

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Falcon Theatre presents the world premiere of *Billy & Ray*  
**Press Contact:** Chelsea Sutton 818.955.8004 ext. 133, [chelsea@falcontheatre.com](mailto:chelsea@falcontheatre.com)



Falcon Theatre  
presents  
the World Premiere of

## *Billy & Ray*

Written by **Mike Bencivenga**  
Directed by **Garry Marshall**

Previews begin March 27

**OPENS Friday, April 5, 2013 at 8pm**

**February 13, 2013 Burbank, CA** – Falcon Theatre is proud to present the world premiere of *Billy & Ray*, the final production of the Falcon Theatre’s 2012-2013 Subscription Season. This exciting Hollywood story is written by **Mike Bencivenga**, an Emmy-winning producer whose plays and films include *Happy Hour* and *Single Bullet Theory*, and is directed by the Falcon’s own **Garry Marshall**, whose impressive writing and directing career includes television and film classics such as *Happy Days* and *Pretty Woman* as well as his own stage plays *Wrong Turn at Lungfish* and *Everybody Say “Cheese!”*.

The world premiere of *Billy & Ray* tells the incredible true story of how Billy Wilder and Raymond Chandler wrote the screenplay for *Double Indemnity*, invented film noir and nearly killed each other in the process. Set in Hollywood in the 1940’s, it’s a hilarious journey through a war of creativity between two brilliant and infuriating men who battled the censors, and each other, to create a motion picture classic.

* PREVIEWS:	* <b>March 27 – 29 at 8pm; March 30 at 4pm &amp; 8pm; April 3 &amp; 4 at 8pm</b>	* 
OPENING NIGHT:	<b>Friday, April 5, 2013 at 8pm</b>	
SHOW CLOSES:	<b>Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 4pm</b>	
PERFORMANCES	<b>Wed. – Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 4pm</b> <i>No performance Sunday March 31</i> <i>Added performance Saturday March 30 at 4pm</i>	
PRICES	<b>Previews</b> \$29.50 – \$32.00 <b>Opening Night</b> \$52.00 – \$57.00 <b>Weekdays (Wed/Thurs)</b> \$34.50 – \$37.00 <b>Weekends (Fri/Sat/Sun)</b> \$39.50 – \$42.00 <b>Student Rate (valid student ID)</b> \$27.00	

**Tickets on sale February 27, 2013**

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.FalconTheatre.com](http://www.FalconTheatre.com) or  
call the FALCON THEATRE BOX OFFICE at (818) 955-8101.

To arrange PRESS SEATS, schedule interviews or request additional editorial information or photos, please  
contact Chelsea Sutton at (818) 955-8004 ext. 133.

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**Mike Bencivenga (Playwright)** attended New York University as a film and theater major and has divided his time between the two ever since. On film he wrote and directed *Losers In Love* in 1993 and in 2005 he co-wrote and directed *Happy Hour* starring Anthony LaPaglia and Eric Stoltz. On stage he has written and directed plays with the Lightning Strikes Theater Company and performed improv comedy with the Chainsaw Boys. He wrote his first full length play, *Single Bullet Theory*, in 2003 and in 2005 he wrote and directed *Couplets*, a play with music that used Shakespeare's sonnets for the dialogue and lyrics. Mike is very excited to have his third play, *Billy & Ray*, premiere at the Falcon Theatre this spring. In addition, Mike is an Emmy winning producer who has worked over twenty-five years at WABCTV in New York.

**Garry Marshall (Director)** is a veteran producer, director and writer of film, television, and theater. After graduating from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, he went on to create, write, and produce some of television's most beloved situation comedies, including *Happy Days*, *Laverne & Shirley*, *Mork & Mindy*, and *The Odd Couple*. Marshall is passionate about live theater. His play, *Shelves*, was performed at the Pheasant Run Playhouse in St. Charles, Illinois, and *The Roast*, which he co-wrote with Jerry Belson, ran at the Winter Garden Theater in New York. In addition, he co-wrote *Wrong Turn at Lungfish*, with Lowell Ganz, which he then went on to direct in Los Angeles with Hector Elizondo, in Chicago, and Off-Broadway with George C. Scott. At the request of Placido Domingo, he made his operatic directing debut at Los Angeles Opera in 2005, with his own adaptation of Offenbach's *The Grand Duchess*, starring Frederica von Stade. In 2007, he joined the San Antonio Opera to direct *Elixir of Love*, which received rave reviews. He has directed 17 movies. Among them are *Pretty Woman*, *Beaches*, *Overboard*, *The Princess Diaries 1 & 2*, *Runaway Bride*, *Valentine's Day*, and *New Year's Eve*. As an actor, he's played many memorable roles, including the casino owner in Albert Brooks' *Lost in America*, 'Mr. Harvey' in his sister Penny Marshall's *A League of Their Own*, and 'Irwin' in his son Scott Marshall's debut feature, *Keeping Up with the Steins*. In 1995, Marshall wrote his autobiography with his daughter, Lori, called *Wake Me When It's Funny* and Random House recently released their second book, *My Happy Days in Hollywood*. In 1997, Mr. Marshall built a theater in Burbank, California with his daughter, Kathleen, called the Falcon Theatre. *Happy Days: A New Musical* made its debut there, co-produced by his sister Ronny Hallin who also produced the TV series.

**The Falcon Theatre** is a 130-seat professional theatre that operates year-round in Burbank, California, built by Director/Writer/Producer Garry Marshall and his daughter Kathleen Marshall LaGambina. The Falcon opened in November of 1997 and launched its annual 5-play Subscription Series in 2002, currently produced by Kathleen and Sherry Greczmiel. Mr. Marshall founded the Falcon as a place where established artists and emerging talent can come together to create live, exciting work on stage.