



L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2009

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

8:00-9:00 p.m. ET on PBS

– Highlights of Emmy-Nominated Music and Dance Spectacular Features the “Naughty Ballerina” of “So You Think You Can Dance” and a Hip-Hop *Nutcracker* Segment –



*DreamDance II performs “Ladies in the Snow,” inspired by Chinese dance of the Han dynasty.
Credit: Ed Krieger*

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2009 is the “best of” the six-hour live L.A. County Holiday Celebration broadcast from Los Angeles’ Music Center in December 2008. The one-hour highlights version of the Emmy-nominated music and dance spectacular mixes traditional, contemporary and offbeat holiday entertainment. The holiday staple *The Nutcracker* meets street dance as Antics Performance does a hip-hop take on the first act Christmas Eve party and battle with the Mouse King. Backhausdance similarly transforms *The Nutcracker*’s Snow Scene: Ballerinas in white tutus are replaced by modern dancers in ski wear gamboling in the snow. The natural beauty of the holiday season is also the backdrop for DreamDance II’s

“Ladies in the Snow,” inspired by the elegance of Chinese dance of the Han dynasty.

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2009 airs **Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET on PBS**, with a repeat broadcast available on Friday, December 25, 2009 (check local listings) on PBS.

Among the critically acclaimed artists spotlighted in the show are two who made their mark on reality television: Melissa Sandvig, the “Naughty Ballerina” from season five of “So You Think You Can Dance” and a member of the company Motion Tribe, solos in a mesmerizing aerial performance, and Celtic Spring, from the first season of “America’s Got Talent,” offers trademark high intensity fiddling and Irish step dance.

Other groups featured in **L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2009** offer an eclectic array of musical genres representative of the rich cultural fabric of Los Angeles County:

- A Zydeco beat celebration with Lisa Haley and the Zydekats in “Mardi Gras Christmas Party”;
- Royal Crown Revue in a neo-swing musical performance titled “Cool Yule”;
- Traditional Japanese taiko drum beats laced with hip-hop rhythms and moves by Taikoproject;

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- Klezmer Juice’s melding of clarinet-dominated Eastern European sounds and Latin rhythms in “Latin Meets Klezmer Holiday Medley”;
- Grammy-nominated Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernandez performing a moving rendition of “Ave Maria”;
- Hair-parting gospel selections from Mt. Rubidoux Seventh Day Adventist Church Choir (“The Presence of the Lord Is Here”) and the United Children’s Chorus of Los Angeles (“Magnificent and Holy”);
- The doo-wop “Perfect Christmas Night” from Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by the finger-snapping Salvation Army Tabernacle Children’s Chorus;
- Outstanding stylings of Christmas favorites from Palmdale High School Choral Union (“Twelve Days of Christmas”), Colburn Children’s Chorus (“Sleigh Ride”) and ARC Handbell Choir (“Jingle Bells”).

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a decades-old tradition, beloved by Angelenos, that celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2009. The show, which is admission-free, is a gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large.

■ The Web site (pbs.org/holidaycelebration/) offers video mini-documentaries and background on the artists.

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Director: Kenneth Shapiro

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