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**A CHANCE TO BE A STAR
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
AT THE 2ND ANNUAL
"VARIETY SHOW: KIDS WITH HEART" AT PRINCE MUSIC THEATER**

**Co-Hosted by Eddie Bruce, Entertainer Extraordinaire and
Rocco Fiorentino, 11, (blind jazz singer/musician)**

PHILADELPHIA (March 18, 2008) — Kids who love to perform wish they could be a star, just once, and stand on a stage entertaining a delighted crowd. This refers to all children, even those with disabilities. And, that's exactly what will happen at the 2nd Annual "Variety Show: Kids With Heart" on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the prestigious Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia. Launched last year by Andrew Pack, Variety's Executive Director, and Eddie Bruce, bandleader, cabaret artist and a partner of EBE, a Philadelphia-based entertainment company, "Kids with Heart" has become the passion of these two men and the many EBE volunteers who bring it to life.

The Prince Music Theater audience will be wowed by the 30 young people who will perform, some solo and others in groups. Here are a few examples: Co-host with Eddie Bruce is 11 year old Rocco Fiorentino of Voorhees, NJ, who is blind due to premature birth, and a natural jazz singer and musician; nine year old Kiauna Smith of Glenside, PA, a singer who has low vision due to optic nerve dysplasia; 17 year old Matt Cloughley, a saxophonist who is autistic; and Rachel McEvoy, 18, of Collegeville, PA, another enthusiastic singer who has a rare genetic syndrome called William's Syndrome,

The goal for launching this entertaining event was to bring Variety back to its showbiz roots by allowing children with disabilities to shine as they perform. Bruce explains, "I remember always wanting to perform when I was a kid. I was lucky. I had opportunities. We wanted to be sure kids with disabilities have an opportunity, too, so we have created this chance for them to be the stars of their own show." He continued, "Everyone who attended last year's show saw how special these kids are, and how

much they enjoy performing. There was one kid who could barely move around the stage in his wheelchair, but he could sure pick out a tune on a guitar. It was so heartwarming.”

Each year Variety invites kids with disabilities and their families to participate in numerous fun-filled programs and events including the Sesame Place Challenge for Variety in April, Sesame Place’s Count’s Spooktacular for Halloween, and the Annual Variety Holiday Party. “Variety Show: Kids With Heart” is a new and unique addition to Variety’s stable of enriching activities.

ABOUT “VARIETY SHOW: KIDS WITH HEART”: A special VIP Reception, which costs \$75 and offers ticket holders premium seating, will begin at 6:00 p.m. Red carpet festivities featuring VIPs and performers will begin at 6:30 p.m. The doors of the Prince Music Theater, located at 1412 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, open for the public at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2; the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$25 and reservations are encouraged. Some tickets will be available at the door. For tickets and information, call (800) 553-7806.

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