

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**

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For Immediate Release

### **L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, ONE-HOUR MUSIC AND DANCE SPECIAL ON PBS, REFLECTS L.A.'S ETHNIC MOSAIC**

**L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** spotlights the top 10 segments from annual live holiday extravaganzas at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The program airs on PBS, including Los Angeles-based KCET, between December 25 and 31 (check local listings). The one-hour music and dance special celebrates the holidays Southern California-style. Performers of African, Asian, European and Latino backgrounds join to express the joy of the season. Behind-the-scenes chats with the artists and visits to their neighborhoods focus on their roots and cultural traditions. Highlights include:

- Compton High School Choir singing, in Yoruba dialect, "Betelehemu" (Bethlehem), a Nigerian folk song celebrating the birthplace of Jesus
- Jazz Tap Ensemble, the internationally known L.A.-based company that helped spur the tap revival, in their original live jazz-rhythm tap version of "Deck the Halls"
- Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy in the virtuoso percussion display, "Three Drum Dance"
- Sierra Park Elementary Folklorico, a Mexican folkloric group composed entirely of children evoking the Posada, the traditional Christmas procession, in "La Bruja"
- Trip Dance Theatre, a modern dance company, performing "When It Snows," a work commissioned especially for Holiday Celebration

"LA Holiday Celebration provides an illuminating, often surprising profile of our region," says Laura Zucker, executive producer of the show. "This is the real L.A., one seldom experienced on national television."

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a decades-old tradition, beloved by Angelenos. The show, which is admission-free, is a gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large. Attendance at the live show, which features 1000-1500 performers representing 35 groups chosen by competitive application in a six hour program every December 24, is a yearly ritual for many families. The 2003 edition will be the 44th annual. Los Angeles public television station, KCET, has broadcast the live show since 1965. In 2002 Holiday Celebration received its first national exposure on PBS.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission produces the show in cooperation with CDK Productions. Kenneth R. Shapiro, whose credits include "America: Tribute to Heroes," "A&E In Concert: Sting in Tuscany...All This Time," and "Everybody Loves Raymond," produces and directs the television production.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, headed by Executive Director Laura Zucker, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and programs the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission, with 30 partners, is implementing a 10-year regional blueprint to bring comprehensive arts education to all Los Angeles County public school children. The Commission produces free community programs, including the L.A. County Holiday Celebration, and funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.

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