

Center Theatre Group and Deaf West Theatre Present
“Sleeping Beauty Wakes”
A New Musical
by Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda
Directed and Choreographed by Jeff Calhoun
World Premiere
At CTG’s Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City

A delightful twist on a classic Grimm’s fairy tale is revealed in the new musical “Sleeping Beauty Wakes,” presented by Center Theatre Group and Deaf West Theatre at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, March 31 through May 13, 2007. Opening is set for April 7.

Created by Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda, and directed and choreographed by Jeff Calhoun, “Sleeping Beauty Wakes” will feature the indie pop/rock sensation GrooveLily onstage with both hearing and deaf actors in this loose adaptation of the tale of a beautiful young princess who, cursed by a spiteful fairy, pricks her finger on a spinning wheel needle on her 16th birthday and promptly falls asleep for a 100 years.

But is the heroine of “Sleeping Beauty Wakes” a fictional character from another time and place or is her story the product of fitful dreams at a real, modern sleep disorder clinic? This beauty seems to have a problem getting to sleep, not sleeping too much. But when sleep finally comes, her dreams take her and the audience on a journey to discover what it means to be truly awake.

Will insomnia deter the heroine from finding her role in life and her own true love? Audiences can rest assured. Even modern fairy tales know the value of Happily Ever Afters.

Brendan Milburn, singer and on drums, and Valerie Vigoda, singer and electric violinist, are members (with Gene Lewin, singer and on drums) of GrooveLily, a music group that, with their blend of folk, rock, jazz, classical music and pop, have a unique niche all of their own. Some of their CDs include “Little Light” and “Are We There Yet?”

Rachel Sheinkin received the Tony Award last year for the libretto of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” She previously penned the book for GrooveLily’s “Striking 12,” a holiday show based on “Little Match Girl” by Hans Christian Andersen, and “Wheelhouse,” GrooveLily’s autobiographical tale set on their touring motor home.

CTG and Deaf West Theatre Company first paired up in 2002 with the highly successful presentation at the Mark Taper Forum of Deaf West’s award-winning production of “Big River,” which was subsequently presented as a co-production to rave reviews and an extended run on Broadway. The cast received Tony Award Honors for Excellence in the Theatre and the production was nominated for Best Revival – Musical. “Big River” returned to Los Angeles on a national tour and was presented at CTG’s Ahmanson Theatre in 2004. Some of Deaf West’s other award-winning productions include Ovation Award winners “Oliver!” and “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Last fall, Deaf West co-produced with Pasadena Playhouse the world premiere of Stephen Sachs’ “Open Window.”