

## 'Cinderella' works magic in schools

### Troupe brings kids Broadway classics

BY JESS WISLOSKI

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Posted Thursday, March 15th 2007, 4:00 AM



Alvarez/News

*A performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Cinderella' by the Inside Broadway troupe at left.*

Delighted faces at PS 304 last week. In 25 years of performing at schools, more than half a million children have enjoyed the performances.

Broadway actors belting out tunes from a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical captivated the students at two Bronx schools last week.

Inside Broadway, a program created to bring Broadway theater to underserved young audiences, launched its 2007 season with two performances at Public School 304 on Lafayette Ave. last week, and will continue touring around the city during the next two months.

celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, professional performers also brought their presentation to sixth-graders at Middle School 45 on Lorillard Place.

Singing the cheery, upbeat songs from "Cinderella," which

# DAILY NEWS

"It's a real treat for the kids," said MS 45 principal Annamaria Giordano, after the group performed last week. "They do a great job."

Besides the shows, the organization provides teachers with study guides and lesson plans. They also visit schools with their own instructors to develop the inner thespians in children.

"Our uniqueness has to do with being able to bring in the professional element

of theater and Broadway," said founder and executive director Michael Presser. "It's important for them to experience these great American classics."

In the 25 years of performing in schools, the group has served over half a million children. Performers annually visit more than 75 schools in the five boroughs.

There will be 40 more performance in city schools before this season ends next month.

In New York fashion, the troupe's audience members last week had no reservations about sharing their feelings during the show. Kenyon Adams, who played the prince, said he loves hearing the children hiss, "He's so stupid! She's right there!" during a final scene when he comes across Cinderella at the castle, but fails to recognize her in rags.



Alvarez/News

"I have a line where I say, 'I've tried it on everyone,' " said the slender, dashing young actor from Orlando, Fla. "I heard a little girl yell, 'Not Cinderella!' That was a key moment for me."

After the MS 45 show, a girl asked him for a hug. Adams grinned and obligingly leaped from the stage.