



Cinderella Helps a Young Girl's Wish Come True



Kari Virding stars as Cinderella in Blue Monkey's dazzling holiday treat. Photo by Matthew Stiles

NEWS RELEASE | DECEMBER 14, 2007 | PORTLAND, OR

Some wishes require a fairy godmother's intervention. Others are granted by ordinary mortals who work to make sure that "impossible things happen every day." Young Gloria Munjuia will soon enjoy the best of both kinds of magic, as the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon grants her wish to visit Disneyland, with a fairy tale send-off from Miss Oregon Kari Virding, the star of Blue Monkey's production of *Cinderella*.

Later this month, 3-year-old Gloria, accompanied by her mother Rosario, grandmother Maria, and siblings Bertin, Christian, Ashley, and Jose, will spend five days and four nights at the Disneyland Resort. But first, they'll be honored guests of Blue Monkey Theater Company at this Sunday's matinee performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*.

At the end of the show, princess-loving Gloria will get to meet the cast and whirl around the dance floor with The Prince, played by Jonathan Swartout. It's all part of Gloria's wish party, a special "ball" held in her honor where her Make-A-Wish itinerary will be unveiled. Pizza, ice cream and an ice cream cake donated by ColdStone Creamery will add to the festivities.

Wish granters are Evie Bello and Kari Virding, who has been a wish granter with the Make-A-Wish Foundation for three years. It is also the focus of her platform as Miss Oregon, and she is spending her year helping to raise funds and awareness for the organization.

WHAT: "Make-A-Wish Ball" for Gloria Munjuia at Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*

WHEN: Sunday, December 16; show at 2 pm, followed by party

WHERE: West End Theater, 1220 SW Taylor, Portland

Blue Monkey Theater Company is about taking artistic risks, coloring outside the lines and empowering the unique, fresh, fearless voice of the young artist. We're committed to expanding the vision of what theater for young people is and can be, by creating experiences that are challenging, honest and unforgettable.

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The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.