



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ELAYNE BOOSLER HOSTS L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION FOR PBS.

*One-hour special highlights top performances  
from last year's live show at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.*

LOS ANGELES, CA - Comedian **Elayne Boosler** hosts **L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2005**, a one-hour music and dance special set to air locally on **KCET** on **December 15** at **10:00 p.m.** and on **PBS stations nationwide** (check local listings). The program is a "best of" compilation of Los Angeles County's annual holiday show performed live before an audience of 6,000-plus in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center.

*L.A. Holiday Celebration* reflects the cultural mosaic of Los Angeles, a rich and varied mix rarely experienced on national television. Between its all-American, tap extravaganza opening set to music of Duke Ellington and its gospel finale, *Celebration* visits centuries-old traditions and boasts boundary-breaking performances. The program brims with energetic performers of African, Asian, European, Latino and Middle Eastern backgrounds expressing the joy of the season. Boosler plays host and provides her singular brand of breezy commentary. Director and co-producer **Gary Smith**, winner of 24 Emmy Awards and executive producer of Tony telecasts and American Film Institute specials, intercuts performances with behind the scenes brief interviews with the artists.

The show features:

- **Mariachi Divas**, a path breaking all-female ensemble that augments traditional mariachi instrumentation to reflect its multi-cultural makeup, paying tribute to Celia Cruz with their arrangement of "La Vida es un Carnaval."
- The infectious intensity and jubilation of **Soldiers on Soul Patrol**, a choir which grew out of an at-risk youth program, performing "Joy," written by the group's founder/director Randy Quesada.
- A haunting traditional Jewish prayer for freedom from Yemen - "D'ror Yikra" - arranged by Israeli-born, Rockefeller and NEA award-winning composer-performer **Yuval Ron** and performed by his ensemble, made up of Muslim, Jewish and Christian musicians playing together.
- Dancers from one of L.A.'s hotbeds of tap training, **Universal Dance Designs Kennedy Tap Company**, in a show-stopping interpretation of Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing."

**MORE-MORE-MORE**

- The elegant Ribbon Dance, which originated at the Chinese Imperial Court 1,500 years ago, performed by the **America Chinese Dance Association**
- **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** evoking festivities in the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, influenced by both the cowboy culture and Czech and Scottish settlers, in the dances "Café Roma" and "El Circo."
- The all-female choral ensemble, **Vox Femina**, expressing the serenity and affirmation of life the holidays bring in "Under the Holly Bough" and "Music Down in My Soul."
- **Mariachi Sol de Mexico**, whose leader, Jose Hernandez, is a sixth generation mariachi, performing his virtuoso violin piece, "El Rey de la Huasteca."
- Windy Barnes Farrell, a protégé of Stevie Wonder and Michael Bolton, leads her **Inspirational Voices of Free!** in her own composition, "Pour You Out a Blessing."
- "White Christmas" played by the **ARC Handbell Choir**, a remarkable 20-year-old group comprised of developmentally disabled children and adults.
- **Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church**, winners of the McDonald's Gospelfest Competition in 2003, singing "Carol of the Bells" and a Christmas medley.

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. Attendance at the live show, which features 1500 performers representing 40 groups chosen by competitive application in a six hour program every December 24, is a yearly ritual for thousands of families. The 2005 edition will be the 46th annual. Los Angeles public television station KCET has broadcast the live show since 1965. In 2002 L.A. Holiday Celebration received its first national exposure on PBS.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission is the executive producer of the show.

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.