of Alley Cats come to their rescue! Songs include the Disney favorites "The Aristocats," "Scales and Arpeggios" and "Ev'rybody Wants to Be a Cat."

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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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www.berkeleyplayhouse.org / www.juliamorgan.org