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**PBS PRESENTS “L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2006,” FROM
EMMY[®] AWARD-WINNING PRODUCER JEFF MARGOLIS,
PREMIERING DECEMBER 14 AT 10:00 P.M. ET**

— Mark L. Walberg (*Antiques Road Show*) Hosts —

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2006 is a one-hour special highlighting Los Angeles County’s annual holiday show, performed before an audience of 6,000 plus in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The music and dance special reflects the cultural mosaic of Los Angeles rarely experienced on national television. The program brims with energetic performers of African, Asian, European, Latino and Middle Eastern backgrounds expressing the joy of the season. **L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2006** airs on PBS December, 14, 2006, 10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings).

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2006 is produced by Emmy Award-winning producer Jeff Margolis. Mark L. Walberg (*Antiques Roadshow*) hosts. The show’s finale features a special guest appearance by The Blind Boys of Alabama.

Among the critically acclaimed artists spotlighted in the show: the multi-ethnic, all-female Mariachi Divas; the internationally known Jazz Tap Ensemble, pioneers in the U.S. tap revival; *santur* (Iranian hammered dulcimer) player Manoochehr Sadeghi, the first Persian to receive a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Award; the Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, who did the soundtrack of the X-box video game “Jade Empire;” and the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, whose repertory of gospels and music by African-American composers has taken them on countless tours at home and abroad.

Performances include:

- *Feliz Navidad*, the Spanish Christmas song that encourages all to join in, played and sung by the Mariachi Divas, who augment traditional mariachi instrumentation to reflect their multi-cultural makeup.
- A swing era spectacular, *Swingin’ Christmas Eve*, by dancers from L.A.’s hotbed of tap training, Universal Dance Designs Kennedy Tap Company.
- An original composition for handbell choir, *Capriccio*, played by the very accomplished high schoolers of the Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble.
- The mysterious beauty of *Moonlight on the Winter Ice*, evoked by the modern dancers of TRIP Dance Theatre.
- The perennial favorite *Jingle Bells* interpreted by the ARC Handbell Choir, a remarkable 20-year-old group comprised of developmentally disabled children and adults.
- The dancers and musicians of Jazz Tap Ensemble jamming in *Hot Wings*, set to Charlie Parker’s *Ornithology*.

- The young performers of Sierra Park Elementary School Folklorico mastering traditional Mexican dance in *El Gusto*.
- A celebration from the Mexican state of Nayarit by Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company.
- The mingling of Persian, Spanish, Arabic and jazz influences in *Parvaneh* by the Manoochehr Sadeghi Ensemble.
- Acoustic double bass and percussion mixed with traditional Chinese instruments in the Chinese Classical Music Ensemble's *Thunders in Drought*.
- The bold rhythms of Peruvian native dance by the Escuela de Baile Tradicional Peruano.
- The passion of Brazilian culture captured by the gravity-defying dancers and spirited percussionists of Viver Brasil Dance Company in *Carnival Queens*.
- The irresistible voices and clever moves of The Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Choir in *Gonna Catch that Santa Man*.
- The powerful *In Dat Great Gittin' Up Mornin'* by The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers
- Seasonal favorites *Silver Bells* and *Sleigh Ride* sung by the Korean-Americans of the Opera California Choir
- The percussive precision and elegant grace of Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy in *Hourglass Drum Dance*
- The roof-raising *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Last Month of the Year* by The Blind Boys of Alabama

A PBS web site for the program offers video mini-documentaries on the artists and features their favorite L.A. places and pursuits.

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a decades-old tradition, beloved by Angelenos for nearly half a century. The show, which is admission-free, is a gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large.

Underwriters: This program is supported in part by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Producer: Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Broadcast Executive Producer: Jeff Margolis. Format: CC Stereo where available.

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