

**PRESS RELEASE –**

**“Spotlight on Talent” Producers Looking for Graduates**

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Calling all former “Spotlight on Talent” Finalists! The Producers from Heritage Arts Center Association’s Spotlight on Talent are looking for you! They are putting together a gala concert event on Saturday, October 25, 2008, celebrating the 25 years of history of the performing arts competition. The challenge is managing to find current contact information on the hundreds of talented artists who performed since its beginning. Producer Barbara Friedman is asking the community to help by spreading the word, and letting them know of contact information of family or friends who were “Spotlight” finalists but have graduated.

She is hoping that alumni of the contest have been able to follow this competition through the years, and realize that the concept has remained strong, the quality is excellent, and the contest’s popularity with students has “exploded”. These last few years have seen record numbers of eager young people auditioning, preliminary tryouts day crowded with up to 250 contestants! This Silver Anniversary year was very special, because Heritage Arts Center made the commitment that to allow even more talented young people to get their chance to “shine” onstage, we produced TWO final shows with over 60 acts. Act I was for younger students and Act II was the high school division and a groups category. This was quite a logistical challenge, and the bill to produce both shows was over \$10,000 this year! We came close to meeting expenses, and during follow-up discussions, the idea was born of putting on a show by former Spotlight contestants with perhaps proceeds from ticket sales helping with this year’s expenses.

The message to former participants is this: much more important than finances is the idea of seeing your faces again, and enjoying some more performances. So, think about dusting off your tap shoes, warming up that beautiful voice, and polishing those ivories! Check your calendar and see if it would be possible for you to join us on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at the newly renovated Pasco Middle Auditorium in Dade City. We think you’ll agree with us that there was great value in preparing and competing in “Spotlight” in the past, and we hope you can be motivated to prepare one number to share – no competition this time, no trophies, and no judges – just old friends getting together to share and enjoy each other’s talent.

The producers would need you to get back to us as soon as possible so we can finalize details. Contact us at [hacaspotlight@yahoo.com](mailto:hacaspotlight@yahoo.com) or Becky (Friedman) Groomes at 813-469-2040, make sure we have your correct contact info, and check out our web site at [www.heritagearts.org](http://www.heritagearts.org). The deadline is August 1 for responses to participate. They would love to hear from any former contestant with a brief update on your life even if you can’t be in the show or attend.

Community members who have enjoyed the exciting shows through the years will eagerly look forward to a chance to experience some of those marvelous talents again. Watch for final details in the papers this fall. “Start spreading the news...!!”