

NEWS RELEASE

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It's the 46th annual – but the "L.A. County Holiday Celebration" is getting a new look.

***Six hourly hosts include Neil Sedaka, Debbie Allen, Mark Walberg,
Gloria Loring, Ronn Lucas and Jim Brickman.***

Los Angeles, CA - **Jeff Margolis**, veteran producer and director of live television events and holiday celebrations, has been tapped by the L.A. County Arts Commission to produce the **46th Annual L.A. Holiday Celebration** at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on **December 24**, and he's giving the beloved Los Angeles tradition a new look.

"How do you keep a 46-year old favorite tradition alive, and still inject a fresh perspective?" asks L.A. County Arts Commission executive director **Laura Zucker**. "I see the Holiday Celebration as a kaleidoscope with moveable parts. We brought Jeff Margolis Productions on to see if he could rearrange the pieces into an exciting new pattern."

Margolis is a master of live television who has shaped more than 100 of the entertainment industry's biggest events over the last three decades, including the American Music Awards, SAG Awards, and Music Center Spotlight Awards. He is also an Emmy Award-winning director (for directing the Oscars) and DGA Award winner (for directing the Emmys).

An annual gift to the people of Los Angeles from the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, the Holiday Celebration is a free, six-hour music and dance spectacle featuring over 40 musical ensembles, choirs, and dance companies (about 1,200 performers in all) that takes place every December 24th and is simulcast on KCET. For the past decade, it has been programmed as three two-hour specials: the first concentrated on youth choirs and school dance groups, the second on teens and community groups, and the latter part of the evening was reserved for professional music and dance companies.

"We're going to shake it up a little and make it less predictable," maintains Margolis. "The new formula is something for everybody in every hour."

Six hourly hosts have been engaged, including pop icon **Neil Sedaka**; dancer, singer, actress, director, and choreographer **Debbie Allen**; comedian/talk show host **Mark Walberg**; singer/entertainer **Gloria Loring**; ventriloquist **Ronn Lucas** (a.k.a. "The Man Who Can Make Anything Talk"); and piano artist **Jim Brickman**.

"The hosts who are also performers will participate directly in the production at the end of their hours," Margolis explains. "It will be his or her 'gift' to the show, and will offer a moment for the audience to change gears to a solo performance." Unlike in previous years, the hosts will be on stage instead of watching the show from the Founders' Circle.

MORE-MORE-MORE

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2005-06 President of the Arts Commission is Hope Warschaw.

THE FACTS

WHAT: **46th Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration**, an admission-free, six-hour seasonal music and dance show. Performing groups from throughout L.A. County - including choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies - reflect the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in Southern California. Pop icon **Neil Sedaka**; dancer, singer, actress, director, and choreographer **Debbie Allen**; comedian and talk show host **Mark Walberg**; singer and entertainer **Gloria Loring**; ventriloquist **Ronn Lucas** (aka "The Man Who Can Make Anything Talk"); and piano artist **Jim Brickman** are each set to host one of six hourly segments. A gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large. The entire six hours is simulcast live on KCET.

WHEN: Saturday, December 24, 2005 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

WHO: Produced by the **Los Angeles County Arts Commission** and **Jeff Margolis Productions**

WHERE: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center
135 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles 90012

HOW: www.holidaycelebration.org
Information hotline: (213) 972-3099

ADMISSION: **FREE**

PARKING: **FREE** in the Music Center parking garage

OTHER: Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the six-hour performance. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Those who can't make it to the Music Center can watch the live broadcast of Holiday Celebration on KCET.

MORE-MORE-MORE

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: 46TH ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

3:00

Host – Neil Sedaka

Mariachi Divas
South Bay Children's Choir
Universal Dance Designs Kennedy Tap Company
Orquesta Charangoa
Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy
Gospel Music Workshop of America of the Antelope Valley
San Gabriel Mexican Folk & Aztec Dance Company

4:00

Host – Debbie Allen

Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus
Activities for Retarded Children & Adults (ARC) Handbell Choir
3 of A Kind
Debbie Allen Dance Academy
Antelope Valley High School Vocal-Music Travel Ensemble
Manoochehr Sadeghi Ensemble
Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles
Viver Brasil Dance Company

5:00

Host – Mark Walberg

Mariachi Cielo Nuevo
Sierra Park Elementary Folklorico featuring Mariachi Cielo Nuevo
Korean American Music Academy
Spring Autumn Dance Ensemble II
Los Angeles Music & Art School Children's Choral Ensemble
Angahara Dance Ensemble
Church of Scientology Choir
Jazz Tap Ensemble
Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers

6:00

Host – Gloria Loring

Escuela de Baile Tradicional Peruano
Harmonies of St. Thomas Girls Choir
Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble
Long Beach Poly High School Chamber Singers
TRIP Dance Theatre
Valley Beth Shalom Choir & members of LA Jewish Symphony
Jabbawokeez Crew

7:00

Host – Ronn Lucas

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company featuring Mariachi Nuevo Cuicatlan
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus
Elvis Schoenberg's Orchestre Surréal
Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus
Pennington Dance Group
Chinese Classical Music Ensemble

8:00

Host – Jim Brickman

The Blind Boys of Alabama
Celtic Spring
Opera California
JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble
Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church
Mariachi Sol de Mexico