

**“L.A. Holiday Celebration 2005”  
PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES**

**Laura Zucker (Executive Producer)** has been Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission since 1992. In addition to executive producing the L.A. Holiday Celebration for the past decade, she oversees staff that administers grant programs and the largest undergraduate arts internship program in the country in collaboration with the Getty Trust, produces a multi-disciplinary summer festival at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, funds more than 60 free music concerts in public sites annually, and provides informational and technical assistance services to arts organizations and municipal arts agencies. The Arts Commission helms the implementation of ARTS FOR ALL: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education, a plan for sequential arts education in all 81 school districts in the county. She headed the California Cultural Tourism Initiative, which marketed the arts of California’s three urban regions domestically and internationally, and authored the largest regional study of individual artists ever completed as part of the California Arts Council’s economic impact study on the arts. She was Producing Director of the Back Alley Theatre, which she co-founded, for ten years, during which time she produced more than 30 west coast premieres. She is the former chair of the Associated Theatres of Los Angeles, and served on the advisory board for the Grammys.

**Gary Smith Company, Broadcast Production Company**

**Gary Smith, President (Producer and Director of Broadcast Production)** As a partner in the television production company Smith-Hemion, Gary Smith created many distinguished specials and events. The team won 24 Emmy Awards. With his partner’s retirement, Mr. Smith formed his own production company, the Gary Smith Company, which has produced the celebration of Liberty Weekend, featuring performers at the unveiling of a newly restored Statue of Liberty and a one-woman show for Barbra Streisand. He produced Paul McCartney’s first and only television special, Elvis Presley’s last, Bette Midler’s first and Bing Crosby’s last. He was Executive Producer of six Tony Awards telecasts - 1993 through 1997 - as well as the 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Tony Awards, and of the two most recent Emmy Awards.

Mr. Smith was responsible for the production of the Democratic National Conventions from 1988 through 2000; Baryshnikov on Broadway; an adaptation of Peter Pan that starred Mia Farrow and Danny Kaye; three years of the People’s Choice Awards; six years of AFI “100 years” specials; ABC’s 24-Hour Millennium coverage; Command Performances specials for the Queen of England; as well as productions for Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti, The Apollo Theatre, Woody Allen, and Radio City Music Hall, among others. He produced President Reagan’s Inaugural Gala in 1985 and President Clinton’s in 1993 and 1997. He has been Executive Producer for most of Barbra Streisand’s specials including the May 2, 2001 telecast of her AFI Life Achievement Award. He also Executive Produced the AFI Life Achievement Award honoring Tom Hanks, I Love Lucy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and The Mary Tyler Moore Show Reunion. He was both Executive Producer and Director of AFI’s “100 Years, 100 Songs,” for which he currently has an Emmy nomination. A graduate of Carnegie Tech’s Theatre Department with a degree in Scenic Design, he was the recipient of his alma mater’s prestigious Annual Life Achievement Award.

**Patti McGuire, Managing Director of Productions, Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Producer)** Ms. McGuire has a varied background in nonprofit arts management and freelance film, television and theatre production. An alumna of UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television, her more recent projects include developing a multimedia CD art project for guerrilla artist Robbie Conal. She was Special Projects Coordinator at Los Angeles community radio station KPFK where she wrote and produced special programming and live events, and she has produced award-winning plays for Los Angeles-based theatre company Actors' Gang. Her film credits include "L.A. Confidential," "The Birdcage," and "Batman Returns."