

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, September 25, 2007**

**Theatre Professionals Help Young People  
Prepare for their roles in Valley Youth Theatre's  
*The Prince and the Pauper*  
October 12 thru 28, 2007**

Veteran Valley actor and stage combat expert, David Barker is working with the young people on the swordplay for Valley Youth Theatre's upcoming Arizona premiere of the off-Broadway musical *The Prince and the Pauper*. In October, Neil Berg, the show's composer/lyricist, is coming into town to meet the cast and participate in a talkback during the run of the show as well. *The Prince and the Pauper* recently finished its second year at the Lambs Theater in New York City and he is now composing the new Broadway musical "Grumpy Old Men", based on the contemporary movie classic starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. His touring show "100 Years of Broadway", just finished and included a stop at the Mesa Arts Center. "Working on a new script and getting a chance to interact with the theatre professionals is just one of the unique opportunities that Valley Youth Theatre prides itself on providing for our young performers" says Bobb Cooper, Producing Artistic Director. "We believe that opportunities like these help us toward our mission of preparing young people to be the very best they can be."

Other opportunities in the past have included:

- ★ Working with professional NBA player Jeff Hornacek for *High School Musical's* basketball scenes
- ★ Last years' *Arizona Comedy Experiment*, hosted by VYT's Ha Ha's Troupe, which brought professional comics and improve troupes in to conduct workshops for aspiring comedians
- ★ Broadway dancer/choreographer Tony Spinoso, who conducted dance classes for cast members at no charge prior to each rehearsal of CATS

*Prince and the Pauper* is based on Mark Twain's classic tale of two boys, who in trading clothes for a day, end up trading lives. A young peasant suddenly finds himself living a life of royalty and the Prince of Wales learns of life through the eyes of his poverty-stricken subjects. The swashbuckling adventures that follow leave both of them changed forever.

**Mr. Berg is available for phone interviews prior to the production opening. To arrange an interview contact Carolyn McBurney at [Carolyn@VYT.com](mailto:Carolyn@VYT.com).**

*Prince and the Pauper* opens Friday, October 12 and will run through Sunday, October 28. Performance times are Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 12:00 & 3:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18 per person, adults and children two and up, and can be ordered through the Valley Youth Theatre box office at 602-253-8188 x 2. Discounts are available for groups of 20+. For more information about Valley Youth Theatre visit [www.VYT.com](http://www.VYT.com).

Named by the Arizona Republic as one of the "Top Ten Places to Become a Future Star", Valley Youth Theatre is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. VYT's mission is to inspire young people to be the best that they can be by providing them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company whose Alum include American Idol, Jordin Sparks and Broadway Star, Max Crumm. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Arts Commission through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.